

Intersessional Workshop of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)

1 - 3 August 2023, online



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), developed in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), provides a regular forum to facilitate dialogue between regional organizations, to share lessons and experiences in regional collaboration, and to identify opportunities to improve regional cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination with respect to fisheries management and conservation of marine biodiversity, and to progress on global goals and commitments for the ocean.
2. The first meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue was convened from 26 to 29 September 2016, the second meeting was convened from 10 to 13 April 2018, both in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and the third meeting was convened from 25 to 28 October 2022, in Busan, Republic of Korea. These meetings enabled valuable discussions, exchanges of information and identified the means and opportunities for regional organizations to improve cross-sectoral collaboration in marine conservation and sustainable use and fisheries management.
3. During the third meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue, participants discussed the role of, and opportunities for, regional collaboration in the context of various key issues of relevance, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (later adopted as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework), other effective area-based conservation measures, and marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. The meeting outcome, [the Busan Outcome](#), synthesized the main discussion points on those issues and included regional roadmaps on advancing collaboration and coordination between RSOs and RFBs, which were developed and/or revised during the meeting.
4. With a view to advancing the discussion on timely issues prior to the fourth meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs, tentatively planned for 2024, the Acting Executive Secretary convened the Intersessional workshop of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs, in collaboration with FAO and UNEP, and with generous financial support from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea. The workshop was held from 1 to 3 August 2023, online from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, via Zoom.
5. The workshop aimed to discuss regional collaboration in the context of recent developments, such as the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022, and the finalization 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, as well as progress in the implementation of the regional roadmaps contained in the Busan Outcome. It also aimed to discuss planning, approaches and potential outcomes for the 4th meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue.
6. Participants in the workshop mainly comprised experts from regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies, various other regional organizations and initiatives, government representatives, global intergovernmental organizations, and other relevant organizations.
7. The workshop was organized in plenary and breakout group sessions and included thematic presentations with question-and-answer sessions, interactive sessions, plenary moderated discussions, and breakout group exercises and discussions.

8. The workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Stefan Ásmundsson from the Government of Iceland, and Mr. Christopher Corbin from the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention.

9. The programme for the workshop is contained in annex I. The list of participants is contained in annex II.

10. The meeting was conducted in English.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

11. Mr. Stefan Ásmundsson and Mr. Christopher Corbin, the co-chairs of the workshop, welcomed the participants to the meeting.

12. Mr. Jae-young Shin (Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea) delivered an opening statement on behalf of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, expressing gratitude to the co-chairs of the meeting, and thanking the CBD Secretariat, FAO and UNEP. He reminded the participants that the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs was created to enhance regional collaboration between these organizations, noting that this meeting represents a great opportunity to cooperate and prepare actions to advance the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Agreement 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). He noted that regional collaboration is essential in achieving these instruments. Mr. Shin thanked everyone for their participation and wish the participants a fruitful workshop.

13. Ms. Jihyun Lee (CBD Secretariat) delivered an opening statement on behalf of the CBD Secretariat, welcoming the participants to the workshop. Ms. Lee appreciated the long-term collaboration with FAO and UNEP and expressed thanks to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea for their generous financial support, noting their strong commitment has been instrumental for the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs to advance regional cross-sectoral collaboration to achieve global goals for biodiversity and fisheries. She emphasized that the ambition of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework responds to the need for transformative change to achieve the vision of living in harmony with nature. Together with the BBNJ Agreement, these instruments underline the power of multilateralism, and they will reinforce one another through cooperative action. Ms. Lee noted that effective implementation will require a whole-of-society and a whole-of-government approach, highlighting the need for cross-sectoral collaboration, in order to achieve the future of integrated ocean governance at regional and global levels, ensuring that humanity lives in harmony with the ocean and its biodiversity.

14. Mr. Johan Robinson (UNEP) delivered an opening statement on behalf of the UN Environment Programme. Mr. Robinson congratulated Mr. Christopher Corbin on assuming the role of the co-chair of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs and expressed appreciation and gratitude to the former-co-chair, Mr. Dixon Waruinge from the Nairobi Convention. He noted the three main planetary crises, namely biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change, adding that human action has resulted in degradation at unprecedented levels, including in the ocean. Mr. Robinson highlighted that in order to effectively deal with these increasing environmental challenges, we need to (i) support strategies aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Sustainable Development Goals, the BBNJ Agreement, the resolutions of the UN Environment Assembly, the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, and similar instruments and processes, (ii) support participation of the Member States in

the negotiations on the internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and (iii) strengthen ocean governance through strategic partnerships.

15. Mr. Piero Mannini (FAO) delivered an opening statement on behalf of Mr. Manuel Barange, the director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division at the FAO. Mr. Mannini expressed thanks to the Republic of Korea and welcomed Mr. Corbin in the role of the co-chair. He emphasized the importance of regional and sub-regional dimension in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, calling for cooperative partnerships built on synergies becoming a central tenet for RSOs and RFBs. He highlighted that the regional level is the most appropriate level for the establishment of cooperative frameworks encompassing all ecosystems, and that the fisheries and aquaculture sector is highly dependent on healthy ecosystems. He noted the need for increased involvement of RFBs in the implementation and monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as other instruments, adding that FAO's key role is to support RFBs and regional frameworks in collaboration and coordination mechanisms. Mr. Mannini concluded that recent developments include FAO action to promote cooperation among RFBs in the Western Indian Ocean and Eastern Central Atlantic Ocean.

ITEM 2. WORKSHOP BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

16. Mr. Joseph Appiott (CBD Secretariat) briefed the participants on the workshop background, objectives and expected outcomes.

17. Summary of the above presentation is provided in annex III.

ITEM 3. PROGRESS ON THE REGIONAL ROADMAPS SINCE THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE GLOBAL DIALOGUE WITH REGIONAL SEAS ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES

18. Under this agenda item, representatives of RSOs and RFBs presented on the progress on implementing the regional roadmaps, challenges, opportunities and upcoming plans and/or activities, on behalf of their respective regions:

(a) Ms. Ulrika Gunnartz (Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission [SWIOFC]) provided updates on behalf of the Western Indian Ocean and Adjacent Areas region.

(b) Mr. Krishnan Paulpandian (Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization [BOBP-IGO]) and Mr. Mahesh Pradhan (Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia [COBSEA]) presented on behalf of South & Southeast Asia.

(c) Mr. Darius Campbell (North East Atlantic Fishery Commission [NEAFC]) presented on the progress on behalf of the North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean.

(d) Mr. Patrick Debels (Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems Project [CLME+]) provided updates on behalf of the Wider Caribbean region.

(e) Mr. Cristian Martis (Permanent Commission for the South Pacific [CPPS]) gave brief updates from the Pacific Ocean basins.

(f) Mr. Aomar Bourhim (Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic [COMHAFAT-ATLAFCO]) presented on behalf of the East Atlantic African region.

19. Summaries of the above presentations are provided in annex III.
20. Following the above presentations, participants were invited to further discuss the ways for advancing the regional roadmaps in a moderated discussion, informed by in-session polls. The guiding questions for the discussion were as follows:
- (a) What are the lessons and observations from implementing the regional roadmaps?
 - (b) Is implementation proceeding as expected, have there been any unforeseen challenges?
 - (c) What are the key needs for accelerating implementation?
 - (d) Are there any new opportunities that have emerged?
 - (e) Are outcomes being seen/on the way?
21. Summary of the above discussion is provided in annex IV.

ITEM 4. DEVELOPMENTS IN KEY THEMATIC ISSUE-AREAS OF RELEVANCE TO REGIONAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

22. Ms. Nancy Soi (UNEP) delivered a presentation providing updates on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
23. Mr. Jose Dallo (International Seabed Authority [ISA]) presented on the recent developments under the International Seabed Authority.
24. Summaries of the above presentations are provided in annex III.

ITEM 5. INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT UNDER THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION

25. Mr. Bingzhuo Li (UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea [DOALOS]) delivered a presentation on the newly-adopted agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).
26. Mr. David Johnson (Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative [GOBI]) presented on the potential respective roles of RSOs and RFBs in the BBNJ Agreement, and implications for regional collaboration.
27. Summaries of the above presentations are provided in annex III.
28. Following the above presentations, participants engaged in a question-and-answer session and a plenary discussion on this topic (summary is provided in annex IV) and were then invited to join breakout groups to further discuss regional collaboration in implementing and monitoring the BBNJ Agreement (synthesis is provided in annex V).

ITEM 6. KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

29. Mr. Joseph Appiott (CBD Secretariat) provided an overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its targets.

30. Ms. Jillian Campbell (CBD Secretariat) presented on the monitoring framework and the review mechanism for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

31. Summaries of the above presentations are provided in annex III.

32. Following the above presentations, participants engaged in a question-and-answer session and a plenary discussion on this topic (summary is provided in annex IV) and were then invited to join breakout groups to further discuss regional collaboration in implementing and monitoring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (synthesis is provided in annex V).

ITEM 7. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE GLOBAL DIALOGUE WITH REGIONAL SEAS ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES

33. Under this agenda item, participants discussed (i) potential issues to be addressed at the fourth meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs, (ii) approaches to the organization and/or modalities of the meeting, and (iii) key entities to engage in the meeting, in order to inform the preparations for the meeting.

34. Summary of the above discussion is provided in annex IV.

ITEM 8. CONCLUSION

35. Mr. Joseph Appiott (CBD Secretariat) thanked the workshop participants for their engagement and expressed gratitude to SOI donors, collaborators, and partners.

36. Mr. Corbin and Mr. Ásmundsson provided brief concluding remarks, thanking the organizers, donors, as well as the workshop participants.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

37. The workshop closed at 10 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Thursday, 3 August 2023.

Annex I

PROGRAMME

1 August

Time	Meeting programme
6.45–7 a.m.	<i>Participants log on to the meeting</i>
7–7.15 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting • Welcome from the Co-Chairs • Opening statements: ○ Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea ○ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity ○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) ○ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
7.15–7.30 a.m.	Item 2. Workshop background, objectives, and expected outputs/outcomes • Presentation on workshop background and objectives (10 min) ○ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
7.30–8.45 a.m.	Item 3. Progress on the regional roadmaps since the third meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies • In-session polls to assess how the regional roadmaps, or elements of them, have been taken up/implemented • Presentations on the progress on the regional roadmaps, challenges, opportunities, and upcoming plans/activities (10 min each): ○ Western Indian Ocean and Adjacent Areas: Ulrika Gunnartz (SWIOFC) ○ North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean: Darius Campbell (NEAFC) ○ Wider Caribbean: Patrick Debels (CLME+) ○ Pacific Ocean Basin: Cristian Martis (CPPS) ○ East Atlantic African Region: Aomar Bourhim (COMHAFAT-ATLAFCO) ○ South & Southeast Asia: Krishnan Paulpandian (BOBP-IGO) and Mahesh Pradhan (COBSEA) • Q&A
8.45–9 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
9–9.30 a.m.	Item 3. Continued • Moderated discussion on advancing the regional roadmaps

9.30–10 a.m.	Item 4. Developments in key thematic issue-areas of relevance to regional coordination and cooperation • Presentation providing updates on plastics negotiations (6 min) ◦ Nancy Soi (UNEP) • Presentation providing updates on International Seabed Authority (ISA) developments (6 min) ◦ Jose Dallo (ISA) • Q&A
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2 August

Time	Meeting programme
6.45–7 a.m.	<i>Participants log on to the meeting</i>
7–7.05 a.m.	Co-Chairs' review of previous day's discussion and introduction to day 2
7.05–7.45 a.m.	Item 5. International legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) • Overview of the newly adopted BBNJ instrument (15 min) ◦ Bingzhao Li, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) • Presentation on the potential respective roles of Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies in the instrument, and implications for regional collaboration (10 min) ◦ David Johnson, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) • Q&A
7.45–8.45 a.m.	Item 5. Continued (breakout groups) • Regional breakout group discussions on: ◦ Identifying concrete entry points and ways for regional collaboration in implementing/monitoring the BBNJ instrument ◦ How the regional organizations can support their respective member States in implementing/monitoring the instrument ◦ Challenges, constraints and gaps
8.45–9 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
9–9.20 a.m.	Item 5. Continued • Report back to plenary
9.20–10 a.m.	Item 6. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework • In-session polls on the uptake of the Framework in different regions • Presentation on the Framework as a whole, overview of the targets and introduction of the quick guides (15 min) ◦ By Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

	• Q&A
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3 August

Time	Meeting programme
6.45–7 a.m.	<i>Participants log on to the meeting</i>
7–7.05 a.m.	Co-Chairs' review of previous day's discussion and introduction to day 3
7.05–7.30 a.m.	Item 6. <i>Continued</i> • Presentation on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and how regional organizations could contribute (15 min) ○ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity • Q&A / discussion
7.30–8.45 a.m.	Item 6. <i>Continued</i> • Breakout group discussions on: ○ Identifying concrete entry points and ways for regional collaboration in implementing/monitoring the Framework ○ How the regional organizations can support their respective member States in implementing/monitoring the Framework (e.g., in terms of setting national targets) ○ Challenges, constraints and gaps
8.45–9 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
9–9.20 a.m.	Reporting back to plenary
9.20–9.45 a.m.	Item 7. Issues to be addressed at the fourth meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies • Plenary discussion on the next SOI Global Dialogue ○ Potential issues to be addressed ○ Approaches to the organization / modalities of the meeting ○ Key entities to engage
9.45–10 a.m.	Item 8. Conclusions and next steps • Co-Chairs Item 9. Closing of the meeting

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Annex III

SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS

Agenda item 2

Background, objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop

Joseph Appiott, CBD Secretariat

Mr. Appiott delivered a presentation outlining the background, objectives, and expected outcomes of the workshop. He reminded the participants of the 3rd meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs in October 2022, in Busan, Republic of Korea, of its outcome, the Busan Outcome, and of the discussion identifying relevance to work of RSOs and RFBs and regional collaboration with respect to different areas of work and international processes. He explained that the meeting's participants developed/revised regional roadmaps for advancing coordination and collaboration in regard to marine and coastal conservation and sustainable fisheries, from the following regions: (i) Western Indian Ocean and Adjacent Areas, (ii) North Atlantic, Baltic & Mediterranean, (iii) Wider Caribbean, (iv) Pacific Ocean Basins, (v) East Atlantic African Region, and (vi) South and Southeast Asia. He emphasized the purpose of this particular workshop, namely to (i) provide updates on the implementation of these regional roadmaps and status of regional cooperation and coordination, (ii) discuss key global developments and implications for regional cooperation and coordination, and (iii) discuss planning, approaches and potential outcomes for the 4th meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue in 2024.

Agenda item 3: Progress on the regional roadmaps since the third meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies

Updates from the Western Indian Ocean and adjacent areas

Ulrika Gunnartz, SWIOFC

Ms. Gunnartz provided updates from the Western Indian Ocean and adjacent areas region, primarily focusing on the regional partnership between SWIOFC and the Nairobi Convention. She provided a brief overview of the regional roadmap as it was developed during the 3rd meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs. While there have been several developments with different partners since the meeting, Ms. Gunnartz provided an update particularly on the SWIOFC-Nairobi Convention Partnership. Since 2019, there has been ongoing work under this partnership to collaborate to enhance collaboration at the national level between ministries of environment and fisheries to develop policies and implement activities together. Ms. Gunnartz added that the program has been funded until 2027 and has had practical implementation in Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, and in the upcoming years in Kenya as well. The program includes a combination of activities focused on habitat conservation combined with fisheries policies and management plans. Ms. Gunnartz emphasized that this partnership has demonstrated the importance of linking regional policy with the national level and developing joint policies and plans.

Updates from the North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean

Darius Campbell, NEAFC

Mr. Campbell presented on updates from the North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean. He noted that discussions at the last meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue in Busan involved ICES, HELCOM, NAFO, OSPAR, UNEP/MAP, SPA/RAC, and GFCM with support from the experts from Egypt and GOBI. Much of this region, but not all, has relatively abundant financial resources and expertise. Thus, for some at least,

it is more likely that the countries prefer to carry out their own science, make their own measures as well as enforce nationally. This means that any roadmap is driven primarily by the Contracting Parties' actions. Therefore, the discussions were a way of highlighting activity and then discussing how to collaborate within the wider North Atlantic.

Despite the many differences around the region, Mr. Campbell explained that they found similarities in their visions and long-term strategies, identifying some common issues of substance and priority for the North Atlantic. These were OECMs and MPAs (with experience on OECMs rapidly emerging), ecosystem-based management, and understanding bycatch (which is fundamental to get a proper understanding of the interactions between ecosystems and fisheries). The presentation further detailed the practical developments and how these supported interactions and cooperation between the organizations. It was noted that actions were still developing somewhat in parallel, in particular between sea basins. The continuing challenge was to continue to find time to talk to each other so they can learn from progress elsewhere as well as see more opportunities for collaboration in the future. The North Atlantic roadmap is indeed a loose and informal thing, but is considered fruitful in advancing converging objectives on sustainable use of a productive and conserved marine ecosystem.

Updates on the regional roadmap from the Wider Caribbean

Patrick Debels, UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+

Mr. Debels presented on the progress, challenges, opportunities and upcoming (key) activities under the Regional Roadmap for the Wider Caribbean, on behalf of the 3 RFBs, FAO WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, and the CLME+/PROCARIBE+ initiative. Departing from a commonly adopted long-term Vision statement for the region, he highlighted the complex landscape of regional IGOs with an oceans-relevant mandate in the region, which includes but extends well beyond the aforementioned RSO and RFBs. Showcasing this complexity, he highlighted the importance of coordination in the context of the pursuit of a strengthened, comprehensive regional ocean governance framework, as captured in the Milestones set under the regional roadmap. Introducing a (prototype) systematic and schematic, collaborative online approach for tracking collective progress, the current status of contributions towards the Milestones by the different regional organizations was shared with the workshop participants. Using this same approach, the collective progress toward the use of the different engagement and collaboration/coordination modalities, as well as progress relative to each of the priority actions listed under the Roadmap were highlighted, clearly showing that some actions have already been initiated since the 3rd meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue, while other actions/activities are in an advanced planning stage, with important financial resources to implement the roadmap already mobilized. Cited challenges include the costs/financing of collaboration and the complexity of the region. Achievements include, *inter alia*, the mobilization of important (project) funding sources (such as e.g., through the UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ and CAF/FAO/GEF BE CLME+ projects) in support of the regional roadmap. Anticipated key actions for the second semester of 2023 include, *inter alia*, the CRFM Science Conference, the regular biennial meetings of WECAFC and the Cartagena Convention, and, associated with the latter, an anticipated Signing Ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding through which - once sufficient country and IGO signatures have been obtained - the regional Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM) will be operationalized.

Updates on initiatives and activities in the Pacific Ocean basins relevant to the regional roadmap

Cristian Martis, CPPS

Mr. Martis reported on some relevant initiatives and activities undertaken by CPPS in the region, relevant to the regional roadmap. He noted that the CPPS, through its Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of the Southeast Pacific (PAPSE), is promoting different initiatives to

comply with its updated “Strategic 2022-2030”, addressing actions on key elements relevant to marine biodiversity, namely marine pollution, climate change, international ocean governance, coastal marine biodiversity, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and education and training. Mr. Martis further highlighted a short-term program for the period of 2023-2025, “Pristine Pacific Ocean Initiatives”, and an international course on ocean management and governance, in order to build new professional and visionary capacities in the upcoming years, as part of a capacity-building strategy.

Mr. Martis further noted the need to promote cooperation and collaboration between relevant actors and stakeholders. The CPPS is actively working with IMO on different topics, including the GloFouling project to respond to invasive aquatic species introduced via biofouling. He highlighted the Save the Blue Five project, a joint work between CPPS and GIZ, and a regional effort to protect migratory marine megafauna in the Southeast Pacific region from Costa Rica to Chile. In order to achieve the project goals, the regional dialogue and cooperation between the countries and different stakeholders and interest groups will be advanced within the framework of CPPS, promoting a stronger cooperation between policy and science. Finally, the CPPS have a regional working group addressing the issue of plastic litter, which has strengthened its work in order to provide advice to manage this important issue.

Updates from the East Atlantic African region

Aomar Bourhim, COMHAFAT-ATLAFCO

Mr. Bourhim provided updates on behalf of the East African Atlantic Group. Mr. Bourhim recalled that ATLAFCO is an entity in which 22 African countries bordering the Atlantic are represented and that most of its activities during the year 2023 and since the 3rd meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs have focused on a variety of issues. These include workshops, on e.g., sustainable blue economy in the context of maritime spatial planning, study for the production of a compendium of regulations of national fisheries regulations at the national level, improving access to markets for fishery and aquaculture products, upgrading the capacities of national observers for scientific observation missions, supporting women’s entrepreneurship through the improvement of the valorization and marketing of artisanal fishing products, and using fisheries and aquaculture database and validation of data sources. Mr. Bourhim also highlighted several meetings, including a symposium on the fisheries in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, meeting of the 4th General Assembly of the African Network of Women in Fisheries, and the Européche-ATLAFCO meeting. Mr. Bourhim also mentioned the role played by ATLAFCO during the negotiations on the BBNJ Agreement, and emphasized the need to popularize ocean culture in local communities through ocean literacy actions.

Update on the regional roadmap from South and Southeast Asia

Krishnan Paulpandian, BOBP-IGO, and Mahesh Pradhan, COBSEA

Mr. Pradhan explained how the region of South and Southeast Asia has been strengthening regional cooperation, including through the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and a variety of meetings and conferences at the global and regional levels. Mr. Pradhan noted the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework, which is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and which aims to integrate and harmonize all programmes, projects and activities that were and are proposed to be implemented in the East Asian Seas by COBSEA. Mr. Pradhan further highlighted regional knowledge sharing platforms, shared stock management, regional capacity development, the establishment of 15 Priority Fisheries Refugia Sites in Southeast Asia, training course on advanced stock assessment, as well as the development of ecosystem-based fisheries management plan in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Paulpandian highlighted opportunities for strengthening cooperation, including in the areas of marine science (potential for the creation of Bay of Bengal Marine Research Network), through the BOB-SAN, an informal virtual network of stock assessment practitioners from the region, as well as through the BIMSTEC-INDIA Marine Research Network. Mr. Paulpandian also mentioned a regional capacity

building network to enhance the capacity of fisheries researchers and officials from Southeast Asian countries, which also aims to strengthen regional cooperation and network among the ASEAN Member States. He concluded that regional cooperation is a key driver in achieving the targets of the Ocean Decade but noted that fostering regional cooperation is challenging due to lack of targeted policies and institutional mechanisms, differences in competencies, and conflicting national priorities. He emphasized the need for data sharing, samples, infrastructure and capacity, as well as for leveraging informal networks (e.g., between researchers).

Agenda item 4: Developments in key thematic issue-areas of relevance to regional coordination and cooperation

Updates on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Nancy Soi, UNEP

Ms. Soi provided updates on the process to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. She introduced the process which began with resolution 5/14 adopted at UNEA-5.2 in March 2022, which called for the development of this instrument. At the time of the workshop, two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) already took place in 2022 and 2023, and three more sessions were planned. At [INC-2](#), Ms. Soi noted that substantive discussions took place through two contact groups focused on (i) possible objective(s) and substantive obligations, and (ii) means of implementation and implementation measures. The INC Chair, with the support of the Plastics Secretariat, will prepare a zero-draft text of the international legally binding instrument for consideration at INC-3. Ms. Soi further explained that discussions at INC-3, which is scheduled to take place in November 2023, will focus on the zero-draft text, preceded by regional consultations.

Recent developments under the International Seabed Authority

Jose Dallo, ISA

Mr. Dallo reiterated ISA's support for the full implementation of the GBF, given the importance of considering biodiversity in the international seabed area (the Area), which covers more than half of the world's ocean seafloor. He described previous collaboration between ISA and CBD, including the use of the EBSA criteria in the ISA's regional environmental management planning (REMP) [process](#) and organization of joint events at multiple international fora. He highlighted that the work of ISA directly contributes to 8 targets of the GBF, especially through its REMP process, [capacity-building initiatives](#), [DeepData](#), and [marine scientific research initiatives](#), such as the [Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative](#) (SSKI). He also highlighted the recent launch of the [ISA Technical Study](#) on the potential spatial overlap between fishing and activities in the Area, which showed a minimal overlap between the occurrence of fishing with gears that operate at or near the sea floor in ABNJ, suggesting infrequent and readily manageable direct conflicts between fisheries and activities in the Area.

Mr. Dallo noted that no exploitation activity has taken place yet, neither has an application for such activity been submitted. He underlined that member States during the ongoing 28th annual session of ISA have agreed on the importance of sound regulations, robust scientific basis, and close collaboration in ensuring the establishment of an effective regulatory framework in the Area under ISA. The Council decided to create a consolidated negotiating text of the regulations and adopted a general roadmap to make progress towards completing the regulations. The Assembly highlighted the importance of recognizing and respecting the mandates of regional and international organizations in ABNJ and ensuring coherence in their implementation through collaboration and sharing of information,

particularly in relation to the BBNJ agreement. Mr. Dallo informed that a workshop on the development of a REMP for the Northwest Pacific will be held in Japan in February 2024 and invited those in the region to participate. He also invited participants to nominate experts for an intersessional expert group on developing environmental thresholds, in line with the call announced on the [ISA website](#). He noted ISA's new Data Management Strategic Roadmap 2023-2028, which will promote various activities to facilitate sharing of data and information, including through cross-sectoral collaboration.

Agenda item 5: International legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Overview of the newly adopted international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

Bingzhao Li, DOALOS

Mr. Bingzhao Li (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea [DOALOS]) provided an overview of the newly adopted Agreement 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 (the BBNJ Agreement), focusing on the significance of this Agreement and some key aspects of its provisions. In particular, Mr. Li highlighted the importance of the BBNJ Agreement in addressing uneven capacities among States to benefit from activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in contributing to addressing the triple planetary crisis, in reshaping ocean governance towards more integrated and holistic approaches, and in contributing to the achievement of ocean-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In relation to the provisions of the BBNJ Agreement, he outlined some aspects of the four key issues it addresses, namely, marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, as well as of some cross-cutting issues, such as general principles, relationship between the Agreement and relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, and institutional arrangements.

As to next steps, he noted that the BBNJ Agreement would be open for signature for two years from 20 September 2023 and would enter into force 120 days after the deposit of the 60th instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession. He further noted that the UN Secretary-General would perform, through DOALOS, the secretariat functions until the new secretariat to be established under the BBNJ Agreement commences its functions. In that regard, DOALOS was developing a programme of activities, including on awareness-raising, capacity-building and technical assistance, to support early entry into force and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, and would welcome cooperation with all partners, including regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies.

Potential respective roles of Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies in the BBNJ Agreement, and implications for regional collaboration

David Johnson, GOBI

Mr. Johnson presented on the potential respective roles of Regional Seas Organisations and Regional Fisheries Bodies in the BBNJ Agreement and implications for regional collaboration. His presentation complemented the previous overview by UN DOALOS, taking an Article-specific focus. He noted that notwithstanding adoption of the Agreement by the UNGA, and significant political will and momentum,

much in terms of implementation is still to be determined by the first meeting of the BBNJ Agreement COP. Drawing on the Agreement's text (A/CONF.232/2023/L.3), synergy between elements of the Preamble and the aims of SOI were highlighted.

In terms of the so-called four pillars of the 'package' consideration was given to: (i) opportunities for future regional engagement with marine genetic resources including fair and equitable sharing of benefits; (ii) potential roles for regional organisations in the process of proposing, consulting on and assessing, establishing and implementing Area-Based Management Tools (including Marine Protected Areas); (iii) the prospect of regional bodies interacting, cooperating and consulting with Environmental Impact Assessment proponents; and (iv) regional cooperation associated with different types of capacity building and transfer of marine technology (noting that the Annex II of the Agreement specifically mentions regional scientific centres, regional centres of excellence, regional skills development and links between regional institutions. Annex II (d)ix of the Agreement explicitly references "collaboration among regional seas organisations and regional fisheries organisations").

In terms of cross-cutting issues, potential regional dimensions relate to the Agreement's Scientific and Technical Body (Article 49), Clearing house Mechanism (Article 51) and dispute settlement obligation (Article 57). Mr. Johnson concluded that the Agreement will be Party-driven but regional organizations will be expected to support Parties, foster cooperation, coordination and streamlining, help avoid duplication of effort and comment on consultations. Finally, in addition to complementing regional mandates and the potential for regional exchange, it was noted that the Agreement will provide a governance mechanism for parts of ABNJ where relevant regional bodies do not yet exist.

Agenda item 6: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Joseph Appiott, CBD Secretariat

Mr. Appiott provided an overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He highlighted the linkages between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF), adopted in December 2022, explaining that the GBF is part of a package of additional decisions on: (i) resource mobilization, (ii) capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation, (iii) monitoring framework (indicators), and (iv) digital sequence information on genetic resources. In addition to the global goals and targets, the GBF contains additional sections further operationalizing the framework. This includes section C on the considerations for implementation, including the (i) contribution and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, (ii) different value systems, (iii) whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, (iv) right to development, and (v) human rights-based approach. Mr. Appiott further highlighted the [CBD Guidance Notes](#) prepared for each target.

Mr. Appiott mentioned that with the establishment of the new goals and targets, there is a heightened level of global political ambition to address the issue of biodiversity loss. However, countries are still facing pressing political priorities such as COVID-19 economic recovery, geopolitical instability, and poverty eradication. Furthermore, the progress towards achieving the previous Aichi Biodiversity Targets has been lacking, pushing us further behind. To tackle these challenges, significant efforts are required to establish enabling conditions. It was also highlighted that there is an unprecedented level of political attention focused on ocean and nature, and new streams of innovative funding from alternative sources have emerged. There is also an enhanced level of attention across various sectors and disciplines, including the private sector. Mr. Appiott concluded that ocean issues are spread throughout the GBF as

its goals and targets have been developed to be generic and applicable to all biomes, which calls for a comprehensive and holistic approach in implementation, engaging all of ocean community.

Monitoring framework and review mechanism of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Jillian Campbell, CBD Secretariat

Ms. Campbell presented on the monitoring framework and the review mechanism of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. She explained that decision 15/6 (mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review) calls for the rapid alignment of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the GBF, including the development and submission of national targets by COP 16, emphasizing that NBSAPs should be revised or updated without interrupting implementation. Each COP will then review the implementation of the GBF until 2030. She emphasized the need to involve different ministries in revising the NBSAPs, ensuring effective cross-sectoral collaboration.

Decision 15/5 (monitoring framework) includes indicators for tracking national, regional and global progress against the goals and targets. Ms. Campbell added that different types of indicators provide flexibility to national circumstances while enabling global aggregation (headline indicators, binary yes/no responses in national reports, component and complementary indicators). An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group was established to guide further work on indicators. A potential role for RSOs and RFBs in helping building capacity of countries for monitoring (particularly for transboundary issues) was noted. Ms. Campbell concluded that effective implementation of the GBF will require mainstreaming across sectors, collaboration and coordination, and improved monitoring systems.

Annex IV

SUMMARIES OF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSIONS AND PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

Agenda item 3: Progress on the regional roadmaps since the third meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies

The following points were raised during the question-and-answer session:

- Need for transformative changes in order to align activities with the recently-adopted agreement and international processes, avoiding business-as-usual
- Many organizations have started to engage with other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), including some in areas beyond national jurisdiction; the BBNJ Agreement and GBF generate a momentum and opportunities for increased cross-sectoral work
- Participants also highlighted some projects, initiatives and developments across different regions:
 - Ecosystem-based management of Pacific-Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) which aims to enhance ecosystem-based management in the area and improve regional governance instruments
 - Gulf of Fonseca Cross-Border Management Program which aims to provide assessments and recommendations to the World Bank Group to carry out dialogue and support knowledge exchange in order to create an enabling environment for blue economy in Central America
 - Workshop on OECMs in fisheries-related areas in Latin America and the Caribbean, aiming to provide support at regional and national levels to apply the CBD criteria for the identification of OECMs
 - Third overview of marine litter of the Northwest Pacific region was finalized in 2023, providing actions for Member States to address marine litter
 - NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (July 2023): six seamounts' closures were recommended to the Commission to be identified as OECMs at the next annual meeting
 - IOTC working to foster regional collaboration with various organizations (e.g., agreements with ACAP, IWC, IOC, and others)

The following points were raised during the moderated discussion on advancing the regional roadmaps:

- During the in-session polls, the majority of respondents indicated that the regional roadmaps in their region and/or organization have been partially implemented
- When asked what the most important factor would be to help accelerate implementation of the regional roadmaps in their respective regions, participants selected (in the order of results): (i) regular dialogue and discussion among regional processes, (ii) political will on the need for regional coordination and collaboration, (iii) financial resources, (iv) pilot projects and joint initiatives on specific topics of interest, and (v) awareness of work and mandates of other regional organizations.
- Enhancing collaboration and support:

- Need for subregional fora in different regions, and/or a mechanism to bring RSOs and RFBs together at the subregional level, in addition to the regional level
- As part of advancing the RSO/RFB cooperation: Importance of working closely with stakeholders who work at the subregional/local level on a daily basis, e.g., engaging and cooperating with MPA network managers
- Importance of regional organizations providing support to their countries in international processes, including in adopting the instrument on plastic pollution
- Adoption of the GBF and the BBNJ Agreement has increased motivation toward cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation
- Past challenges included the lack of political support and backing for the goals pursued by regional organizations, which has now changed for the better
- Regional organizations have started receiving requests from their Parties on how RSCAPs can support them in meeting the GBF targets
- Information sharing, communication and partnerships:
 - Need for a more formalized process to share information that comes out of SOI (e.g., through future COP decisions, review of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity)
 - Importance of dialogue and exchanges that can facilitate further cooperation
 - Need for SOI to expand partnership with IOC-UNESCO and include it in SOI work
- Importance of improved access to funds, especially in the context of the GBF

Agenda item 5: International legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

The following points were raised during the question-and-answer session:

- Challenges at the national level include dealing with multiple Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which are interlinked: Regional organizations and bodies are key actors in facilitating the national processes in their respective jurisdictional areas with respect to the CBD NBSAPs, other MEAs, the BBNJ Agreement, and other global instruments
- Importance of considering developments under other international processes in the revision of NBSAPs
- While BBNJ management is not as much discussed under the CBD, Parties are responsible for applying the CBD in ABNJ as per the text of the Convention, so it would be appropriate to articulate the different measures in ABNJ in the NBSAPs
- DOALOS is developing a capacity-building program to promote holistic approaches at the national level
- Cooperation and communication between regional organizations will be key when area-based management tools and measures will be established in different regions by other bodies
- It is important for the attending Secretariats to inform their respective contracting Parties of the discussions under SOI, and then bring their feedback back to SOI

Agenda item 6: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The following points were raised during the question-and-answer session:

- Support to countries include (among others):
 - Available funding from GEF to GEF-eligible countries for updating their NBSAPs
 - A series of regional dialogues is being organized (at the time of the workshop) to foster collaboration across countries, share experiences, and learn from others
- Need for a legal instrument to effectively strengthen national collaboration and coordination, to avoid business-as-usual
- Collaboration between different ministries at the national level is key in implementing and monitoring the GBF: This remains a challenge, as CBD national focal points tend to be the ministries of environment and in some cases, there is a lack of willingness to involve other ministries
 - Important role of RFBs/RFMOs to highlight the importance of the CBD national reporting to their respective focal points in the ministries to ensure dialogue between the ministries of environment and ministries of fisheries
 - Opportunity for regional organizations to develop inputs that can be used by countries in their national reports
- Lack of quality indicators addressing fisheries in the monitoring framework (at the time of the workshop):
 - As the indicators in the monitoring framework are the product of Party-driven negotiations, it is essential that regional organizations (particularly RFBs) give their input and help their Member States and Parties to develop adequate component and complementary indicators with respect to fisheries
 - Current headline indicators will not change as these were adopted by the CBD Parties at COP 15, and they should be operationalized at the national level, but component and complementary indicators will be further revised and developed, through the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, and will become indicators that are feasible and recommended to the countries
- Other matters with respect to the monitoring framework:
 - Linkages with the BBNJ Agreement and the instrument on plastic pollution with respect to monitoring in the context of the ocean
 - Includes some indicators for areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), which would be used for the global review scheduled for COP 17, ensuring that ABNJ is captured in some way
 - Need for building capacity with respect to monitoring at the national level
 - Potential for the SOI Global Dialogue having a role in monitoring the GBF
 - Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) were discussed during the process of developing the monitoring framework for indicators related to targets 1 and 3, specifically for marine spatial planning, and for protected areas of key biodiversity importance, respectively
- Achieving Target 3 in areas beyond national jurisdiction will require RFMOs playing a key role in OECM coverage
- In the Mediterranean region: Available information with respect to fisheries stocks for many different species as part of the IMAP - Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, and the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources (SAPBIO)

Agenda item 7: Issues to be addressed at the fourth meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies

The following points were raised during plenary discussion:

- Potential issues to be addressed:
 - Consider how we can establish the linkages with other initiatives to deliver on the GBF
 - Ensuring that other ocean sectors and other processes are aligned with the GBF, e.g., blue economy plans and strategies, linkages with the climate change process including the updating of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity in driving sustainable ocean-based socio-economic development
 - Critical and emerging issues affecting different regions (*see further point below*)
- Approaches to the organization and/or modalities of the meeting:
 - Possibility for regional preparatory work in advance of the meeting, to discuss what the key emerging issues are in respective regions (e.g., sargassum in West Africa and the Caribbean), so that they can be discussed in more detail at the meeting
 - Possibility for an event at COP 16 to highlight SOI work
- Key entities to engage:
 - Potential engagement with other existing political and intergovernmental organizations at the regional and subregional levels (e.g., in the Caribbean), as RSOs and RFBs sometimes engage with other political and intergovernmental bodies
 - Need advice from RSOs and RFBs which other intergovernmental organizations from their respective regions would be key to attend, in order for the regional organizations to achieve their goals and objectives
 - This should be done strategically: Need to avoid diluting the key concept of SOI and the discussions
 - Potential engagement of a few types of non-governmental organizations, as well as representatives from the industry sectors, to get their input and also spread further awareness of SOI with their own respective networks
- It is important that RSO and RFB Secretariats attending the SOI Global Dialogue report back to their Member States and Contracting Parties on what has been discussed under SOI, and then bring their feedback back to SOI discussions
- Importance of strengthening and evolving, but not compromising strengths

Annex V

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Agenda item 5: International legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Participants were invited to continue the discussion on the BBNJ Agreement in breakout groups, in order to (i) identify concrete entry points and ways for regional collaboration in implementing and/or monitoring the BBNJ Agreement, (ii) discuss how the regional organizations can support their respective member States in implementing and/or monitoring the BBNJ Agreement, and (iii) discuss any challenges, constraints and gaps (synthesis of this discussion is contained in table 1).

The participants were asked to join one of the six following breakout groups, corresponding to the regional groups that developed/revised the regional roadmaps at the 3rd meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs: (i) Western Indian Ocean and adjacent areas, (ii) North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean, (iii) Wider Caribbean, (iv) Pacific Ocean basins, (v) East Atlantic African region, and (vi) South and Southeast Asia.

Table 1. Synthesis of breakout group discussions on the BBNJ Agreement

Regional group	Key entry points and ways for regional collaboration in implementing and/or monitoring the BBNJ Agreement	Support from regional organizations to their member States in implementing and/or monitoring the BBNJ Agreement	Challenges, constraints and gaps
Western Indian Ocean and adjacent areas	- Coordination on overlapping mandates of regional organizations: Bilateral communications to identify these areas in the overlapping mandates with potential for collaboration, which would then be done through MoUs or more formalized through member States and already existing governing structures - Collaboration to strengthen collaboration/coordination/communication at the national level - Capacity needs assessment at the national level, so that regional organizations can map out their roles and responsibilities and determine how best to coordinate	- As most Secretariats of RFBs and RFMOs are responsible for building capacity of their member States, the BBNJ Agreement extends these mandates for capacity building - Opportunity for data hosting and data analysis, to help support national governments in implementing the Agreement - Important to consider the possible role of those organizations that have no relevant mandates in supporting member States for ABNJ	- Issue of overlapping mandates - Challenges in visualizing how the BBNJ Agreement will fit in the current regional intergovernmental landscape - In the Western Indian Ocean, not many organizations that would focus on management, and a lack of entity that would have the potential to take up full implementation of the Agreement in the region - Constraints around capacity - Regional centres for capacity-building: an existing institution in the region, or a new entity to be created?

	Using existing mechanisms and platforms and integrating existing committees at the national level	Need to consider existing capacity-building programs and the additions that will need to be embedded to support the Agreement	
North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean	- Focus on ABMT as the entry point for regional collaboration: potential engagement in the consultation proposals for ABMTs (both on developing the proposals and once they had been submitted) - Ensuring that the scientific community is engaged in the process of developing proposals - Need to include management considerations in discussions on any ABMTs from the very beginning, to avoid paper parks - Need to build on existing cooperation mechanisms and existing collective arrangements (e.g., the NEAFC/OSPAR “collective arrangement”, non-binding but provides a platform for regional bodies to discuss common issues)	- Focus on ABMT, potential engagement in the consultation processes outlined in the Agreement - Ensuring that different ministries and departments, such as from the fisheries side and environmental side, come together and coordinate - Since CBD discussions are often led by experts with a terrestrial focus, regional organizations could play a role in bringing in marine expertise, and/or ensuring the contracting Parties understand the terrestrial vs. marine nuances	- Need for increased capacity of regional organizations to consider proposals, to collaborate with other regional bodies, and to have access to the right experts/scientists - Need to raise awareness of the work of regional organizations and how they could help with the implementation of the Agreement - Importance of having a process/mechanism to recognize existing measures (e.g., OSPAR has already designated MPAs in ABNJ, incl. through the processes recommended under the Agreement), avoiding duplication of efforts - Very different landscapes with different entities (e.g., NAFO not having an equivalent to OSPAR in their region), therefore there isn't necessarily a one-size-fits-all solution
Wider Caribbean	- Some regional IGOs have a formal mandate in ABNJ, others are largely limited to the EEZ of Member Countries, however what happens within EEZ/within the formal area of IGOs' mandate is still relevant for the implementation of the Agreement beyond these areas, thus it is important to keep up to date with the BBNJ process - Regular meetings (IGMs, COPs) of regional IGOs where IGOs and their Member States/Parties can be informed about the BBNJ process, and the implications of BBNJ	- Supporting countries before the Agreement's entry into force: awareness raising and capacity-building - Potential for supporting countries for the ratification processes	- Regional IGOs are generally already challenged in terms of financing and capacity - Addressing these capacity and financial constraints may require a gradual/step-by-step/progressive approach, as well as agreement from Member States/Parties to extend the existing scope of work and/or future work programmes of the IGOs to embrace BBNJ-related matters

	for both the mandate of the regional IGOs as well as for the Member States/Parties Interim Coordination Mechanism (9 IGOs), and the anticipated operationalization of a long-term Ocean Coordination Mechanism (incl. both countries and IGOs)		
Pacific Ocean basins	- The Pacific is a large region with multiple players, so dialogue, through platforms such as SOI, partnerships and coordination are all needed to bring these players together - Importance of strengthening regional ocean governance as there are legal and institutional gaps	Helping Member States implement the Agreement, likely through RFBs/RFMOs, legally-binding instruments, etc.	- Capacity is already an issue with existing mandates, and it is unclear how organizations in the region will cope with additional ABNJ challenges, such as monitoring and enforcing MPAs - Translating science to policy: RSOs are still at the scientific research stage, not yet at the policy implementation stage. Research can identify threats such as IUU fishing, climate change, and pollution but the translation to policy measures remains a challenge - potential for UNEP to help bridge this gap
East Atlantic African region	- From science to policy and coherence of the regional frameworks: having some collaborative regional working groups of experts to facilitate BBNJ implementation and monitoring and ensure a coherent process - The BBNJ STC should consider any advice provided by IFBs and even from expert groups, especially considering the consultations issued from the future BBNJ COP for the regional and sectorial bodies (IFBs) - The SOI Global Dialogue and the regional roadmaps could be the way to bring support to secretariats of regional bodies and IFBs to proceed with consultations in a coherent way	- Capacity-building targeting the decision-making processes: strong need to provide support for the ratification phase, specifically a need of a better understanding from the decision-makers of the BBNJ Agreement's impacts/implications and accompany the analysis of legal conformity of the Agreement with the national and regional regulatory frameworks - This support during the ratification phase would help prepare for the Agreement's implementation and monitoring, and could also be	- Need to analyze the implications, at national and regional levels, of the Agreement in the adjacent zones between ABNJ and EEZ - Important to raise awareness and disseminate ocean literacy on BBNJ among local communities

		linked with NBSAPs and GBF implementation processes	
South and Southeast Asia	- Regional organizations can discuss and make decisions regarding BBNJ and then present it to the Member Countries - Opportunity for high-level direction, e.g., from the World Bank, regarding programs at the global level providing guidance to RSOs and RFBs to design their own programs	- Strong need to build awareness on BBNJ at the national level in the region - Regional organizations could be facilitating in-country dialogues at the national level - As there is a strong need for funding in this region, it will be important to take advantage of the BBNJ fund, with RSOs and RFBs establishing programs aligned with BBNJ and building capacity at the local level - Countries being members of two or more different regional organizations creates an increased in-country dialogue, facilitating in-country integration of different ministries as they often work in silos, helping creating synergies at the national level (important to bring this synergy to the regional level as well)	- Importance of clarifying the relationship between the BBNJ Agreement and regional organizations as it is unclear at the moment - Lack of capacity to implement the BBNJ Agreement - Need for some kind of ignition fund that would “roll the ball”, which could be supported by the regional bodies with national governments becoming part of the program

Agenda item 6: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Participants were invited to continue the discussion on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in breakout groups, in order to (i) identify concrete entry points and ways for regional collaboration in implementing and/or monitoring the GBF, (ii) discuss how the regional organizations can support their respective member States in implementing and/or monitoring the GBF (e.g., in terms of setting national targets), and (iii) discuss any challenges, constraints and gaps (synthesis of this discussion is contained in table 2).

The participants were asked to join one of the six breakout groups, same as breakout groups under agenda item 5, however, due to a lower number of participants, the group representing South and Southeast Asia was joined by participants representing the Western Indian Ocean.

Table 2. Synthesis of breakout group discussions on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Regional group	Key entry points and ways for regional collaboration in implementing and/or monitoring the GBF	Support from regional organizations to their member States in implementing and/or monitoring the GBF	Challenges, constraints and gaps
North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean	• Need to explicitly work on biodiversity, not just on the area issues such as VMEs and MPAs • Need to strengthen work with other bodies • Importance of sharing our experiences, as there are lots of experiences in the fisheries in terms of developing indicators • importance of keeping the communication going	• There are lots of ongoing strategies for indicators and monitoring in the regional and global organizations: Important to establish a process on how we use these strategies for the GBF and help Member States/Countries • Need to revise some of the complementary indicators with respect to how we report on fisheries, including the quality of monitoring and the approaches to deal with data-poor situations • Existing mechanisms (e.g., collective arrangements) in the North-East Atlantic and Mediterranean with active collaboration and adding value to Member States in terms of monitoring • Need to document how organizations can support States in terms of the GBF	• Need for a greater dialogue between the CBD and the fisheries world, need to be well aware of the challenges at the national level, and how CBD deals with the fisheries and generally marine issues • Need for champions within the States in the region that bring these issues forward • Need to mainstream biodiversity in terms of communication and working with industries
Wider Caribbean	• Regional Coordination Mechanism (ICM/future OCM) will provide an important (but not the only one) avenue for dialogue and coordination efforts among organizations in the short term so	• Need for dialogue, coordination and collaboration among different organizations in the region, so that jointly they can deliver the most meaningful inputs and support the countries (some	• Challenge: For GBF to be successful, need to avoid working in silos and instead make efforts to integrate sustainable ocean

	that organizations can discuss the lead roles in terms of supporting the implementation of certain elements of GBF • Such dialogue should be expanded, e.g., involving LAC offices such as UNEP ROLAC, and e.g., LAC-level planning and portfolio management units of the different GEF agencies, and NGOs • At regional political meetings, it would be useful to have some form of common message that puts emphasis on how to work together as a region to achieve the GBF and give more prominence to NBSAPs • Opportunity to pursue a more holistic, integrated approach towards assessments on the marine environment, while taking into account existing and new national, (sub-)regional and global assessment/reporting obligations, avoiding sectoral individual assessments, and trying to link the undertaken assessments at different geographic levels • Establishing linkages between the organizations working at the level of the Wider Caribbean with established/regular high-level political fora at LAC-level (e.g., UNEP ROLAC Forum of Ministers)	IGOs have biannual meetings now, where they can bring forward this issue to the member states at the meetings) • Regional workshops to support the developments/revisions of NBSAPs • Role of regional IGOs in facilitating (sub-)regional capacity-building on key issues, with potential support from SOI, and looking at opportunities for joint or coordinated capacity-building efforts (e.g., OECMs, indicators) • Important role for regional organizations to make the linkages between national and global levels, and provide capacity support for global reporting • Leveraging existing reporting obligations at the regional level • Need to pursue a closer linkage between/integration of GBF and regional and national-level efforts on marine spatial planning, blue economy scoping, and BE strategic planning, in order to ensure sustainable ocean-based socio-economic development	development aspirations, need to make linkages between NBSAPs, blue economy, spatial planning, as well as incorporating ocean in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) • Clear linkages between biodiversity conservation and sustainable ocean development agenda • Biodiversity and climate change are higher than ever on the political agenda with respect to the ocean, so work should be undertaken to establish a stronger linkage between efforts under the GBF and the Paris Agreement • Need for better data and information management and access (e.g., environmental databases) to support the assessment processes (see first column), as there are persisting high levels of fragmentation of efforts on this front (new GEF funding may provide concrete opportunities for regional IGOs to help overcome this)
Pacific Ocean basins (limited participation of organizations and	• Strong network of regional organizations in the Pacific but proposal to have a meeting once a year to allow for networking, working together, sharing information, etc.	• Establishing a process to ensure that the countries in the region are implementing the GBF: possibility for workshops, assessments, identifying existing gaps at	• Need for capacity-building in the region

experts from this region due to difficult time zone)		the national level, ensuring NBSAPs have been updated to align with the GBF • Maximizing on using existing tools and institutions to implement target 20 and capacity-building (e.g., the Academy), which will be useful in providing support at the national level	
East Atlantic African region	• Raising awareness on the GBF through meetings and workshops at the regional level, and focus on specific issues (e.g., MPAs, fisheries, marine pollution) • Identifying the obligations for regional organizations arising from the GBF • Engaged dialogue with regional bodies	• Support to countries in terms of developing technical assistance resources and supporting national reporting • Supporting the process of revising NBSAPs via workshops in pilot countries and developing policy guidance • Financial support: countries need to develop national financial plan • SOI can provide coordination function to follow up on SOI outcomes, processes, and report on progress (possibility for nominating national focal points for SOI)	• Need for human, scientific, technological, organizational and institutional capacity building • Need to raise awareness on the GBF among indigenous peoples and local communities
South and Southeast Asia and Western Indian Ocean	• Regional organizations have already been doing a variety of efforts with respect to the issues in the GBF (e.g., fish stock assessments), even before its adoption, and now the GBF provides a mechanism to monitor these efforts towards the targets and framing these activities, while encouraging political will • Opportunity to incorporate work from the global to regional levels, e.g., blue economy and different sectors, migratory species, trade of species	• Opportunity to create a collaborative environment among the countries, particularly the opportunity for transboundary collaboration (as there are already other institutions working and supporting countries at the national level) • Value addition of regional seas is on transboundary issues • Providing capacity building support both at regional and national levels	