



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Expert workshop on scientific and technical work conducted
under the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to
marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction**
Bergen, Norway, 2–5 December 2025

Report of the expert workshop on scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

Introduction

1. The expert workshop on scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction was held in Bergen, Norway, from 2 to 5 December 2025. The workshop was organized in response to a request by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision 16/17 that the Executive Secretary of the Convention convene an expert workshop on opportunities for specific areas, including cross-sectoral areas, of scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and make available information on the results of the workshop. The workshop was made possible through the generous financial support of the Governments of Norway, Germany, Ireland and Sweden and organized in cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.
2. The workshop focused on the ways in which scientific and technical work under the Convention on Biological Diversity could inform the work of Parties and competent intergovernmental organizations and processes, including global and regional sectoral authorities, and work under 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 related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
3. The workshop was attended by 47 experts, including 21 experts from Parties, 3 from indigenous peoples and local communities and major stakeholder groups, 11 from intergovernmental organizations and 7 from other organizations and initiatives, in addition to one resource person and four local observers. The workshop comprised plenary sessions, including thematic presentations, panel discussions, question-and-answer sessions and moderated discussions, as well as breakout sessions. A complete list of workshop documents and presentations is available at www.cbd.int/meetings/MCB-WS-2025-01 and a list of participants is included in annex I to the present report. The workshop was conducted in English.
4. The workshop was co-chaired by Gaute Hanssen, Department of Sustainability and Transition of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of the Government of Norway, and John Erick Avelino,

Coastal and Marine Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Government of the Philippines.

5. Opportunities identified in the workshop were captured in the Co-Chairs' summary, contained in annex II to the present report. Summaries of additional discussion points raised under each item are contained in annex III below.

Item 1

Opening of the workshop

6. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention, the Government of Norway, the University of Bergen and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat opened the workshop at 9.30 a.m. on 2 December 2025.

7. Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Jihyun Lee. Ms. Lee thanked the Government of Norway and the University of Bergen and its Faculty of Law for hosting the workshop; the Governments of Norway, Germany, Ireland and Sweden for their financial support; and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for its cooperation in the organization of the workshop. The Deputy Executive Secretary gave an account of the technical work conducted by the Secretariat of the Convention over the years and the community of practice that had emerged from years of efforts led by Parties. She noted that the workshop would provide an opportunity to better explore ways to make use of those tools and explore further areas of work.

8. Welcoming remarks were also delivered by Mr. Hanssen, Ministry of Climate and Environment, and Ove Hokstad, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries of the Government of Norway. Mr. Hanssen expressed his hope that the workshop would showcase work that the Convention had carried out and could carry out in the future. Mr. Hokstad noted that there was a need for cooperation among sectors and under agreements and for many institutions, frameworks and bodies to work together and find new ways to cooperate, given their interdependence.

9. Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui of the University of Bergen delivered remarks and welcomed participants to the University and the Faculty of Law, which hosted the Centre for the Law of the Sea, Climate, Energy and Sustainability.

10. A representative of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea noted the high level of cooperation achieved over the years between the Division and the Secretariat of the Convention. She also noted that there was significant work under way to identify avenues for enhanced collaboration and cooperation among various institutions, frameworks and bodies, which would be important for supporting the implementation of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.

Item 2

Workshop background, objectives and expected outcomes

11. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation that provided an overview of the background, objectives, scope and expected outcomes of the workshop and introduced the documents prepared for the workshop. An overview of the presentation is available on the meeting documents web page.¹

12. The presentation was followed by a discussion session regarding the focus of the workshop.

¹ www.cbd.int/meetings/MCB-WS-2025-01.

Item 3**Overview of the global policy landscape for biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction**

13. A representative of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea delivered a presentation on the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. This was followed by a presentation by the resource person on the global policy landscape for biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. The presentation are available on the meeting documents web page.

14. The presentations were followed by a short discussion session.

Item 4**Scientific and technical work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity related to biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction**

15. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation on scientific and technical work under the Convention related to biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. An overview of the presentation is available on the meeting documents web page.

16. The presentation was followed by a discussion session, which is summarized in annex III below.

Item 5**Area-based management tools and related scientific and technical information to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction**

17. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation on area-based management tools and related scientific and technical information to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

18. Participants from the following selected organizations delivered presentations on experiences and ongoing work relevant to that thematic area and identification of areas of work to which work under the Convention could potentially contribute:

- Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Seabed Authority
- North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
- Convention on Migratory Species

19. The presentations are available on the meeting documents web page.

20. Following a question-and-answer session, participants broke up into smaller groups for further discussion. Reports from the breakout group discussion, delivered by the rapporteurs, were followed by a plenary discussion. Opportunities identified during the discussion session were captured in the Co-Chairs' summary, which is contained in annex II below. Additional points raised during the discussions are summarized in annex III.

Item 6**Biodiversity considerations in the management of sectoral activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction**

21. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation on addressing biodiversity considerations in managing sectoral activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

22. Participants from the following selected organizations delivered presentations on experiences and ongoing work relevant to that thematic area and identification of areas to which work under the Convention could potentially contribute:

- Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- IMO
- International Seabed Authority
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Whaling Commission

23. The presentations are available on the meeting documents web page.

24. Following a question-and-answer session, participants broke up into smaller groups for further discussion. Reports from the breakout group discussion, delivered by the rapporteurs, were followed by a plenary discussion. Opportunities identified during the discussion session were captured in the Co-Chairs' summary, contained in annex II below. Additional points raised during the discussions are summarized in annex III.

Item 7

Marine genetic resources, including digital sequence information on genetic resources

25. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a video presentation on marine genetic resources, including issues related to digital sequence information.

26. Participants from the following selected organizations delivered presentations on experiences and ongoing work relevant to that thematic area and areas to which work under the Convention could potentially contribute:

- Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- University of Aberdeen
- High Seas Alliance

27. The presentations are available on the meeting documents web page.

28. The presentations were followed by a discussion session. Opportunities identified during the discussion session were captured in the Co-Chairs' summary, contained in annex II below. Additional points raised during the discussions are summarized in annex III.

Item 8

Monitoring of biodiversity and relevant environmental characteristics in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction

29. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation on the monitoring of biodiversity and relevant environmental characteristics in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

30. Participants from the following selected organizations delivered presentations on experiences and ongoing work relevant to that thematic area and areas to which work under the Convention could potentially contribute:

- Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- International Seabed Authority
- FAO
- International Whaling Commission
- University of the Azores

31. The presentations are available on the meeting documents web page.

32. Following a question-and-answer session, participants broke up into smaller groups for further discussion. Reports from the breakout group discussion, delivered by the rapporteurs, were followed by a plenary discussion. Opportunities identified during the session were captured in the Co-Chairs' summary, contained in annex II below.

Item 9

Capacity-building and technology transfer

33. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation on capacity-building and technology transfer.

34. Participants from the following selected organizations delivered presentations on experiences and ongoing work relevant to that thematic area and identification of areas to which work under the Convention could potentially contribute:

- Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- International Seabed Authority
- Global Environment Facility
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- FAO
- International Union for Conservation of Nature

35. The presentations are available on the meeting documents web page.

36. Following a question-and-answer session, participants broke up into two groups for further discussion, with one group addressing item 9 and the other group addressing item 10. Reports from the breakout group discussion, delivered by the rapporteurs, were followed by a plenary discussion. Opportunities identified during the discussion session were captured in the Co-Chairs' summary, contained in annex II below. Additional points raised during the discussions are summarized in annex III.

Item 10

Approaches to cooperation and coordination on scientific and technical issues across intergovernmental processes

37. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation on approaches to cooperation and coordination on scientific and technical issues across intergovernmental processes.

38. Participants from the following selected organizations delivered presentations on experiences and ongoing work relevant to that thematic area and areas to which efforts under the Convention could potentially contribute:

- Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- IMO
- FAO
- United Nations Environment Programme
- North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

39. The presentations are available on the meeting documents web page.

40. Following a question-and-answer session, participants broke up into two groups for further discussion, with one group addressing item 9 and the other group addressing item 10. Reports from the breakout group discussion, delivered by the rapporteur, were followed by a plenary discussion. Opportunities identified during the discussion session were captured in the Co-Chairs' summary, contained in annex II below. Additional points raised during the discussions are summarized in annex III.

Item 11**Knowledge-sharing, including through clearing-house mechanisms**

41. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation on knowledge-sharing, including through clearing-house mechanisms.
42. Participants from the following selected organizations delivered presentations on experiences and ongoing work relevant to that thematic area and identification of areas of work to which work under the Convention could potentially contribute:
 - Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
 - FAO
 - IMO
 - International Seabed Authority
43. The presentations are available on the meeting documents web page.
44. Following a question-and-answer session, participants broke up into smaller groups for further discussion. Reports from the breakout group discussion, delivered by the rapporteurs, were followed by a plenary discussion. Opportunities identified during the discussion session are captured in the Co-Chairs' summary, contained in annex II below. Additional points raised during the discussions are summarized in annex III.

Item 12**National-level planning and implementation related to biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction**

45. A representative of the Secretariat delivered a presentation on national-level planning and implementation related to biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.
46. Participants from Canada, Nigeria, Norway and the Republic of Korea were invited to share their countries' experiences and lessons learned, including good practices, challenges, solutions and needs, while conducting national-level planning and implementation related to biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.
47. The presentations are available on the meeting documents web page.
48. The presentations were followed by a discussion session. A summary of the session is contained in annex III below.

Item 13**Key opportunities for scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction**

49. The Co-Chairs of the workshop presented their draft summary of opportunities for cooperation and further work under the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, entitled "Bergen's ocean of opportunities", which is contained in annex II below. The Co-Chairs and representatives of the Secretariat explained that the draft summary was not intended to capture all of the elements that had emerged from the discussions held during the workshop and could not be characterized as a consensus document. The Co-Chairs nonetheless welcomed input from workshop participants regarding points that the Co-Chairs might wish to take into consideration in the course of finalizing the summary.
50. The introduction to the summary document was followed by a discussion session. Points raised in that session are summarized in annex III below.

Item 14**Closure of the workshop**

51. Following expressions of thanks delivered by representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Co-Chairs of the workshop, the workshop was closed at 1.15 p.m. on 5 December 2025.

Annex I

List of participants

Parties

African States¹

Burkina Faso

Issouf Kouraogo

Nigeria

Williams Akanbi Bamikole

Tunisia

Mohamed Temessek

Asia-Pacific States

Japan

Takehisa Yamakita

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Clement Yow Mulalap

Philippines

John Erick Avelino

Republic of Korea

Youngdawng Moh²

Türkiye

Hatice Şahin

Eastern European States

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mirza Čelebić

Bulgaria

Katrin Valkova

Romania

John Smaranda

Russian Federation

Alexander Shestakov

Latin American and Caribbean States

Argentina

Juan Pablo Paniego

Cuba

Jesús Guerra Bell

Mexico

Tomás Camarena Luhrs

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Maritza Queeley

Western European and other States

Belgium

Loes Rutten

Canada

Fariz Ahmadv

Germany

Konstantin Wußmann

Norway

Gaute Hanssen²

Gunnstein Bakke

United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland

Farah Chaudry

Indigenous peoples and local communities

Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada

Rowenna Gryba

International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity/ICCA Consortium, Madagascar

Lalaina Rakotoson

Youth

Global Youth Biodiversity Network

Marie-Morgane Rouyer

¹ While two additional participants from this regional group had been selected, they cancelled their participation at a point in time when arranging for the participation of replacements was no longer possible.

² Served as workshop Co-Chair.

Intergovernmental organizations

Convention on Migratory Species

Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

Charlotte Salpin

Fisheries Expert Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Ecosystem Management

Mark Dickey-Collas

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Merete Tandstad

Global Environment Facility

Andrew Hume

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Julian Barbière

International Maritime Organization

Fredrik Haag

International Seabed Authority

Wanfei Qiu

International Union for Conservation of Nature

Aurelie Spadone

International Whaling Commission

Martha Rojas Urrego

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Darius Campbell

United Nations Environment Programme

Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma

Other organizations and initiatives

Duke University

Jesse Cleary

Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative

Dominic Pattinson

High Seas Alliance

Daniel Kachelriess

University of Aberdeen

Marcel Jaspars

University of the Azores

Ana Colaço

University of Edinburgh

Murray Roberts

Local observers

Ingrid Eskås

Ministry of Climate and Environment

Peter Haugan

Institute of Marine Research

Ove Hokstad

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

Øyvind Grøner Moe

Directorate of Fisheries

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Joseph Appiott

Kirsty Bryant⁴

Kathryn Garforth⁴

Charlotte Germain-Aubrey⁴

Jacqueline Grekin

Jihyun Lee

Resource person

Daniela Diz

⁴ Attended the workshop online.

Annex II

Bergen's ocean of opportunities: Co-Chairs' summary of opportunities for cooperation and further work under the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction*

Opportunities to catalyse improved national-level coordination and cooperation

- Taking advantage of the entry into force of 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 to improve cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation
- Collaborating with the secretariats of relevant organizations to inform the delegations and experts of respective Parties and member States about the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and work under the Convention that is related to their respective areas of work
- Supporting Parties in actively promoting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the use of guidance made available by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in relevant organizations with respect to specific topics of mutual interest, while respecting the mandates and competencies of those bodies, in support of enhancing synergies across processes. This would include improving the literacy of national focal points of respective processes on linkages and potential synergies between the Convention and the Agreement.
- Convening thematic dialogues jointly with competent bodies involving country delegates/experts from the aforementioned respective processes on a range of topics related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including on capacity needs and issues related to marine areas within and beyond national jurisdiction
- Inviting Parties to strengthen national coordination mechanisms among authorities responsible for the biodiversity, fisheries, shipping, mining, climate change and other relevant topics and identifying issues within those categories that would benefit from improved national-level coordination within the context of the Framework and the Agreement. Mechanisms could include establishing cross-ministry focal point nominations or "collective arrangements"
- Engaging various relevant organizations in relevant processes under the Convention, including the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and identifying opportunities to improve and align national-level reporting within the context of the implementation of the Framework, including with respect to biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Engaging in informal initiatives, networks and arenas of dialogue on digital sequence information such as the Friends of the Cali Fund

Opportunities for cooperation across competent organizations on biodiversity-related issues

- Continuing cooperation, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, to identify potential synergies and areas where work under the Convention can provide scientific and technical guidance with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The focus should

* It was noted by workshop participants that many of the issues covered in the summary contained in the present annex might not relate directly to work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, but rather to areas of work that were relevant for cooperation across a wide range of competent organizations and to issues that were within the mandates of specific competent organizations. It was also noted that the issues covered in the present summary reflected the natural evolution of the discussions held during the workshop and were without prejudice to the respective mandates under the Convention and other competent organizations in relation to the opportunities listed.

be placed on concrete areas of work and specific issues (for example, restoration and climate mitigation synergies) rather than on developing general frameworks like memorandums of understanding

- Convening regional dialogues to address issues relevant to areas beyond national jurisdiction and engaging countries at the regional level to work together on common needs
- Continuing cooperation to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations, including the ecosystem approach, in the various sectors that are active in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Assessing the level of implementation of the Framework in relevant sectors
- Considering potential future mechanisms for cooperation on marine genetic resources and digital sequence information

Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and monitoring of its progress

- Using global sources of information, where relevant, for areas beyond national jurisdiction to supplement information that Parties may provide to report on progress towards the goals and targets of the Framework
- Identifying/clarifying what data and knowledge are available and accessible from the various competent organizations that can contribute to monitoring the status of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and measuring progress towards the goals and targets of the Framework in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Identifying ways to improve the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to better account for marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including in the open ocean and deep sea. This would include developing potential future marine-specific indicators, as many indicators of the monitoring framework are not relevant to deep sea environments

Knowledge- and data-sharing

- Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity providing mandates to the Secretariat to share information with competent organizations on specific thematic issues and inviting competent organizations to take up and utilize information produced under the Convention for specific areas of work within their mandates
- Continuing to share experiences under the Convention on the creation and management of clearing-house mechanisms to inform discussions under the Agreement regarding the development and operation of a clearing-house mechanism under the Agreement (including centralizing metadata and ensuring that data are FAIR¹ and CARE principles² are adhered to)
- Convening joint dialogues among competent organizations on information products that can support the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Making relevant information from competent organizations available in the clearing-house mechanisms under the Convention, with a view to informing Parties to the Convention and stakeholders
- Identifying key knowledge gaps in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including with respect to the mesopelagic zone, benthic ecosystems and the impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity, by drawing on knowledge gaps identified through relevant processes under competent sectoral bodies

Tools and guidance

- Cooperating with relevant organizations in developing interoperable mechanisms for accessing guidance and tools relating to issues of common interest

¹ Findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

² Collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics.

- Cooperating with competent organizations in the development of guidance on the use of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources (for example, to identify nursing areas or improve population census techniques for migratory species) and the development and application of different types of management tools in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Cooperating with competent organizations in compiling and further developing experience, tools and methodologies for assessing cumulative impacts on biodiversity resulting from multiple sectoral activities and pressures in the open ocean and deep sea, including with respect to data needs, indicators, risk thresholds and approaches to uncertainty
- Exploring the role of ocean accounting to support economic cost-benefit analyses so as to enable a better understanding of the implications of certain management measures
- Identifying gaps, jointly with competent organizations, related to emerging pressures on biodiversity (for example, from marine carbon dioxide removal, marine geoengineering, deoxygenation and underwater noise), with a view to co-developing impact assessment tools, biodiversity risk frameworks and safeguards linked to the Framework-
- Facilitating scientific and technical dialogue across various competent organizations to enable the sharing of experiences and lessons learned on the identification of marine areas of ecological/biological significance (for example, particularly sensitive sea areas, vulnerable marine ecosystems and areas of particular environmental interest) and identifying areas where potential synergies can be built or enhanced, including through co-developing methodologies and tools, sharing knowledge and developing networks of experts

Biodiversity/ecosystem information and monitoring

- Cooperating with competent organizations in strengthening the understanding of biodiversity, ecosystem structure and functions, and ecosystem services in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Cooperating with relevant organizations in synthesizing scientific information and data that can support definition of the environmental characteristics and baselines of areas in which area-based management tools could be applied
- Identifying needs for the monitoring of key biodiversity features in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including the essential ocean variables related to biodiversity
- Collaborating across relevant organizations to enhance the understanding of marine biological and ecological connectivity between marine areas within and beyond national jurisdiction
- Cooperating across competent organizations in synthesizing experience and developing guidance on the three-dimensional (and four-dimensional, with respect to changes over time) nature of ecosystems in the open ocean and deep sea (including regarding vertical connectivity from the seabed throughout the water column) and on how that information can inform and support management
- Collaborating across relevant organizations on enhancing an understanding of climate change impacts on marine biodiversity and habitats in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Cooperating with competent organizations in synthesizing experience and tools for, and developing guidance on, addressing cumulative pressures on biodiversity, which could be applicable to areas beyond national jurisdiction and also ecosystem-specific (specific, for example, to seamounts, vents and mesopelagic systems)

Capacity-building

- Assessing capacity needs related to the conservation and sustainable use, including monitoring, of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, building on assessments of such capacity for areas within national jurisdiction

- Facilitating cooperation between regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, designated under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and relevant organizations engaged in capacity-building activities on key thematic issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Exploring blended finance models and ensuring long-term access for trainees to infrastructure after programmes end
- Collaborating on exploring how to support monitoring through “ships of opportunity” programmes

Opportunities for further work under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Improving use of existing tools and information and further developing existing guidance and information

- Improving accessibility to existing sources of relevant guidance under the Convention through the clearing-house mechanism and other means (for example, use of artificial intelligence tools)
- Updating existing guidance made available under the Convention and addressing sector-specific considerations with respect to these issues (for example, by developing sector-specific “bridging notes” to aid in mainstreaming), in collaboration with competent organizations, including work on:
 - Voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and guidance on biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessment
 - Guidance on anthropogenic underwater noise and marine debris
 - Voluntary specific workplans on biodiversity in cold water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention
 - Scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats,³ including by improving guidance on understanding representativity, connectivity, replication, adequacy and viability in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats
- Ensuring that information on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is up to date and represents the best available information for informing management, inter alia, through Secretariat-led activities to better catalyse the development of submissions for new ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and modifications to existing areas located in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through a global expert workshop. The focus should be on:
 - Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in greatest need of updating and addressing major knowledge gaps in the portfolio of current descriptions of such areas
 - Developing/updating guidance on applying the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in open ocean and deep sea areas, building on available experience in relevant competent organizations
- Improving the presentation of information in descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas to reflect the three-dimensional aspects of marine areas and their evolution over time by moving from static descriptions to monitoring of change
- Using information on ecologically or biologically significant areas to enhance understanding of key environmental/ecological characteristics of particular importance in areas beyond national jurisdiction in order to inform management planning and prioritize areas where monitoring efforts should be focused
- Facilitating the uptake and use of information on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas by work under the Secretariat of the Agreement and other competent organizations by:

³[Decision IX/20](#), annex II.

- Overlaying information on ecologically or biologically significant areas with various human activities and stressors in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Synthesizing the types of management tools that have been used and may be relevant for specific types of features in ecologically or biologically significant areas located in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Working with relevant competent organizations to identify how information on ecologically or biologically significant areas can be used in their work
- Facilitating better access to the data and knowledge underlying descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant areas
- Facilitating the use of the approach for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures in various sectors, building on experiences from the fisheries sector
- Compiling experiences and approaches, and developing guidance, regarding the special considerations in identifying other effective area-based conservation measures in the open ocean and deep sea
- Continuing to share knowledge and experiences related to marine genetic resources and digital sequence information, from which the Parties to the Agreement and to other initiatives can benefit

Developing/synthesizing new guidance

- Developing/synthesizing guidance regarding the use of climate-smart area-based monitoring tools and environmental impact assessments/strategic environmental assessments, including for open ocean and deep sea areas
- Compiling and synthesizing scientific information regarding ecosystem services and developing guidance documents on assessing cumulative impacts affecting those ecosystem services, including in open ocean and deep sea areas
- Providing guidance on biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning in open ocean and deep sea areas, which can contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Developing/synthesizing guidance regarding scientific research activities, including in the context of area-based conservation, and those activities relevant to marine genetic resources, which can contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Developing sector-specific guidance notes to aid in the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in the context of targets of the Framework (in particular Targets 5, 9, 10 and 14) in various sectoral activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Developing/synthesizing guidance and knowledge on the impacts of climate change on various types of open ocean and deep sea ecosystems (including ice-associated ecosystems, migratory routes and life cycles) and on measures to address those impacts in the context of other pressures (related, for example, to how these dynamics might be reflected in environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments and sectoral management measures)
- Developing/synthesizing guidance on standardizing data/knowledge management and approaches to biodiversity monitoring in the open ocean and deep sea

Annex III

Summary of additional points raised during discussions in plenary and breakout groups^{*,**}

Item 4. Scientific and technical work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity related to biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction

1. The following points were raised during the discussion session of this agenda item:
 - Given the need to avoid duplication of effort with respect to 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, building on existing mechanisms rather than creation of new ones is essential
 - There is a need to review more thoroughly previous relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as they contain highly relevant information and guidance which could inform work under the Agreement and other agreements and processes
 - The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity was useful in shaping the way in which the issue of marine genetic resources is addressed under the Agreement, although the Agreement has its own approach to that issue
 - There is a community of practice under the Convention, including under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, whereby entities having different perspectives, such as those associated with the conservation and fisheries sectors, can come together to discuss differences in the understanding of issues, an approach that is essential with respect to the Agreement. The Secretariat of the Agreement and other competent bodies could benefit from more direct engagement with this community of practice
 - Complementarity among areas of work of the different bodies should be identified to enhance understanding and uptake of efforts. There is a need to identify areas for further collaboration in efforts across different instruments. In the context of the Agreement, there will therefore be a need to consider the timelines under which the processes of other competent bodies operate (related, for example, to the frequency of meetings of various governing bodies and technical groups)
 - As most of the areas beyond national jurisdiction are in the deep sea, there is a need to increase our understanding of this area. Moreover, there is a need to examine various pressures from a deep sea perspective, as there may be special considerations and challenges related to addressing such pressures in the deep sea
 - Many of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed by Parties in fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention do not address issues related to areas beyond national jurisdiction, despite the fact that Parties have obligations under the Convention related to those areas. In the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework safeguards, to be conducted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2026, issues related to reporting and assessment under the Convention with respect to areas beyond national jurisdiction could be addressed
 - The Implementation and Compliance Committee under the Agreement could support the monitoring of implementation of obligations under other instruments

^{*} The points summarized in the present annex do not necessarily represent views expressed or agreed upon by all participants.

^{**} Clarifications of points raised in the presentations in response to questions posed to the speakers are not summarized in the present annex, unless otherwise stated. Specific opportunities identified during the discussions are captured in the Co-Chairs' summary contained in annex II above.

- It is important that shared priorities and needs with respect to different instruments, frameworks and bodies be viewed as offering opportunities for cooperation and coordination

Item 5. Area-based management tools and related scientific and technical information to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction

2. Participants discussed the types of further guidance that could be developed under the Convention. They emphasized that the focus in that regard should be on biodiversity and the ecosystem services perspective, in view of the role and mandate of the Convention. With respect to management, participants noted that the community of practice that had emerged under the Convention was well placed to provide advice on marine spatial planning, mainstreaming of biodiversity, integrated ocean management and identification of key data and knowledge gaps.
3. Participants considered how to better use information on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the process for describing them to support the management of areas beyond national jurisdiction. It was noted that there was a strong overlap between the criteria for the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the indicative criteria for identification of areas contained in annex I to the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction with respect to area-based management tools. At the same time, the importance of updating descriptions of those areas so as to ensure that they reflected the most recent information available was recognized. It was suggested that the Conference of the Parties could identify means to catalyse the development of submissions for the description of new ecologically or biologically significant marine areas or the modification of existing areas and encourage Parties to use information on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in work on designating area-based management tools under the Agreement.
4. Participants suggested that ecologically or biologically significant marine areas could be used as a scientific basis for identifying areas that might benefit from application of area-based management tools under the Agreement and that overlaying those areas with threats/stressors in areas beyond national jurisdiction could be useful. The need to facilitate the use of the information available, including through better indexing, was highlighted.
5. Participants considered how to further catalyse use of other effective area-based conservation measures among various bodies. They suggested linkage to Target 3 and other targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as national processes and existing guidance, such as that produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), using the consultation processes under the Agreement.
6. Participants considered opportunities for work under the Convention aimed at contributing to management in areas beyond national jurisdiction and suggested that the Convention could provide scientific information and data that would help complement the work of other bodies in order to better define the environmental characteristics and baselines of areas where area-based management tools could be applied. They suggested that the Convention could provide information on the impacts of human activities on biodiversity to help inform management decisions.

Item 6. Biodiversity considerations in the management of sectoral activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction

7. Participants noted that work under the Convention could support and complement the work of managing sectoral activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through identification of overarching goals and targets for biodiversity, improvement of the understanding of environmental characteristics and ecosystem functioning and development of concepts and practical tools related to biodiversity. Participants noted that such complementarity and collaboration could be strengthened through work, for example, on development of sector-specific mainstreaming guidance,

enhancement of accessibility and interoperability of existing guidance and the building of targeted partnerships with sectoral authorities.

8. Participants considered how the work of the Convention had affected other processes and how that dynamic could be enhanced. They noted that guidance produced under the Convention had informed work in partnership with other organizations, including FAO (related, for example, to the ecosystem approach to fisheries), the International Seabed Authority (for example, with respect to regional environmental management planning) and the Convention on Migratory Species and the International Whaling Commission (for example, concerning migratory species and underwater noise, respectively). It was noted that the Secretariat of the Convention had limited capacity to follow up on emerging issues across forums and systematically support Parties in promoting its guidance in other organizations. In many sectoral bodies, there appeared to be low awareness of processes under the Convention and limited clarity on how its guidance was intended to be applied in specific sectoral contexts.

9. Participants identified national coordination as a key challenge, noting that, in many countries, authorities dealing with shipping, fisheries, energy, climate and environment issues often did not systematically coordinate with each other in relation to decisions of the Conference of the Parties or national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

10. Participants noted that Targets 5, 9, 10 and 14 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework could together serve as an overarching reference framework for engagement with sectoral bodies, including with respect to fisheries, shipping, extractive industries, tourism, marine geoengineering and marine carbon dioxide removal. Participants suggested that work under the Convention could add value through further translation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the texts of targets of the Framework into sector-specific language.

11. Participants suggested that the Conference of the Parties could invite Parties to strengthen national-level coordination, so that delegations to the International Maritime Organization, FAO, the International Seabed Authority, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other forums would be informed more systematically about relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and guidance produced under the Convention. They suggested that, through its decisions, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Parties to actively promote the use of the guidance of the Convention and implementation of the Framework in relevant intergovernmental bodies, while avoiding duplication of mandates and respecting the competencies of those bodies.

12. Participants considered how to make better use of Convention guidance on environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment. They noted several reasons for the limited uptake to date, including: the broad, non-binding nature of the guidance and the fact that, compared with more targeted guidelines, it might not be framed in ways that aligned with sector-specific approaches; uneven awareness of relevant Convention documents among sectoral bodies and national agencies, compounded by the absence of a single, user-friendly platform that was able to bring together guidance from relevant organizations; and the use of a different terminology, which could be a barrier to efficient cross-referencing of guidance.

13. Participants noted that work under the Convention could play a key role in the context of cumulative impacts across sectors, multiple activities, stressors and pressures as well as with respect to guidance on integrating biodiversity considerations into work in sectors extending beyond the existing work on fisheries.

14. Participants identified the following sectors and activities as likely to benefit from a stronger Convention-related focus and collaboration: shipping and maritime transport; deep sea mining; marine carbon dioxide removal and marine geo-engineering; offshore energy and survey activities; and fisheries (building on significant collaboration related to fisheries with a view to expanding work on integrating issues concerning climate change and cumulative impacts).

Item 7. Marine genetic resources, including digital sequence information on genetic resources

15. Participants noted that the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources covered digital sequence information that was not provided for under other international instruments on access and benefit-sharing, unless the multilateral mechanism was chosen for that purpose under those instruments. Participants therefore noted that the instrument for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information under the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction would not be subject to the multilateral mechanism unless Parties chose the mechanism for that purpose.

16. Participants discussed progress in the development of the Cali Fund and the multilateral mechanism and the importance of harmonization across agreements, noting that the work being conducted under the Convention on its multilateral mechanism would inform the work under the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. Participants discussed the current informal exchange of information, while noting that further exchanges were likely to develop once the committee on access and benefit-sharing was established under the Agreement.

17. Participants noted the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixteenth meeting to further explore possible new tools and models, such as databases, for making digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available and accessible in a transparent and accountable manner to all Parties. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation under the Convention will consider the synthesis of views from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations as well a study designed to examine options for making digital sequence information resources publicly available and accessible in a transparent and accountable manner. The discussion touched on the challenges of retroactivity of the Agreement relating to repositories of marine genetic resources and digital sequence information databases, as well as data volumes and data-sharing practices. It was suggested that much could be learned from the experience related to the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention.

18. Participants discussed the role of the private sector in the Cali Fund, noting that in provisions of the multilateral mechanism it was stated that users of digital sequence information in sectors that directly or indirectly benefited from its use in their commercial activities should contribute a proportion of their profits or revenue to the Cali Fund. Participants noted that the current thresholds for contribution to the Cali Fund had been developed so that only large entities should contribute and that the multilateral mechanism included provisions under which Parties and non-Parties were invited to incentivize users in their jurisdiction to contribute to the Cali Fund. Participants emphasized that it was important for contribution levels to be set appropriately.

Item 9. Capacity-building and technology transfer¹

19. Participants noted the need to build capacity for issues that were important for both the Convention on Biological Diversity and organizations and processes with competence in areas beyond national jurisdiction and the need for national focal points for each respective entity to cooperate in identifying such needs. Participants highlighted the need for a centralized repository of the many capacity-building initiatives across different organizations and countries and identified the key role of the Convention with respect to identifying capacity needs in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the context of area-based management tools, ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, environmental impact assessment, marine genetic resources and biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors.

20. Participants highlighted the importance of integrating capacity needs in areas beyond national jurisdiction into various initiatives and platforms, including under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. They stressed the importance of having a standing agenda item on areas beyond national jurisdiction

at meetings of the Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies and in regional and national workshops under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.

Item 10. Approaches to cooperation and coordination on scientific and technical issues across intergovernmental processes

21. Participants stressed that coordination at the global level needed to be supported by coordination at the national level between focal points from different ministries (for example, ministries of fishing, shipping, mining and environment). It was noted that Party focal points for certain intergovernmental organizations/processes did not often speak to the focal points for other bodies within their government. It was noted that there were promising initiatives demonstrating how to stimulate such coordination (for example, the Collective Arrangement between competent international organizations on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the North-East Atlantic).

22. With respect to coordination between secretariats, it was noted that there were good examples of collaboration across different bodies with respect to various issues of interest and thematic areas. There was a need to clarify how work under the Convention could support the work of other organizations on specific issues and, in turn, what kind of input work under the Convention would be required from other organizations/processes.

23. Participants noted that the most valuable and sustainable examples of cooperation were based on the building of trust through sharing of information and wisdom across organizations. Often, cooperation on concrete issues and specific projects had been more fruitful than utilization of formal mechanisms such as memorandums of understanding.

24. The need to harness synergies, particularly on issues such as biodiversity loss and climate change mitigation, was highlighted, as was the generation of synergies through optimization of resource use by different organizations working on common goals.

25. It was noted that, while the long-term engagement of various intergovernmental organizations/processes in deliberations that had led to the development of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction provided a good basis for collaboration, various elements of the Agreement would likely require more formalized approaches for cooperation on certain issues.

26. It was noted that the mandate and *modus operandi* of UN-Oceans could be revisited with a view to making them more action-oriented and supporting improved cooperation and coordination on specific topics.

Item 11. Knowledge-sharing, including through clearing-house mechanisms

27. With respect to data availability and access, participants noted that increased coordination was required to identify the types of data needed for different management purposes and their format.

28. Regarding reporting by Parties, it was noted that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity played a key role in providing Parties with guidance on the types of data needed to address the indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

29. Regarding the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, there were discussions regarding the importance of the provision of input to that process by various relevant intergovernmental organizations. It was noted, however, that information held by other organizations did not always align with the existing indicators of the monitoring framework and that there could potentially be mismatches between data from international organizations and similar data provided through national reports. It was also noted that owing to the limited space available in the actual report, information from other organizations, particularly at the regional level, might not be

included or might be included in a limited format, thereby disincentivizing future collaboration in that regard. Some participants noted that that issue should be taken into consideration in the context of the global review process and the approach to future iterations of that process.

30. Regarding clearing-house mechanisms, participants suggested that there was a need to provide easier access to the data underlying information shared through various clearing-house mechanisms and databases.

Item 12. National-level planning and implementation related to biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction

31. It was noted that, considering the range of sectors involved, the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction might trigger enhanced coordination and cooperation at national level among different ministries. Moreover, there was a discussion regarding approaches to designating institutions at the national level as the focal point for the Agreement and whether to designate an existing institution to serve in that capacity or create new bodies/groups to do so.

32. A discussion was held regarding utilization of the scientific research being planned or under way in areas beyond national jurisdiction as a basis for potentially proposing area-based management tools through the Agreement process as well as other competent organizations/processes.

Item 13. Key opportunities for scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

33. Following the presentation of the Co-Chairs' summary of opportunities, participants provided suggestions for potential revisions and additions, which the Co-Chairs took into consideration in the production of the final version of the summary contained in annex II above.

34. During the discussion, the participants observed that, while some of the opportunities were not necessarily within the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity, they were important nonetheless and reflected the evolution of discussions held during the workshop. It was noted that, for those opportunities that were outside of the mandate of the Convention, there was a need to identify the organizations/processes with mandates aligned with the areas of work associated with those opportunities.

35. With respect to the opportunities that were within the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity, participants noted that some of the areas of work concerned might already be within existing mandates provided to the Secretariat by the Conference of the Parties and thus work in those areas could be undertaken immediately, provided that resources were available for that purpose. Pursuit of some of the opportunities, however, would require discussion by the Conference of the Parties.

36. Some participants noted that, overall, the workshop discussions did not always devote the same amount of attention to each of the different topics, with issues related to area-based management tools receiving comparatively greater attention than other issues.
