

Briefing Note for Agenda Item 5.3: Opportunities for regional collaboration in the targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Virtual Intersessional Workshop for the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies

29 September - 1 October 2021 - Online

1. Introduction

The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) aims, i.a., to catalyse partnerships and facilitate dialogue, collaboration and capacity building to support efforts to achieve global biodiversity targets in marine and coastal zones. SOI's Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) started in 2016 focused on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets, none of which have been achieved in full, will be superseded by the CBD's post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), still under development. There is significant overlap between both frameworks but new areas and modes of action are being proposed, and it is crucial to start realigning/redirection joint efforts to meet the updated requirements, specifically the redefined targets of the emerging GBF. Time is of the essence, as "Our window of opportunity to respond to these interlinked emergencies and share planetary resources equitably is narrowing quickly"¹.

A recent report (UNEP, 2021)² identified ways to enhance compatibility between the zero draft of the post-2020 GBF and the Regional Seas Programme (RSP) under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This report looked at opportunities for collaboration between Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs, a.k.a. RSOs) and RFBs and highlighted examples of potential areas of synergy in addressing the GBF. The report was built from information compiled on each of the 18 RSCAPs from available resources (including Strategies, Action Plans, State of the Environment reports) supplemented with answers to a questionnaire sent to the RSCAP Secretariats in July 2020. Views from 20 selected experts within UNEP and other global and regional organisations on the direction, strengths, capacity gaps and needs of the RSP to address the GBF were collected through semi-structured interviews that took place between August and October 2020. Information from a webinar (1 October 2020) and a virtual workshop (27-28 October 2020) involving representatives of the RSP and invited global organisations served to validate findings. The report was circulated as information for participants in the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/24)³, which took place online between 3 May and 13 June 2021, and is included as a supporting document for this virtual Global Dialogue.

The GBF continues to evolve. The first draft of the GBF (CBD/WG2020/3/3) was discussed at the 3rd meeting of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 GBF (OEWG3) that took place online from 23 August to 3 September 2021, including an in-depth discussion of the wording of the goals and targets, with some proposals for the introduction of additional targets as well as alternative proposals for reducing the number of targets and for simplifying/clarifying their language. While many aspects are still open for debate, at this stage it is already possible and beneficial to use the key aspects contained in the first draft as the basis for this virtual Global Dialogue, to explore potential stronger collaborations and synergies between RSCAPs and RFBs towards achieving the GBF's proposed goals and targets in marine and coastal zones. That is the objective/goal of this briefing.

¹ In Marseille Manifesto, issued at the closing of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 10 September 2021 <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/programme/marseille-manifesto>

² "Regional seas biodiversity under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework" (23 February 2021), online at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/0c09/8814/cc8c0cd04f77b9a61240a33c/sbstta-24-inf-24-en.pdf>

³ The abbreviated version of the report, essentially a summary for policy makers entitled "A role for the Regional Seas Programme under the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework", was published in June 2021 as a UNEP Regional Seas Working Paper (<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/36353/RSP2020GBF.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>).

2. Review draft targets and suggest those that present opportunities for collaboration between RSP and RFBs (in current draft GBF targets)

This section focuses on the current working version of GBF Targets and attempts to capture ideas put forward during the OEWG3 (presented under each target, in blue font but not attributed).

TARGETS 1-8: REDUCING THREATS FOR BIODIVERSITY

Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.

References to ecosystem approach; integrated biodiversity-inclusive approaches; land/sea/waterscapes; functioning ecosystems; connectivity; participatory approaches; ecologically relevant scales

Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.

References to ecological integrity; prioritizing natural, vulnerable ecosystems; differentiating natural, semi-natural, managed and converted ecosystems; explicit mention of role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)

Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Reference to freshwater, coastal, marine and terrestrial; including biodiversity and ecosystem services/functions, IPLCs and their lands, attention to retaining the ambition of Aichi Target 11

Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Possibly prioritizing those at risk of extinction? In situ and ex situ conservation; DSI; human-wildlife coexistence and benefits; IPLCs;

Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.

Target focusing on sustainable management; eliminating IUU fishing, implementing an ecosystem-approach (EA)/EAFM), avoiding indirect impacts on non-target species; enforcing bans on illegal wildlife products; IPLCs; traceability. One Health approaches (focus on zoonotic diseases)

Target 6. Manage pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing, or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment by at least 50 per cent, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority species and priority sites.

Suggested identifying rates of introductions, existing guidelines standards and norms; working with IMO (Ballast Water Convention, Biofouling Guidelines) – prioritizing species for action, sites, pathways, prevention. It was noted that the identification of AIS can benefit from the use of DNA barcoding, which requires Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on GR, and that this target would benefit from a comprehensive solution in the GBF for access/ sharing benefits arising from the use of DSI.

Target 7. Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.

Suggested synergy with other conventions dealing with pollution (reference to light and noise pollution). The EU+MS strongly support a target element on plastic pollution instead of plastic waste in this target.

Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO₂e per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.

Attention to ecosystem resilience, nature-based solutions (NBS), sequestering ecosystems (enhanced conservation and restoration of natural carbon-rich ecosystems)

TARGETS 9 – 13: NATURE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEOPLE

Target 9. Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Reference to sustainable use/Global plan of action on sustainable customary use

Target 10. Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.

Lack of convergence on the wording of the target, including scope (fisheries?), focus, level of ambition; reference needed to productivity, resilience, ecosystem connectivity

Target 11. Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people.

Reference to Nature-based solutions (some consider NBSs to be outside the scope of the CBD), IPLCs

Target 12. Increase the area of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces, for human health and well-being in urban areas and other densely populated areas.

Mention to One health approach

Target 13. Implement measures at global level and in all countries to facilitate access to genetic resources and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, and as relevant, of associated traditional knowledge, including through mutually agreed terms and prior and informed consent.

Links to Nagoya protocol, DSI on GR

TARGETS 14 – 21 TOOLS AND SOLUTIONS

Target 14. Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values.

Suggested alternative wording: aligned with biodiversity goals and targets of the GBF

Target 15. All businesses (public and private, large, medium and small) assess and report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, from local to global, and progressively reduce negative impacts, by at least half and increase positive impacts, reducing biodiversity-related risks to businesses and moving towards the full sustainability of extraction and production practices, sourcing and supply chains, and use and disposal.

References to nature-positive economy

Target 16. Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make responsible choices and have access to relevant information and alternatives, taking into account cultural preferences, to reduce by at least half the waste and, where relevant the overconsumption, of food and other materials.

References to information/communication/education, sustainable consumption, eliminate unsustainable consumption

Target 17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.

Reference to adverse environmental impacts, living modified organisms; It was noted that modern biotechnology makes intensive use of DSI on genetic resources and that, as for target 6, this target therefore requires a comprehensive solution in the GBF for access to and sharing benefits arising from the use of DSI.

Target 18. Redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, in a just and equitable way, reducing them by at least US\$ 500 billion per year, including all of the most harmful subsidies, and ensure that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.

Views to include perverse subsidies of fisheries, opposition to quantitative target

Target 19. Increase financial resources from all sources to at least US\$ 200 billion per year, including new, additional and effective financial resources, increasing by at least US\$ 10 billion per year international financial flows to developing countries, leveraging private finance, and increasing domestic resource mobilization, taking into account national biodiversity finance planning, and strengthen capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation, to meet the needs for implementation, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.

Very diverse proposals, including prioritizing financial resources for developing countries, small island developing states, global fund for Biodiversity (under Article 21)

Target 20. Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.

References to (transformative) education, communication, awareness. Convening powers of regional organisations, examples of MoUs between RSP and RFBs e.g. UNEP-MAP and GFCM

Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.

Several suggestions supporting the inclusion of all stakeholders

3. Specific opportunities for collaboration between RSP and FRBs

This section focuses on GBF Targets with potential for regional synergy, and provides some suggestions and questions for specific aspects where regional cooperation and concrete actions could address the Targets. The intention is to provide 'food for thought' rather than a comprehensive or exhaustive list.

Table 1 – GBF Targets with potential for synergy and suggestions for aspects where regional cooperation could address the targets.

Target	RSCAPs	RFBs	Potential for RSCAP/RFB input to achieving GBF targets and recent resources
1. Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning	X	X	Fisheries closures (VMEs), nature conservation designations (MPAs) and prospective areas for protection (EBSAs) Regional application and guidance including in ABNJ e.g. UNEP-WCMC (2019). A Marine Spatial Planning Framework for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32904/MSPF_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y) New SARGADOM project (http://gobi.org/new-hybrid-governance-scheme-project-kick-off/)
2. Ecosystem restoration	X	?	Focus on corals, mangroves, seagrasses, other? Basis for recovery of some fish species
3. Protected areas	X	X	MPAs and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs); NEAFC and OSPAR Collective arrangement between competent international organisations on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in ABNJ in the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Agreement 2014-09 (Update 2018)) (https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=33030) Effectiveness considerations e.g. Gorud-Colvert et al. 2021. The MPA Guide: (https://www.science.org/doi/epdf/10.1126/science.abf0861) Could regional organisations explore the application of this Guide? SEAFO extended the closure of an area adjacent to Valdivia Bank Seamount for all gears except pots and longlines. The Abidjan Convention is considering looking at protecting more offshore areas. Can this be considered an OECM? Can the two organisations work together to help meet Target 3?
4. Species recovery and conservation	X	X	Sharks, seabirds; “Fins naturally attached” policies NEAFC/OSPAR on deep-water elasmobranchs: (https://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/NEAFC-OSPAR-elasmobranch-advice.aspx) the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission has been using drones to improve the estimation of dolphin abundance in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (reflecting dynamic aggregations of dolphins and tunas). Are any of these species endangered? Is this something CPPS is interested in?
5. Sustainable harvest, trade and use of wild species	X	X	e.g. CPPS Sustainability of traditional artisanal fishing Applying FAO’s International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) (http://www.fao.org/fishery/ipoa-iuu/en) SPRFMO Scientific Committee has detailed Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries components and their current status in SPRFMO. Can we relate this to the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026?
6. Invasive alien species	X	X	Inventories of invasive alien species and non-indigenous species; Digital Sequence information on genetic resources e.g. IMO’s Ballast Water Convention and GLOBALLAST project (regional coordinating organisations: CPPS, PERSGA, RAC-REMPEITC Caribe, REMPEC (Mediterranean) (http://archive.iwlearn.net/globallast.imo.org/) Öztürk, B. 2021. Non-indigenous species in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) – Studies and reviews No. 87. Rome. FAO. (https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5949en) Marine world heritage webinar: lessons learned from IAS (https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2296)
7. Pollution reduction	X	X	RSP efforts to reduce land-based sources, including hazardous substances and nutrients, Marine litter /ALDFG RSCAPs; Noise; aFADs; Voluntary FAO code, RSP Protocols (Voluntary action plans) UNEA3 report. e.g. FAO and UNEP, 2009. Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear Glolitter partnership project: https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/PartnershipsProjects/Pages/GloLitter-Partnerships-Project.aspx Safety4Sea: https://safety4sea.com/imo-fao-to-reduce-marine-plastic-litter/
8. Climate change	X	X	E.g. UNEP, 2016. Options for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in Coastal Environments (https://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources-and-data/options-for-ecosystem-based-adaptation-in-coastal-environments) Lecerf, M., Herr D., Thomas, T., Elverum, C., Delrieu, E. and Picourt, L., (2021), Coastal and marine ecosystems as Nature-based Solutions in new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions , Ocean & Climate Platform, Conservation International, IUCN, GIZ, Rare, The Nature Conservancy and WWF. Northeast Atlantic (e.g., Rockall and Hatton Banks); Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, Commercial Fishing https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2019.00069/full Resilient reefs initiative (https://www.barrierreef.org/what-we-do/projects/resilient-reefs)

Target	RSCAPs	RFBs	Potential for RSCAP/RFB input to achieving GBF targets and recent resources
9. Sustainable management of wild species	X		RFBs sustainable management of wild stocks; RFBs and RSCAPs ecosystem approach to fisheries
10. Sustainable aquaculture	X	X	e.g. https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/working-regional-seas/partners/food-and-agriculture
11. Maintain/enhance ecosystem services	X		MPAs, VMEs
12. Benefits from green and blue spaces	X		
13. Fair and equitable access/sharing of genetic resources	X		
14. Biodiversity values integrated in policies	X		RSCAPs and RFBs integrating BD values strategic objectives & action plans e.g. SPREP Strategic Plan (2017-2026)
15. Business and biodiversity	X	X	RFBs (also w/ info env. from RSCAPs) link to fishing industry and industry Observers with regional interests
16. Responsible choices/consumption		X	Awareness raising – promoting practices such as pole and line caught tuna
17. Adverse impacts of biotechnology	X		
18. Eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity		X	Review of fisheries subsidies
19. Increase financial resources	X		UNEP/CEP Regional funding approach http://gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAW/RSAP15.4.2020-en.pdf
20. Knowledge and information sharing	X	X	SOI; awareness raising. NEAFC/OSPAR Collective Arrangement; MoU between GFCM and UNEP/MAP https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/10862/unep_eu_og_pre_%208.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y Knowledge sharing interest from basin scale science projects such as EU's iAtlantic project (https://www.iatlantic.eu/)
21. Participation in decision-making	X	X	Participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making in the Arctic https://arctic-council.org/explore/work/

4. Points for discussion:

- a. Views on the regional utility and relevance of the post2020 GBF?
- b. Which Targets (listed in Section 2) are of most interest (top 5) for collaboration between RSCAPs and RFBs? And why?
- c. Do you have comments on one or more of the suggested specific opportunities put forward in Table 1? Or additional suggestions from your region?