



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Sustainable Ocean Initiative regional
capacity-building workshop for East,
South and South-East Asia**
Seoul, 5–8 September 2023

Report of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative regional capacity-building workshop for East, South and South-East Asia*

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. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative is a global platform that aims to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve global goals and targets on marine and coastal biodiversity. Its implementation is being coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with various partners.
2. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative is focused 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.
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, particularly 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. The goals and targets of the Framework represent the most ambitious global political commitments for nature ever seen. Robust and enhanced efforts will be needed to implement the targets of the Framework, and capacity-building and an all-of-society approach will be needed to fully implement it.
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 facilitate capacity-building activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in order to support the

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implementation of the Framework, including its monitoring framework, with respect to marine, coastal and island biodiversity.

5. Pursuant to this request, the Secretariat convened the Sustainable Ocean Initiative regional capacity-building workshop for East, South and South-East Asia, in collaboration with various regional organizations and initiatives. The workshop was held from 5 to 8 September 2023 in Seoul. It was organized with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and technical support from the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea.

6. The workshop sought to identify means, opportunities and priorities for, as well as challenges to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the region with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity. Workshop participants primarily comprised experts, managers, officers and specialists in marine biodiversity conservation and fisheries management from Parties, relevant global and regional organizations, and indigenous peoples and local communities.

7. The workshop was organized in plenary and breakout group sessions and included thematic presentations with question-and-answer sessions, plenary and moderated discussions, breakout group exercises and discussions. The Secretariat, in consultation with collaborating organizations, nominated workshop 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 workshop was co-chaired by Krishnan Paulpandian from the Bay of Bengal Programme and Mahesh Pradhan from the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia.

9. The workshop was attended by experts from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. As for organizations, the workshop was attended by experts from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Bay of Bengal Programme Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), European Union Ocean Governance Project, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Forest Peoples Programme, Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Office, IUCN Fisheries Expert Group, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), and UNCBD Women's Caucus.

10. A list of participants is contained in the annex.

11. The workshop was conducted in English.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

12. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea opened the meeting at 9 a.m. on 5 September 2023.

13. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention delivered an opening statement on behalf of the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He welcomed all participants to the workshop and thanked the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea for their generous and valuable support to make this meeting possible. He stressed the massive step towards positive change that the global community took with the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims to address the many drivers of biodiversity loss and enable economic and social development through the sustainable use of biodiversity. However, its achievement depends on how the Framework is translated into on-the-ground action. He emphasized that, particularly in this region, there is already a wealth of knowledge, experience and resources that simply need to be scaled up and better supported, with the inclusion of diverse stakeholders. He concluded that the countries,

communities, cultures and peoples in this region have had a close relationship with the ocean and its biodiversity since time immemorial, and that this workshop is a key opportunity to bring forth these experiences, learn from others, and consider how best to make the Framework real on the ground and in the water.

14. The Director of Marine Ecology Division of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, Jae-Young Shin, delivered an opening statement, expressing thanks to the CBD Secretariat, National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea, United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the workshop participants. Mr. Shin noted that the ocean is a source of ecosystem services that provide humankind and the Earth with enormous benefits, however, the ocean faces various threats. To overcome these threats and achieve the ambitious goals of 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 Agreement), Mr. Shin emphasized the importance of sharing the same vision, raising awareness, and enhancing implementation capacity, in particular in Asia, given that 60 per cent of the world's population reside in this region. He concluded that this workshop would provide valuable learning opportunities and discuss effective approaches to implementing the Framework.

15. The President of the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK), Wan-Hyun Choi, delivered an opening statement welcoming the participants to Korea, extending his gratitude to the CBD Secretariat, and expressing thanks to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea for their continuous support of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. Mr. Choi emphasized the contributions of the Initiative over the years and noted the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, as well as the rapid degradation of the marine environment. In the context of the historic adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the BBNJ Agreement, it was emphasized that this workshop would provide a timely opportunity to strengthen the capacity to address the threats arising in the ocean, and to ensure the sustainable use of interconnected oceans. Reaffirming MABIK's commitment to marine biodiversity, Mr. Choi noted that the workshop discussions would lay a crucial foundation for achieving the Framework and for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean.

Item 2

Workshop background, objectives, scope and expected outcomes

16. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention delivered a presentation to review the meeting background and objectives. He highlighted the linkages between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022, explaining that the Framework 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 Framework contains additional sections further operationalizing it. He provided an overview of the four goals and 23 targets, as well as the CBD Guidance Notes prepared for each target, available on the CBD website.

17. The representative of the Secretariat further noted 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 continue to face political priorities such as COVID-19 economic recovery, geopolitical instability and poverty eradication. Furthermore, 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. He further highlighted that there is an unprecedented level of political attention focused on the 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.

18. The representative of the Secretariat explained that the goals and targets have been crafted to be generic and applicable to all biomes, and as such, ocean issues are spread throughout the Framework, underscoring the need for broader engagement of the ocean community. He concluded that the Framework presents a heightened ambition, requiring urgent and scaled up action, with additional work needed to engage stakeholders not previously involved directly in biodiversity.

Item 3

Regional and national context

(a) Environment, biodiversity and fisheries issues in East, South and South-East Asia

19. In order to provide a regional context for the workshop, Mahesh Pradhan (COBSEA), Yegor Volovik (NOWPAP), Claudia Binondo (ACB), and Suk-Jae Kwon (PEMSEA) delivered a coordinated presentation outlining the state of the marine environment and biodiversity in East, South and South-East Asia. The goals of reaching climate stability, living in harmony with nature and ensuring a pollution-free planet were highlighted to respond to the triple planetary crisis. Work has been done in the region with respect to the assessment of eutrophication, specifically to develop a standardized eutrophication assessment procedure, countermeasures against harmful algal blooms, and eutrophication monitoring guidelines, as well as the assessment of tidal flats and salt marsh distribution. Furthermore, environmental-DNA analysis was noted, which is a practical tool to provide information on biodiversity and has enormous potential to reduce the time and effort for modern biological monitoring. Also highlighted were the value of ecosystem services in the East Asian Seas region, data on employment in ocean economy in the region, and the value of ocean-related economic activities and their contribution to gross domestic product. The Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia Implementation Framework was also mentioned—a roadmap to 2030, focusing on effective governance, healthy ocean, healthy people and healthy economies.

20. Krishnan Paulpandian (BOBP-IGO) and Worawit Wanchana (SEAFDEC) delivered a coordinated presentation outlining the state of marine fisheries and fisheries management in South and South-East Asia. This region predominantly comprises lower-middle to middle-income countries. Fisheries play a pivotal role as a livelihood activity in these regions, and policies usually emphasize boosting production. The presentation looked at trends in marine capture fisheries during the last three decades: 1990 to 2021. During this period, marine capture production in the region showcased an upward trajectory, contrasting with flattening global production. A key feature is that about 50 per cent of the catch originates from shared stock, highlighting the ecological oneness of these regions. In addition, there is likely to be overcapacity in the marine fisheries sector. Other problems include illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, safety of fishers at sea, climate change and unequal access to fisheries resources. The speakers emphasized that addressing these multifaceted challenges demands a holistic approach, such as ecosystem-based fisheries management. Capacity building, regular training and harmonized policies are imperative, especially given shared stocks. Information-sharing promises transparency, while public-private partnerships can usher in expertise and innovative solutions, ensuring sustainable fisheries for the future.

(b) National context

21. In order to provide a national context for the workshop, experts from each Party present at the workshop delivered presentations to summarize progress thus far in, and future plans for, the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in their respective countries.

22. In the question-and-answer session that followed, participants raised the complexity of addressing the interconnected issues of plastic pollution and the impacts of climate change, which affect all species at national, regional, and global levels, emphasizing the importance of seeing the bigger picture. While regional coordination is important, actions at national, subnational, and local levels are also essential. This relates strongly to the need for collaboration and coordination across

ministries at the national level due to the interconnected nature of these issues, highlighting the need for further work within the institutional system. Additionally, participants noted the importance of fisheries stakeholders viewing the Framework as a whole, rather than focusing on a few targets, and ensuring that the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) reflect community-based conservation efforts.

(c) *Breakout group discussions on common priorities and challenges across the region and subregions*

23. In the breakout group discussions that followed, participants focused on common priorities and challenges across the region and subregions. Common priorities include developing and revising NBSAPs to align with the Framework, engaging multiple stakeholders including academia (e.g., on ecosystem valuation), and balancing economic development with conservation. Potential areas of focus for action plans highlighted by participants include resource mobilization, improved fisheries management, and data sharing.

24. Common challenges discussed by the groups include a lack of interagency coordination at the national level (e.g., between environment and fisheries-related agencies, with fisheries often falling under economic portfolios), tracking implementation, a lack of targeted resources for implementation and the large number of developing countries in this region. Participants noted that while environment ministries establish MPAs, these often lack legal impact on fisheries or other activities. The need to consider transboundary projects in conservation in the region, integrate different knowledge systems in biodiversity conservation, particularly traditional knowledge, and address climate change challenges (e.g., in the context of MPAs) was emphasized. The importance of considering both qualitative and quantitative elements of Target 3, and exploring different approaches to achieve the target, was underscored. Challenges related to law enforcement due to varying laws and regulations across jurisdictions were also discussed. Participants stressed the need for transboundary collaboration and dialogue, knowledge sharing, mobilizing funding from diverse sources, private sector engagement, and capacity-building among government officials for implementing other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

25. Participants further discussed ongoing projects in their countries that already contribute to the Framework's goals and targets. However, it was noted that most countries are still in the initial stages of implementing the Framework. Participants added that some countries have action plans to tackle IUU fishing.

26. Participants emphasized the importance of both top-down and bottom-up approaches, and of engaging all stakeholders, including youth, and integrating traditional knowledge. The importance of education, public relations, transparency, effective communication, and translating knowledge into policy and action was stressed. The ability to recognize important scientific information and ensure the transparency of data and information was also discussed.

Item 4

Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its relevance for marine and coastal biodiversity

27. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention delivered a presentation providing an overview of the Framework and insights on how the Framework may be implemented in marine and coastal areas. The importance of rapidly aligning the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the Framework was explained, including the development and submission of national targets by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16), noting that each meeting of the COP until 2030 will review progress toward implementing the Framework. The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and the NBSAP Forum were highlighted as useful tools to support the development/revision of NBSAPs, noting that revising/updating NBSAPs should not interrupt implementation. A recent study on how marine and coastal biodiversity issues are reflected in NBSAPs was also noted.

28. Decision 15/13 urged Parties to reinforce actions to enhance synergies in the implementation of the Framework at the national level and encouraged the strengthening of cooperation and synergies among conventions and multilateral agreements. The importance of a sustained dialogue to soften silos was emphasized, in particular between foreign, environment and fisheries ministries. With respect to the monitoring framework (adopted in decision 15/5), it was stressed that Parties are urged to use the headline indicators in their national reports, and that the monitoring framework will be finalized at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. With respect to capacity development, a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development was adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision 15/8, annex I), as were a technical and scientific cooperation mechanism (decision 15/8, annex II), and an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation (decision 15/8, annex III). As for financing, at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a strategy for resource mobilization in decision 15/7 as a guidance to facilitate the immediate mobilization of resources, and it decided to establish the GBF Fund, a special trust fund under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of the GBF goals and targets, which has officially been launched by GEF. Furthermore, the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity was noted for its support toward national-level capacity-building on biodiversity monitoring and reporting.

29. It was concluded that the COP considered various issues needed to support the rollout and implementation of the Framework, and it will provide various sources of support, tools and resources to support national implementation efforts. However, many of these tools are still under development, making it a timely opportunity to engage.

30. In the question-and-answer session that followed, participants raised concerns related to the length and complexity of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding process and issues of eligibility. They emphasized that proposals for GEF funding should explicitly link to and align with specific targets of the Framework and that local communities should be included in GEF projects. Some participants stressed the role of regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centers in assisting with the implementation of the Framework, while others noted the need for additional support to access funding at the regional level. Participants also discussed the need for building capacity and addressing capacity needs through methods other than GEF due to its project-based focus. Lastly, participants discussed the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity within all national projects (e.g., infrastructure development) and incorporating existing needs into biodiversity projects.

Item 5

Approaches to implementing the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in marine and coastal areas

(a) Targets 1-4: Spatial planning, restoration, protection and conservation

31. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention provided an overview of Targets 1 to 4 of the Framework. With respect to implementation, it was explained that looking at all 23 targets individually can be overwhelming and that actions in one area alone will not yield the outcomes needed. The need for a comprehensive and holistic approach to implementation was emphasized, and for a sustained dialogue to “soften the silos”, particularly between national ministries of foreign affairs, environment and fisheries.

32. With respect to Target 1, key elements to take note of were explained, including (i) spatial planning and/or effective management processes (with the latter to be used when spatial planning is not feasible, or as a complement to spatial planning), (ii) participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive (key to spatial planning), (iii) addressing land- and sea-use change, (iv) areas of high biodiversity importance and high ecological integrity, and (v) respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

33. With respect to Target 2, the following key elements were noted: (i) restoration, (ii) degraded ecosystems, (iii) enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and (iv) connectivity and integrity. Regarding Target 3, while there are many efforts to achieve the 30 per cent figure, there are other important efforts needed to ensure its effectiveness, including: (i) addressing areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, (ii) effective conservation and management, (iii) ecological representativeness, (iv) well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, (v) equitable governance, (vi) sustainable use consistent with conservation objectives, and (vii) rights of IPLCs.

34. Finally, with respect to Target 4, three distinct but related components were noted: (i) management actions to halt human-induced extinctions and to reduce extinction risk, in particular for threatened species, (ii) management actions to maintain and restore genetic diversity among all species, and (iii) actions to manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict.

35. A panel of regional experts followed, highlighting key considerations, expert guidance and possible tools and approaches to implement those targets:

(a) Mahesh Pradhan (COBSEA) presented on regional strategies, challenges and capacity needs with respect to addressing Targets 1, 2 and 3 of the Framework. He highlighted some of COBSEA's efforts to implement the Framework, including as part of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework, particularly in the areas of blue economy, marine and coastal spatial planning, marine protected areas, and marine and coastal habitat conservation and restoration. He noted several challenges to these efforts, namely human and financial resources, territorial disputes, conflicting stakeholder priorities, varying interpretations of the targets, political interest and leadership, and cohesive data and information. Mr. Pradhan stressed several capacity needs for the targets. For Target 1, there is a need for to coordinate and facilitate discussions among various stakeholders with diverse interests, integrate sustainable blue economy principles into the broader Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning Policy (MCSP), oversee the entire MCSP process from planning to evaluation, and handle negotiations regarding jurisdictions and conflict management. For Target 2, there is a need to recognize the effect of restoration in the whole ecosystem beyond mere "planting/rehabilitation" to avoid greenwashing, utilize science-based approaches for appropriate rehabilitation efforts, establish restoration standards, and enhance data comprehension. For Target 3, the capacity needs include understanding connectivity among MPAs, establishing MPAs and OECMs based on scientific principles to avoid paper parks, generating funds to achieve 30x30, creating standards for international and national recognition of local MPAs, securing sustainable financing for MPA management and operations, and building the capacity to establish MPAs beyond national jurisdiction;

(b) Maeve Nightingale (IUCN Asia Regional Office) presented on the considerations with respect to implementing Target 3 in the region. Ms. Nightingale referred to the Coral Triangle as the "bull's-eye of marine biodiversity" in the world, due to its very high number of coral reef species per eco region. Noting that only 2 per cent of Asia's oceans are fully and strongly protected from destructive activities, she stressed several threats including the increasing use of ocean space and resources, overexploitation of marine resources, pollution, as well as pressures shifting to remaining marine biodiversity hotspots and uneven distribution of benefits from the ocean. She further highlighted the latest status of MPA coverage in South and Southeast Asia, discussing the issues of quantity versus quality. She stressed the importance of making protected areas effective and functional but noted a few things to consider, including issues of connectivity, anthropogenic threats, lack of resources, need for conservation management strategies as well as community engagement. Ms. Nightingale also mentioned the IUCN Green List framework, which will contribute to 12 actions under the Framework. This includes accelerating the contributions towards 30x30, scaling up management and governance across protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the region, creating pathways for effective management and fair governance of Asian protected and conserved areas, and getting global recognition of the conservation impact and

celebrating success. She noted that IUCN is further committed to improve understanding and capacity for marine biodiversity conservation in the Bay of Bengal and the Coral Triangle regions;

(c) Puri Canals (EU Ocean Governance Project) gave a presentation on the contribution of the EU Ocean Governance Project to the implementation of Targets 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Southeast Asia. She highlighted four project components, namely (i) Restoration SEA, (ii) Twinning Atlantic (improved management of MPAs around the Atlantic Ocean), (iii) Knowledge Exchange, between Atlantic and Southeast Asian marine and coastal regions, and (iv) Transboundary Boundary Conservation Area (improved basis for dialogue among marine and coastal stakeholders in the region), all of which contribute to the said targets. Under component (i), Ms. Canals described the project's coral restoration activities in Malaysia and Indonesia, and mangrove restoration activity in the Philippines, all part of the Sulu Sulawesi seascape, a priority seascape in the Coral Triangle. She explained that meetings are not only held at the restoration sites with local stakeholders, but also between the restoration sites to promote learning exchange. Under component (iv) with respect to promoting transboundary marine conservation in Southeast Asia, Ms. Canals highlighted two recent workshops, in the Philippines and Indonesia, on supporting countries in meeting the marine-related targets of the Framework in the region. She further stressed the importance of connecting networks of MPA managers around the world, particularly in sharing information, knowledge and tools, building network capacity, policy support and advocacy, including at international conferences such as the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and financing;

(d) Muhammad Ilman (TNC) presented on marine spatial planning for the establishment of marine protected areas in Indonesia. He gave an overview of the status of marine resources in Indonesia, noting high biodiversity and globally threatened marine megafauna, including migratory, rare and threatened species. He highlighted some marine and fisheries issues off-shore, nearshore, and in coastal areas, which have been addressed via strategies such as spatial management and spatial planning. Some of these issues include gaps in fish stock monitoring, overexploitation, IUU fishing, nearshore spatial use conflict, habitat degradation, and coastal hazard and disasters. Spatial management strategies include MPAs, territorial use rights for fisheries, fisheries management areas, and OECMs, while spatial planning strategies include the Coastal and Small Island Zoning Plan as well as the Inter-region Marine Spatial Plan. Mr. Ilman further highlighted current MPA-related efforts in Indonesia as well as the goal for an MPA network in and around Indonesia by 2045. The former includes improving the effectiveness of MPA management in 16 MPAs, building the capacity of MPA managers, universities, local civil society organizations, and communities, supporting the government to establish three new MPAs, improving MPA compliance, improving species protection, as well as supporting the development of the National Marine Spatial Plan;

(e) Claudia Binondo (ACB) delivered a presentation on ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity support in implementing the Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for coastal and marine environments in the region. She provided a brief history of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity and outlined its mission to facilitate cooperation and coordination on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. She outlined the ASEAN Working Group Action Plans on Environment, which includes a Coastal and Marine Action Plan and a Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Action Plan. Under the latter, she outlined the key takeaways for the updating and revising of NBSAPs from a sub-regional NBSAP dialogue that took place in Manila last August and outlined regional support programmes and initiatives for several targets of the Framework. Ms. Binondo introduced the ASEAN Biodiversity Dashboard, at <http://dashboard.aseanbiodiversity.org>, an interactive, online platform for visualizing trends and geographic variation in biodiversity indicators. She went on to introduce the ASEAN Heritage Parks, a flagship programme that manages a regional network of representative protected areas (57 to date) created to generate greater collaboration between ASEAN Member States in preserving their shared natural heritage. She noted that 10 of these are coastal and marine parks. She outlined several areas with the potential to become transboundary regional marine protection and conservation areas, totalling almost 2 million square

kilometres, as well as locations of potential cooperation between Member States and plans for networks of marine protected areas in the region.

36. In the question-and-answer session that followed, participants highlighted that the OECM approach has sparked increased discussion on various ways of managing areas, particularly at the local level. Some participants noted the need to discuss why the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were not achieved and to learn from that experience. Issues related to restoration activities within an MPA were also discussed, particularly whether it would be considered double counting. The value of marine spatial planning was stressed, though participants noted the potential risk of rushing to apply these tools to achieve 30x30. Lastly, gaps between strategy development and the implementation phase were noted, along with the need to identify different sources of conservation funding.

37. In the breakout group discussions that followed, participants highlighted challenges, opportunities, and priorities for the region in accelerating the implementation of Targets 1 to 4 in the ocean in alignment with regional goals and strategies. They emphasized the need to implement the first three targets together. The discussion included the need to compare land-use and sea-use maps, given existing plans such as integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM), and recognizing that some countries in the region have strong governance mechanisms. Restoration efforts require a proper definition of degraded areas, but determining restoration success is challenging due to the absence of clear-cut expert measures. The discussion also covered OECMs and their various types, including community-managed areas. Opportunities exist in coastal areas and small-scale fisheries in some countries, however, largely top-down management measures have hindered implementation. Issues with MPAs being established without proper stakeholder consultation were also discussed. Major barriers include a lack of standards and data, though in some places, ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) have helped to establish a baseline to determine if an area should be an MPA. Participants stressed that baseline data for marine and coastal biodiversity in the region is missing. Global monitoring networks and local satellite monitoring programs, along with citizen information about marine mammal stranding events, contribute valuable data.

(b) Sustainable fisheries and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

38. Kim Friedman (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) gave a presentation on sustainable fisheries and the Framework and coordinated a special session on this topic, in particular with respect to Targets 5, 9, 10 and 11. Mr. Friedman discussed how the fisheries sector, comprising a broad range of stakeholders and rights holders from different communities of practice, can develop a common conversation that enables better engagement and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He highlighted that aquatic systems are a global repository of biodiversity and how multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) offered a pathway for productive sectors to highlight and promote biodiversity mainstreaming policy and practice not only in delivery of goals and targets of MEA frameworks but also the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenge now is to find a coherent vision for fisheries and aquacultures communities in the Framework, so they partition their efforts across targets and indicators in an orderly manner. He pointed out that FAO's scoping identifies target deliverables for a range of different fishers (small-scale, IPLCs, larger-scale commercial), governments and UN managers—with oversight by regional experts so geographic visions are also included. The Framework should help us think about, and measure more clearly the way these social-environmental systems are changing, so we can determine if we are reaching global targets and alter course through adaptive management on the route to delivery of the 2030 mission and 2050 vision of the CBD. Mr. Friedman further emphasized the need to get relevant indicators accepted, so that there was local in-country capacity investment for the collection, analysis and reporting of relevant information.

39. Following his presentation, Mr. Friedman led an exercise using Mentimeter software to canvass from workshop participants their thoughts on which targets of the Framework productive sectors should prioritize and identify the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead. Beyond

prioritization of targets and discussion of the upcoming work of the CBD and productive sectors, Mr. Friedman highlighted FAO work examining NBSAPs that shows the need for national authorities in charge of productive aquatic systems to work closely with their colleagues in ministries of environment to ensure the needs of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors are well reflected in national planning. In this way, NBSAPs will offer a coherent vision of national efforts to deliver a resilient future for people and the rest of nature, that is inclusive of productive sector interests and therefore provides a mandate and resources for delivery by land and sea interests against the targets and goals of the Framework. Finally, he reminded participants that these efforts will require financial support, noting that the proportion of global wealth invested in biodiversity conservation needs to be aligned with the ambition of the Framework, and that we can—and must—do better to be successful.

40. During the interactive session, participants emphasized the importance of Targets 1, 2 and 3 for fisheries (e.g., restoration, OECMs). They identified opportunities for implementing and monitoring Target 5, including engaging with various existing relevant international instruments (e.g., CITES, UNFSA, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries) and national legislation, policies, and frameworks. Increasing consumer awareness to buy products from sustainable sources, capacity-building for fishery agencies to conduct stock assessments considering multi-gear and multispecies, and leveraging community-led initiatives were also highlighted. Participants stressed the importance of viewing various areas in need of investment through the lens of the Framework to secure funding while tackling multiple issues simultaneously, including issues that countries have been dealing with for many years.

41. Participants further discussed challenges with respect to implementing Targets 5, 9 and 10. These challenges include the low capacity of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states; unfair trade practices and lack of benefit-sharing mechanisms; imports of fish from less developed countries while protecting their own; Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; insufficient skillsets and funding; weak law enforcement in monitoring and surveillance; difficulties in species identification and in assessing stocks taken in lower volumes in varied locations; lack of data and baselines for developing indicators; and differences between the Framework's and Aichi Biodiversity Targets' definitions of sustainable fishing. Participants also noted the challenge of overwhelming bureaucracy and guidelines, emphasizing the need for direct engagement with people in the field. Additionally, they pointed out the difficulty of showing progress on multiple targets since many efforts and activities will likely contribute to several targets simultaneously, stressing the importance of strategic planning.

42. Participants discussed the needs with respect to implementing Targets 5, 9 and 10. They noted the need for a paradigm shift from business as usual to more responsible fishing practices, the need for bottom-up progress, and increased transparency. The importance of biodiversity-friendly spatial management was highlighted. With respect to aquaculture, participants discussed the need to invest in capacity and technical development for recirculating aquaculture systems (RES) to ensure sustainability and minimize environmental impact. Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) frameworks for managing aquaculture impacts was also emphasized.

43. Furthermore, some Party representatives mentioned their shift from capture fisheries to aquaculture, applying the ecosystem approach in aquaculture, and having regulations and instruments for fisheries management in place. Others highlighted the need for a participatory and inclusive approach, ensuring frequent stakeholder consultations to implement and enforce policies, improving data and statistics, and securing funding and human resources. Some Party representatives underscored their efforts to mainstream biodiversity in fisheries management plans and plans at the local level, as well as collaborating with other ministries and departments to address many targets of the Framework.

(c) *Targets 6, 7 and 8: Invasive alien species, pollution, and climate change*

44. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention provided an overview of Targets 6 to 8 of the Framework. With respect to Target 6 on eliminating, minimizing, reducing or mitigating the

impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity, some key elements to take note of were explained, including: (i) the importance of identifying and managing pathways, (ii) preventing introduction and establishment, (iii) prioritizing pathways, sites and species that should be addressed, and (iv) eradicating or controlling invasive alien species.

45. Target 7 on reducing pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources contains a number of elements that should be considered, including: (i) reducing the risks and impacts to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, (ii) consideration of cumulative effects, (iii) reduction of excess nutrients lost to the environment, (iv) risks from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, (v) taking into account food security and livelihoods, and (vi) preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

46. Lastly, with respect to Target 8 on minimizing the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increasing its resilience, the importance of ecosystem-based approaches, nature-based solutions, as well as minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity, was noted.

47. A panel of regional experts followed, highlighting key considerations, expert guidance and possible tools and approaches to implement these targets:

(a) Mahesh Pradhan (COBSEA) presented on regional strategies, challenges and capacity needs with respect to addressing Targets 7 and 8 of the Framework. He noted that COBSEA is implementing a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and is in the process of drafting a Regional Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Issues that they seek to address include the health of the oceans, as well as the pollution risk from all sources, and a better understanding of pollution sources (nutrients, pesticides, litter). Approaches include addressing both land-based and sea-based (such as ghost gear) sources of pollution, transboundary considerations of waves and flows of water, changes in agricultural practices and fertilizer use, nature-based solutions, accurate data and information, and a participatory approach to ensure action does not negatively impact indigenous peoples and local communities and/or should have alternative systems offered to them. Opportunities include the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, encouraging the private sector to innovate on fertilizers, pesticides, chemicals and plastic, and regional strategies to address marine litter and nutrients pollution.

(b) With respect to Target 8, Mr. Pradhan noted that COBSEA is including climate action under its new Strategic Directions 2023-27. Issues addressed include recognizing climate change as a driver of biodiversity loss, ecosystem-based support towards achieving the Paris Agreement, and creating mitigation and adaptation systems that align with biodiversity goals as the region is home to dozens of coastal megacities that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Approaches used include nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, blue carbon and regional collaboration since climate change is not driven by local activities only but from global carbon impact. Opportunities include the biodiversity and climate nexus, as well as using existing regional networks and forums such as the Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum.

(c) Yegor Volovik (NOWPAP) presented regional strategies with respect to reducing pollution and implementing Target 7. Pollution reduction, as pollution is one of the central pressures on biodiversity and a driver of biodiversity loss, is in the indirect sphere of activities of NOWPAP. Specifically, relevant activities include monitoring and assessment methods and tools, risk minimization/pollution prevention/recovery efforts, global and regional governance and coordination, and capacity-building and public engagement. Mr. Volovik highlighted the relevance of the efforts of various structural bodies of NOWPAP to Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These activities cover, for instance, marine litter, oil spills, spills of hazardous and noxious substances, and methods and tools for monitoring and assessment of eutrophication. NOWPAP aims to establish and strengthen partnerships with global, regional and national organizations in the Northwest Pacific region and far beyond (e.g., UN agencies, North Pacific Marine Science Organization, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of

East Asia, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network). Effective protection and management of marine ecosystems must support regional dialogue in the field of environmental and biodiversity management and conservation. In conclusion, Mr. Volovik emphasized that the Framework calls for a broad consultative process, noting the importance of ensuring close links between regional networks and national governments, and that fruitful cooperation is seen on specific topics (e.g., monitoring, assessment, shipping, pollution reduction). As a UNEP-administered inter-governmental organization, NOWPAP is directly involved in the global ocean/marine agenda, and during the last 30 years, successful efforts have built an atmosphere of trust between people and countries in the NOWPAP region.

48. In the question-and-answer session that followed, participants discussed the challenges of lifestyle changes to address the use of plastic, emphasizing that plastic pollution is a transboundary issue. They noted that no single government can tackle it alone, making intergovernmental and regional cooperation essential. Participants also highlighted the need to address marine debris in coastal areas, involving key stakeholders in addressing land-based and fisheries-related pollution, and accurately determining the real sources of pollution to prioritize and reduce risks. The need to understand the implications of climate change, such as the increase in the frequency of cyclones, was noted. Additionally, participants discussed the importance of monitoring and reporting to assess improvements in the health of the ocean, and the importance of technology transfer and citizen science (e.g., creating a regional-based network using citizen science).

(d) Targets 22 and 23: Inclusive decision-making and implementation

49. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention provided an overview of Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework. For Target 22, some key elements to take note of were explained, including: (i) the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, ensuring their active involvement and engagement in decision-making processes, (ii) access to justice and information, (iii) rights of indigenous peoples and local communities over their cultures, lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, (iv) rights of women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, as well as (v) the full protection of environmental human rights defenders. For Target 23, the importance of (i) equal opportunity, capacity and rights, (ii) participation and leadership at all levels of action, and (iii) equal rights and access to land and natural resources, was noted.

50. A panel of experts followed, highlighting key considerations, expert guidance and possible tools and approaches to implement these targets:

(a) Fahmida Khalique Nitu (GYBN) delivered a presentation on the role of youth in the Framework. She explained that the word youth appears in target 22 as a result of the advocacy of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), which is the recognized youth platform of CBD. Young people are an important stakeholder in the implementation of the Framework, and they have a wide range of knowledge, skills and capacities. They can be a useful stakeholder for on-the-ground actions, capacity-building and community engagement. Ms. Nitu emphasized that this community should be given access to the process and their voice should be heard. Ms. Nitu further explained that priorities for implementing the Framework with respect to sustainable coastal biodiversity in Bangladesh should include ensuring justice for the fishers. They should be provided with incentives and options for alternative livelihoods during the banning season. They should be involved in the decision-making process when any fisheries management decision is taken for ensuring sustainable conservation of fisheries. Ms. Nitu concluded that regional collaboration is necessary for migratory species such as sharks, and that increased genetic research is needed across the Bay of Bengal region.

(b) Sivaja Karunakaran Nair (CBD Women's Caucus) gave a presentation on women's participation in biodiversity conservation. Ms. Nair started with a discussion on the need to incorporate gender concerns in the biodiversity conservation discourse. The presentation further discussed the gender components in the CBD, focusing on discussing Targets 22 and 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Gender Action Plan and the monitoring indicators for the Framework. Furthermore, the presentation stressed that gender components need

to be integrated to other targets to ensure that the rights of women, indigenous peoples and local communities, and youth are inherently taken into consideration in the design and implementation of NBSAPs. Pointing to women as a major population segment relying on natural resources, Ms. Nair stated that women are not just right holders but also knowledge holders and called out for the integration of traditional and community knowledge into scientific practices in relation to biodiversity conservation. She also emphasized that targeted capacity-building, resource mobilization, social development and social protection strategies from the states are required for enhancing the meaningful participation and contribution of women, indigenous peoples and local communities and youth in conservation efforts. She noted that the generation of gender-segregated data with regard to the implementation of the Framework and its targets will have huge implications for the achievement of progress. She concluded by stressing the need for identifying synergies and drawing on relevant experience from related United Nations and international processes and instruments such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

(c) Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir (Forest Peoples Programme) presented on the issues of participation, justice and rights for indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, persons with disabilities and environment defenders in the context of the Framework. Mr. Titumir emphasized that a successful achievement of the goals and targets of the Framework is contingent upon making the content of Target 22 (and target 23 and section C on Considerations for implementation) cross-cutting to all targets, as constituted in the Framework and to all ecosystems, whether terrestrial, coastal or marine. He stressed that only 10 per cent of the Parties engaged indigenous and local communities in the planning of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and that the reporting has been piece-meal on the utilization of indigenous and local knowledge, resulting in the under-achievement of all 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Mr. Titumir explained that given the incorporation of a human rights-based approach, and acceptance of formal and informal systems of knowledge at all levels, recognizing diverse world views, values and knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities in the Framework and in the UN system, the three normative principles of Target 23, (a) participation, (b) rights and (c) justice, required to be translated into indicators in such a manner that the Parties can use those as (i) process, (ii) effectiveness, and (iii) monitoring and reporting indicators. The participation can be understood, including but not limited to recognition of, and respect for, diversity, championing collaborative and locally led management, the ecological efficacy of actions, maximizing benefits and minimizing burdens for local populations, and addressing the contextual barriers to and structural roots of inequity in conservation. The rights indicators can capture, amongst others, elements relating to basic rights, the relationship of duty bearer and rights holders, anti-racism, non-discrimination, diversity and gender equality, people's agency, risks, vulnerabilities, risks, tokenism, plight of ocean defenders. Justice could be captured through variables reflecting categorical concepts such as a) recognition: local rights, values, visions, knowledge, needs and livelihoods, b) procedural: inclusiveness and participation in decision-making (transparency, accountability, responsiveness, consensus orientation and efficiency), c) distributional: fairness in benefits and the minimization of harms, d) safeguards: safeguarding and maintenance of environmental quality for sustainable nature's benefits to people, and e) structural: economic, social, rule of law.

51. In the question-and-answer session that followed, participants discussed the need to systematically address the male-dominated nature of global meetings and fora, highlighting the insufficient representation of women and calling for incorporating gender-responsive perspectives. The importance of avoiding conflicts by discussing and considering diverse viewpoints was also noted. Participants stressed the value of merging knowledge systems, acknowledging the practical challenges involved. They highlighted the need to adapt to different contexts and understand various perspectives, while adding that models often originate from and are oriented towards the perspectives of developed countries. Lastly, participants emphasized that humans are inherently part of the system and that issues cannot be viewed in isolation.

Item 6**Developing strategies and action plans to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

52. Building on the discussions, Party representatives outlined strategies, opportunities, next steps and action items on how to progress in implementing the targets of the Framework in marine and coastal areas in their region and in their respective countries. Participants were encouraged to work with experts from organizations represented at the workshop.

53. Each Party presented its strategy and received feedback from other workshop participants.

Item 7**Conclusion and next steps**

54. To conclude the meeting, participants had the opportunity to identify ways to implement their proposed strategies in their countries, means to enhance regional approaches to support implementation and to identify potential sources of support for this work. The following points and ideas were raised:

- (a) Compiling stories about potential OECMs so as to assemble the experience of each country;
- (b) Creating a BOBP Global Biodiversity Framework Working Group that would serve as a collaborative platform to keep participants connected;
- (c) Developing a capacity-building programme to view the Framework through the lens of fisheries;
- (d) Region or country-specific projects can seek funding from the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Fund, ratified and launched at the Seventh Assembly of the Global Environment Facility;
- (e) Importance of all activities and projects being seen through the targets of the Framework;
- (f) Reflecting on why the Aichi Biodiversity Targets did not succeed, and what to do differently in order to achieve many different objectives in a short period of time; and
- (g) A similar workshop may be organized for COBSEA countries, using the Sustainable Ocean Initiative approach.

55. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention provided brief closing remarks. He emphasized that the strategies and action plans developed during the workshop will be valuable tools to leverage more support in the participants' respective countries, encouraging the participants to use the action plans in their future national planning. He noted the opportunity of convening future national capacity-building workshops as part of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative platform in the region, stressing that there are many things that we can do together moving forward.

Item 8**Closure of the meeting**

The meeting closed at 1 p.m. on 8 September 2023.

Annex

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