

## **(DRAFT) ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE (2015-2020)**

### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

#### **Introduction**

Marine and coastal biodiversity – ecosystems, species and genetic material – provide enormous benefits for human well-being. Hundreds of millions of people rely directly on marine biodiversity for their livelihoods. Roughly 40% of the world's population lives within 100 kilometres of the coast; fisheries employ approximately 200 million people, provide about 16% of the protein consumed worldwide and have an annual value estimated at US\$80 billion. Coastal ecosystems provide services, including tourism and protection from storms, valued at nearly US\$26 billion annually.

Marine ecosystems are, however, increasingly facing threats that undermine their ability to provide critical life-supporting services and contribute to sustainable development. The impacts of overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction and emerging threats of climate change, among other threats, are causing unprecedented biodiversity loss in the oceans.

Around the world, measures have been taken and institutional mechanisms put into place to address these threats and support conservation and sustainable use of oceans. However, these efforts will not have the impact needed unless the enabling conditions are in place to ensure effective ground-level implementation and, namely, that those individuals and institutions charged with implementation are equipped with the tools and resources needed to ensure success. Various capacity development efforts have aimed to address these needs, yet there has been inadequate focus on the holistic aspects of capacity needs with regards to oceans and marine life therein.

The global mandate through the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the focus of a number of the Aichi Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity provides a broad range of opportunities and challenges in addressing the capacity disparity in various countries and regions in accelerating their efforts toward achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative aims to catalyze partnerships, build on lessons learned and knowledge gained, and facilitate improved coordination and two-way dialogue to address these capacity needs to support countries in their efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

#### **History and Development of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative**

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10, Nagoya, Japan, October 2010) ushered in a new era of biodiversity conservation. The 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and their partners rose to the challenge of reversing biodiversity loss, which is occurring at an unprecedented rate—up to 1000 times the natural rate of extinction—by adopting a new 10-year Strategic Plan (2010-2020) and Aichi Biodiversity Targets to guide international and national efforts to safeguard biodiversity.

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COP 10 urged Parties and other Governments to: achieve long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of marine resources and coastal habitats; establish and effectively manage marine protected areas, in order to safeguard marine and coastal biodiversity, marine ecosystem services, and sustainable livelihoods; and to adapt to climate change, through appropriate application of the precautionary approach and the use of integrated marine and coastal area management, marine spatial planning, impact assessment, and other available tools.

COP 10 emphasized the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties through regional workshops that contribute to sharing experiences and knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Recognizing this urgent need, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) was born at the margins of COP 10, through the support of Japan, COP 10 Presidency, and in collaboration with various partners who were willing to provide the necessary expertise, technical and financial resources. The SOI concept was further developed in subsequent meetings, such as the SOI Programme Development Meeting (2-4 August 2011, Kanazawa, Japan) and SOI High-level Meeting (5 June 2012, Yeosu, RO Korea). The implementation of SOI is coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and currently funded by the Government of Japan, through Japan Biodiversity Fund, and the Government of France, through French MPA Agency (*Agence des aires marines protégées*).

### **Linkages to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

In light of new and expanded challenges that face global biodiversity and an enhanced understanding of the value of biodiversity to global sustainable development, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and a set of Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

This Strategic Plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the Convention on Biological Diversity, but for the entire United Nations system.

The Strategic Plan is organized under 5 Strategic Goals and 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as follows:

**Strategic Goal A:** Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

**Strategic Goal B:** Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

**Strategic Goal C:** To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

**Strategic Goal D:** Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

**Strategic Goal E:** Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Most Aichi Biodiversity Targets address marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular Targets 6, 10, and 11.

***Aichi Biodiversity Targets addressed by the Sustainable Ocean Initiative***

**Target 6:** By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

**Target 10:** By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

**Target 11:** By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, 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.

**Key Issues Addressed by the Sustainable Ocean Initiative**

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets laid out an ambitious agenda to reverse the trends of biodiversity loss. However, this agenda is not self-implementing and will require strategic, coordinated, and targeted efforts by a range of stakeholders across all sectors and at different levels in order to make tangible process.

In particular, a number of key challenges face the achievement of the Aichi Targets in marine and coastal areas, including:

- Capacity gaps—Lack of institutional, technical, managerial, and scientific resources; poor understanding of capacity needs at various levels in the context of cross-sectoral management; lack of cross-sectoral training for managers at the ground-level;
- Inadequate governance—Sectoral conflicts; lack of coordination across governmental agencies and levels of governments; limited participation of indigenous and local communities;
- Limited information base—Lack of policy-relevant information to support decision-making; inadequate coordination of existing knowledge.

**Strategic Approach of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative**

*“Bridging Gaps to Achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”*

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative focuses on the commitments of CBD Parties and the work undertaken through the CBD on marine and coastal biodiversity to identify opportunities to address capacity needs to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

While the challenges faced in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity targets are significant, countries are not starting from nothing. Around the world, efforts are under way to improve conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. However, there has yet to be an effort to take a holistic and

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comprehensive approach to capacity development for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative builds on these efforts, resources, and experiences by providing a holistic and strategic framework through which to catalyze partnerships and leverage resources to facilitate the achievement of Aichi Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity.

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative provides a means to build synergies and cross-sectoral exchange across multiple scales (global, regional, national and local). It seeks to link progress in scientific and technical approaches to inform policy development and implementation at multiple levels. It seeks to promote learning and exchange of knowledge and best practices, promoting synergies among other relevant initiatives/programmes, to address capacity needs in the context of the Aichi Targets. It provides a platform to highlight positive examples of progress at different levels and catalyze leadership and commitment to take further action.

*Vision of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative*

As the Sustainable Ocean Initiative aims to support countries in achieving the goals of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, **Sustainable Ocean Initiative aligns its vision with that of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with particular focus on marine and coastal biodiversity:**

***"Living in Harmony with Nature" where "By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."***

*Mission of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative*

The mission of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative is to provide a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity in a holistic manner.

Specifically, the SOI aims at achieving its vision by:

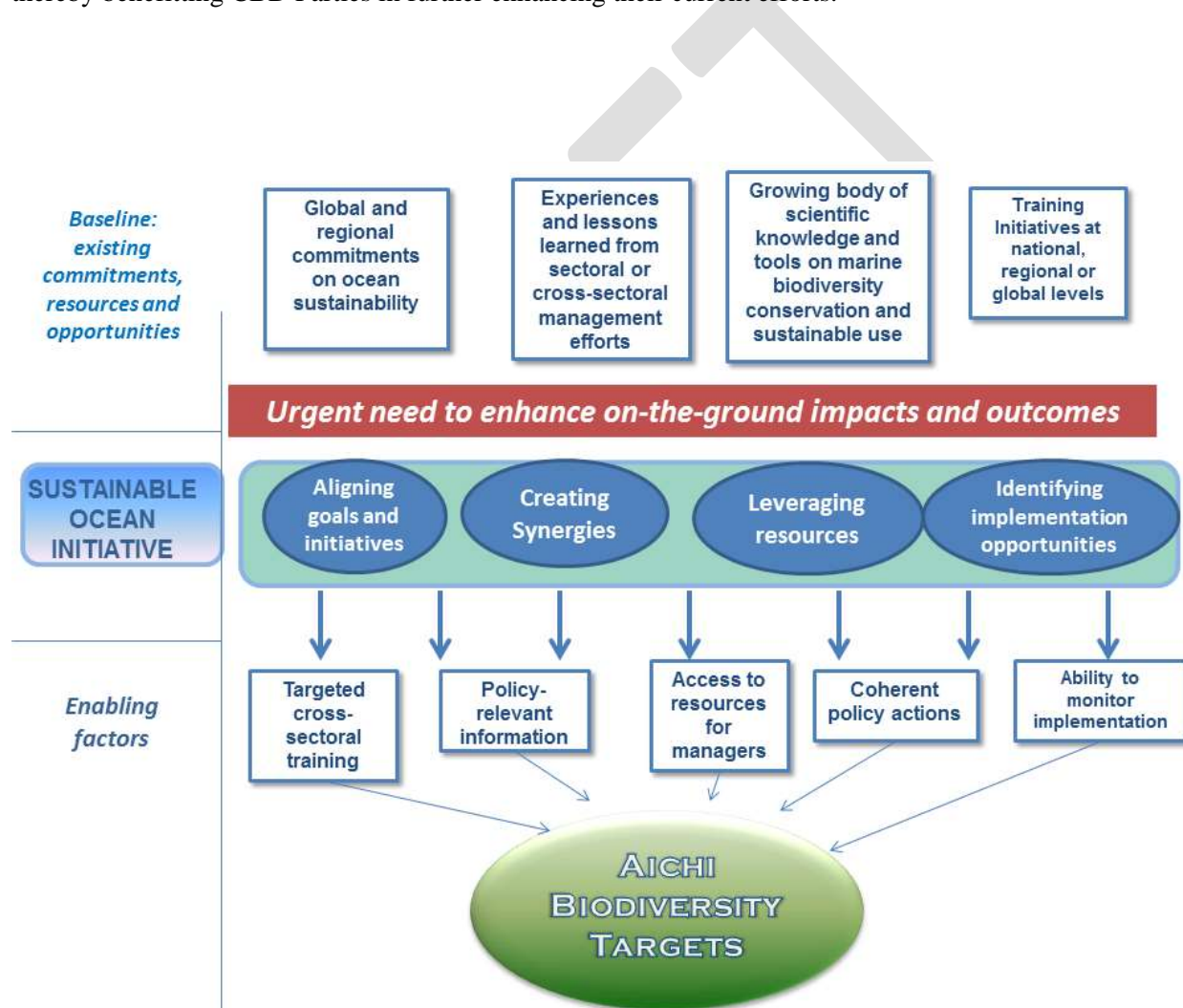
- (a) Achieving a balance between sustainable use and conservation and the promotion of flexible and diverse approaches;
- (b) Identifying best practices, facilitating information sharing, and learning from experiences;
- (c) Creating partnerships that can provide for targeted capacity building, training, technical assistance and learning exchange;
- (d) Providing for two-way communication among policymakers, scientific communities and local stakeholders;
- (e) Monitoring progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity (particularly Targets 6, 10 and 11);
- (f) Facilitating the provision of guidance and guidelines that will help their achievement; and
- (g) Improving the scientific basis for implementation.

By addressing these key aspects of capacity, SOI aims to build the groundwork and foundation for long-term, effective and adaptive implementation. It aims to build capacity in a way that is adaptive and

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flexible by addressing the key needs for training and tools for people to implement and supporting on-the-ground implementation, drawing upon, among others, the CBD's scientific and technical work, such as the scientific assessment on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), scientific synthesis on the impacts of various threats (ocean acidification, underwater noise, unsustainable fishing practices, marine debris, etc) on marine biodiversity, and technical guidance on various conservation management and tools (e.g. integrated coastal and marine area management, marine and coastal protected areas, impact assessments, marine spatial planning, etc).

As illustrated below, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative seeks to provide a platform and framework by which existing resources, knowledge, and experience can be linked and enhanced to fulfill the major needs required to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity, and thereby benefitting CBD Parties in further enhancing their current efforts.





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SOI will generate incremental positive impacts from existing efforts by building on previous and ongoing activities, and identifying opportunities for future synergies. By providing a coherent framework for capacity development in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, SOI will ensure that the sum of the various efforts of individual SOI partners is greater than its parts, when implemented in a collective manner through the SOI partnership. The unique role of SOI is that it provides an umbrella under which the knowledge, resources and experiences of these range of activities can be organized to link local, national and regional level initiatives to global dialogues and create synergies to address specific capacity needs to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity. As well, it also benefits from the significant amount of scientific and technical collaboration developed through the work of the CBD on marine and coastal biodiversity.

By focusing especially on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, SOI frames its approach on the commitments and priorities of national, regional and global leaders on oceans and coasts, priorities that are also embodied in the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, the ongoing discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals, and other relevant global processes.

*Modalities of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative*

***Who benefits from SOI implementation?***

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative aims to support CBD Parties in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implementing the decisions of the Conference of the Parties on marine and coastal biodiversity (especially decisions X/29, XI/17 and XI/18). As such, countries benefit from the opportunities provided through collaboration in SOI, which subsequently benefits the stakeholders, communities, individuals, and ecosystems in those countries.

***How is SOI implemented?***

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity coordinates the implementation of SOI, in collaboration with SOI donors and partners and responding to the requests made by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention regarding the capacity development needs. With the expansion of SOI activities, the formation of a steering committee for coordinating various SOI activities can be explored.

SOI activities include: (i) those directly implemented by the CBD Secretariat, in accordance with the mandates provided by relevant COP decisions, in collaboration with SOI partners, (ii) those directly implemented by SOI partners in collaboration with CBD Secretariat, and (iii) those aligned to SOI vision and mission implemented by SOI partners, of which results and lessons learned are shared through various forums and information-sharing mechanism provided by SOI.

The involvement of SOI partners in specific implementation activities depends on respective strengths, expertise and resources of SOI partners as well as the scale/scope of the proposed activities. SOI activities are designed to address regional priorities of CBD Parties and build on the strengths, resources, and experiences and expertise of participating SOI partners. Collaboration with various Parties and SOI partners seek to create added value to existing activities, minimize duplication of effort, and identify new opportunities for capacity building and on-ground implementation.

Likewise, the relevant activities of SOI partners can be characterized as “aligned initiatives” (see annex 3 for examples). Certain aspects of aligned initiatives are integrated into SOI activities, as appropriate, in order to enhance coordination among the relevant activities of SOI partners and strengthen the impact of

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these activities overall, and to identify ways in which the knowledge and information generated from these activities can be applied in different countries and regions.

***How to become SOI donors?***

Parties interested in providing financial resources to support SOI implementation can become a SOI donor through the development of a voluntary funding agreement with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (e.g. Japan Biodiversity Fund, French MPA Agency). In some cases, the activities are implemented through in-kind financial contribution by hosting countries (e.g. Republic of Korea, PR China).

***Who are SOI partners?***

One of the core strengths of SOI is its wide range of partners and the opportunity to share and build upon the many experiences, knowledge, and resources of these partners to achieve common goals. SOI partners share:

- A Common Vision;
- Coherent and/or Complementary Goals and Objectives; and
- A Commitment to Share (e.g., knowledge, expertise, experiences, human resources, financial resources, networks, time, logistic support, etc)

SOI partners compose a wide range of global, regional or national institutions/programmes/initiatives, who share the vision of SOI and provide in-kind contributions to contribute to its mission.

In-kind contributions can include, for example, provisioning of scientific and/or technical expertise, contribution of relevant materials, and hosting of workshops and events, among other types of support.

For example, since the inception of SOI, in-kind contribution by Senegal, Republic of Korea, China through hosting the workshops/meetings; technical support provided by Australia (through Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation: CSIRO), Germany (through GIZ), Monaco (through Monaco Blue Initiative), Republic of Korea (Korea Maritime Institute, Korea Environment Management Corporation), United Nations Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission-UNESCO, regional seas organizations/regional fisheries management organizations/other relevant regional initiatives (such as Abidjan Convention, North West Pacific Action Plan, Partnership for Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, South-east Atlantic Fisheries Organization, etc), IUCN-Commission on Ecosystem Management-Fisheries Expert Group, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiatives, Lifeweb Initiative, Global Island Partnership, MedPAN, Brest-Metropole Océane as the chair of the Maritime Innovative Territories' International Network – MITIN, and many other partner organizations.

**SOI Implementation Thus Far**

The implementation of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative has been largely funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the French marine protected areas agency (Agence des Aires Marines Protégées), with additional in-kind funding (e.g., Republic of Korea, China) and technical support (e.g., FAO, UNEP, IUCN-CEM-FEG, CSIRO, GOBI, Abidjan Convention Secretariat, PEMSEA, etc.) mobilized for different implementation activities. Its implementation is being coordinated by the CBD Secretariat.

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**Programme Development and Launching (2010-2012)**

- First consultation meeting for developing Sustainable Ocean Initiative at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (24 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan)
- SOI launching and programme development meeting (2-4 August 2011, Kanazawa, Japan)
- SOI Side Event at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (2 May 2012, Montreal, Canada)
- SOI High-level Meeting at International Ocean Expo (5 June 2012, Yeosu, Republic of Korea)
- SOI High-level Side Event at 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (17 October, 2012, Hyderabad, India)

**Regional Implementation and Global Implementation (2013 -2014)**

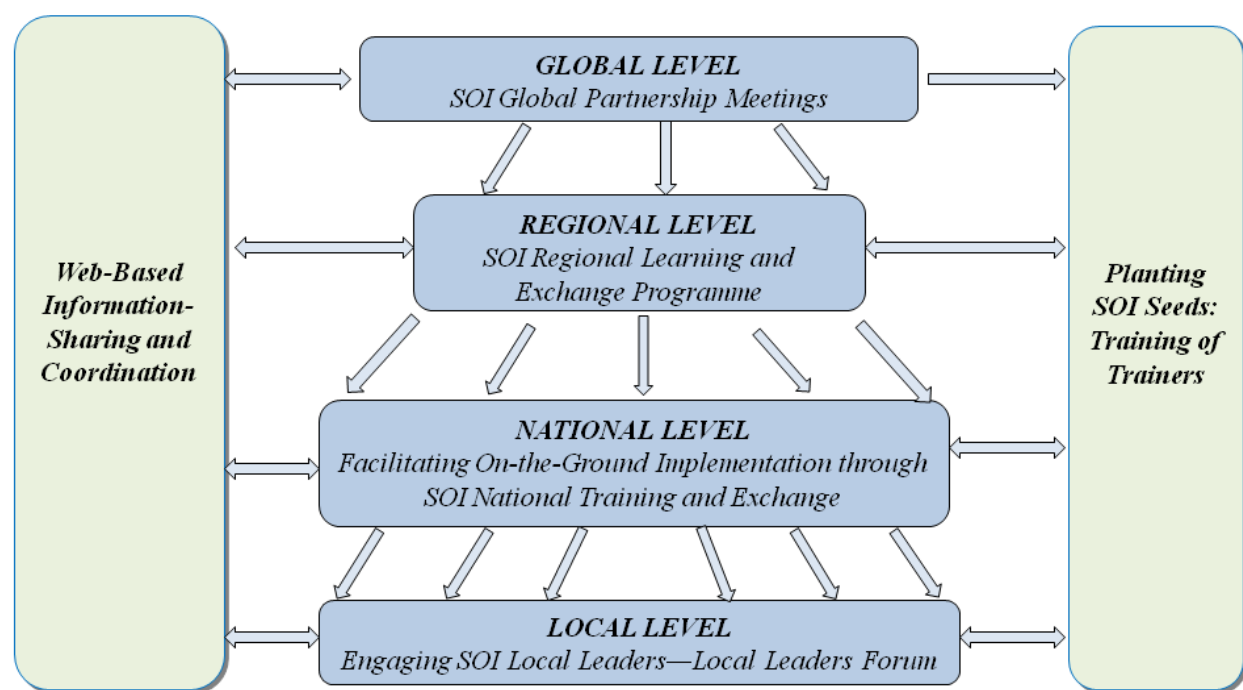
- SOI Capacity Building Workshop for West Africa (4- 8 February, 2013, Dakar, Senegal)
- SOI Capacity Building Workshop for East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia (9-13 December, 2013, Guangzhou, China)
- SOI/Lifeweb Financial Partnership Meeting during the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress (24 October 2013, Marseille, France)
- SOI Website/Information-sharing Platform Development (2013-2014)
- SOI Publication—Guidance document to address Aichi Targets through Integrated Coastal Management (2013-2014)

**Planned activities (2014-2016)**

- SOI Global Partnership meeting at COP 12 (3-4 Oct 2014, Seoul, Republic of Korea)
- SOI High level Meeting at COP 12 (16 October 2014)
- SOI Capacity Building Workshop in South America (Lima, Peru, 23-27 February 2015)
- SOI Capacity Building Workshop in East Africa (October 2015)
- SOI Capacity Building Workshop in South Pacific (December 2015)



## SOI ACTION PLAN—IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENTS



### ***SOI Global Partnership Meetings***

#### **Background**

One of the core strengths of SOI is its wide range of partners and the opportunity to share and build upon the many experiences, knowledge, and resources of these partners to achieve common goals.

Many efforts have been taken around the world to improve the state of the oceans and address capacity gaps to enhance conservation and sustainable use. These efforts however, are often focused on specific topics or geographic areas, occurring in isolation from other related efforts. As such, relatively few initiatives have sought to leverage the positive experiences of these various activities to support efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity.

#### **Purpose**

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative aims to fill this gap by focusing centrally on facilitating partnerships to link various initiatives and ensure that the sum of these efforts are greater than its parts.

SOI will facilitate partnerships in a number of different ways as a cross-cutting element of all of its activities. However, a periodic high-profile multi-stakeholder event in the form of SOI Global Partnership Meetings will be instrumental in focusing attention on SOI activities and serving as a marketplace for the experiences of SOI partners. These meetings can also highlight local, national and regional level progress at the global level, informing global policy discussions.

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SOI Global Partnership Meetings will be convened every one year or two years, subject to available resources, at the occasion of relevant meetings within the Convention (e.g. COP or SBSTTA). The objectives of these meetings are to:

- Provide a platform to highlight experiences of SOI partners;
- Showcase positive experiences and success stories
- Contribute to sharing of information;
- Serve as a means to build goodwill and communication among current and potential SOI partners;
- Provide a venue to catalyze partnerships in the framework of SOI; and
- Encourage additional partners to join SOI.

#### **Target Audience**

The SOI Global Partnership Meetings will involve the following:

- Donors and international financial institutions
- Coordinators of ocean management initiatives at different scales
- Representatives of international organizations
- National level government representatives
- Representatives from regional organizations
- Managers and ground-level implementers
- Providers of training and capacity support

#### **Description**

The SOI Global Partnership Meetings will entail:

- Plenary sessions organized thematically
- Symposium sessions/side events on specific topics of relevance to the theme of the Meeting
- Exhibits and poster sessions highlighting experiences
- Donor roundtables
- Scoping session for future directions for SOI

***Focusing on Regional Priorities:  
SOI Regional Learning and Exchange Programme***

#### **Background**

Increasingly, regional approaches for cooperation and governance are being relied upon in various ocean areas around the world to support conservation and sustainable use efforts. However, there are important contextual variations among different regions and sub-regions that necessitate the use of tailored approaches, especially with regards to capacity development efforts. In addition to unique environmental characteristics, different regions also have unique priorities, challenges and experiences, and different types of institutional structures and mechanisms for cooperation.

Capacity development at the regional and sub-regional level is an important means to facilitate improved governance of marine resources and engender increased cooperation among countries and organizations in a given region. Additionally, capacity development focused at the regional level can allow for lessons and knowledge to be adapted and transferred from other regions to facilitate cross-regional learning.

Training, information-sharing, and peer-to-peer learning and exchange is an important means to build on experiences and lessons-learn, identify opportunities for synergies and partners, cultivate regional networks and communities of practitioners and provide managers and decision makers with the tools

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needed to improve conservation and sustainable use. When these efforts at the regional level that are tailored to the unique context of a given region or sub-region, lends increased benefits that directly benefit countries in the region, facilitate improved cooperation among countries and support regional mechanisms/organizations.

### **Purpose**

The SOI Regional Learning and Exchange Programme will provide key opportunities for training, information-sharing, and peer-to-peer learning and exchange for managers and implementers in various regions or sub-regions, which is tailored to the unique needs, priorities and challenges of each area. This will be carried out in close partnership with countries in the region as well as appropriate regional cooperative mechanisms (e.g. regional seas organizations, regional fisheries management organizations or other regional initiatives). This will build on and develop synergies among existing training programs and other capacity development efforts within the region and focus on providing training across different sectors dealing with conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

The Programme will also directly link to the SOI Training of Trainers, providing tangible opportunities for those individuals who have undergone training of trainers to carry out further training in their respective region/sub-region.

The SOI Regional Learning and Exchange Programme will aim to:

- Support the development a strong linkage and networking for scientific and technical cooperation using the SOI framework at the regional level
- Enhance regional-level peer-to-peer learning and exchange
- Develop regional-level partnerships to foster synergies among various capacity building providers
- Provide government officials, project managers, community leaders with the skills and resources they need to implement sound management of marine resources
- Provide for the creation strong group of qualified recipients of support from SOI partners and donors and opportunities for partnerships
- Provide opportunities for individuals who have gone through the SOI Training of Trainers program to carry out training at the regional/sub-regional level
- Build linkages between global and regional/sub-regional initiatives on marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

### **Target Audience**

The SOI Regional Learning and Exchange Programme will target:

- Managers and project leaders at regional/sub-regional levels
- Practitioners or programme managers at national level from different sectors (e.g. environment, fishery, academia, etc)

### **Description**

The SOI Regional Learning and Exchange Programme will entail:

- Training materials and modules
- In-person or virtual training sessions (offered in different languages, as appropriate)
- Online forums to facilitate continued dialogue and discussion among training recipients
- Regional forums, peer-to-peer exchange sessions and networking opportunities
- Linking training recipients networks to provide for continued information-sharing

## *Planting SOI Seeds: Training of Trainers*

### **Background**

Training is a key part of building capacity, especially improving the capacity of individuals that are undertaking on-the-ground implementation. Training is a critical means to ensure that the people tasked with undertaking ground-level action are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to effectively conserve and sustainably utilize marine biodiversity. While these types of knowledge and skills can be transmitted in different ways, training provides direct engagement and two-way communication that leads to more effective uptake of this valuable information.

At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD emphasized the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, as well as through relevant regional initiatives, and that these training workshops should contribute to sharing experiences related to integrated management of marine resources and the implementation of marine and coastal spatial planning instruments, facilitate the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and may address other regional priorities that are brought forward as these workshops are planned (paragraph 37 of decision X/29). Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its eleventh meeting, further emphasized the urgent need for capacity-building on various issues/tools concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), the impacts of climate change on coral reefs, marine debris, and marine spatial planning (paragraphs 14, 19, 20 and 21 of decision XI/17; paragraphs 12 and 27 of decision XI/18 A; paragraph 2(g) of decision XI/18 C).

The CBD Secretariat has conducted training and capacity development efforts pursuant to the COP decisions, including through regional SOI capacity development workshops. The CBD Secretariat has also developed various types of training materials on issues related to marine biodiversity, including on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). Other SOI partners, such as FAO, DOALOS, IOC/UNESCO and Blue Solutions have developed training materials focused on certain ocean sectors (such as fisheries) or are in the process of further developing training materials.

A necessary precursor to effective training is the need to have trainers who possess the knowledge that must be passed on to managers and understand how to convey it effectively, including to different audiences and in various contexts. A key means to improve the sustainability, longevity, and broader impact of capacity development efforts is to train individuals to conduct subsequent training on their own in different contexts.

### **Purpose**

The SOI Training of Trainers programme will aim to give new trainers, including individuals in agencies and organizations tasked with implementing ocean and coastal management, the background knowledge, skills and practical experience needed to train individuals at different levels and relay this information in a way that is useful to managers and ground-level implementers. The programme will aim to build synergies among existing training initiatives on oceans and coasts, including sectoral training and initiatives at different scales. This Training of Trainers programme will add value to existing efforts by linking them in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the scientific and technical work of the CBD Secretariat and other SOI partners, and translate this knowledge into materials to train the trainers in order to have more broad reaching impact and facilitate long-term and continued training by the individuals who are trained as part of this programme.

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After going through the SOI Training of Trainers programme, trainer candidates will be able to:

- Understand the different approaches of ocean management and the various types of capacity and information needed to support these approaches
- Know how to effectively convey the information that training recipients require
- Know how to adapt the information for different contexts
- Provide access to further information for the benefit of training recipients

#### **Activities**

SOI Training of Trainers will entail:

- Development of training materials and module, utilizing the knowledge and experiences of SOI partners and building on existing training materials for oceans from various related initiatives
- Convening of SOI Training of Trainers workshop to be held May 2015
- Development of online forum on SOI website to facilitate continued dialogue and discussion among participants from SOI Training of Trainers workshop
- Continued provisioning of information to trainers through SOI website to ensure the training that they conduct incorporates the latest relevant information on ocean science and policy

The SOI Training of Trainers will build on and integrate materials and information of existing relevant training programmes and incorporate the representatives of these training programmes in the development and implementation of the Training of Trainers. The experience of the trainers can be highlighted at the SOI Global Partnership Meetings, ensuring continued engagement in SOI and sharing of experiences.

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- Know how to adapt the information for different contexts
- Provide access to further information for the benefit of training recipients

#### **Target Participants**

The SOI Training of Trainers will target individuals from:

- National-level offices and agencies tasked with ocean and coastal research and management
- Regional-level intergovernmental bodies addressing ocean and coastal governance
- Capacity building initiatives and projects

#### **Training Programme Elements**

- Implementation of integrated coastal and marine management toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Target 6, 10 and 11)
- Use of EBSA scientific information for developing marine spatial planning
- Tools and guidance on marine spatial planning
- Action planning for organizing national trainings
- Priority actions for conservation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems

***Facilitating On-the-Ground Implementation  
through SOI National Training and Exchange***

**Background**

The types of capacity required for on-the-ground implementation for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity includes a number of key factors, including access to scientific information on marine ecosystems, guidance on prioritization and implementation of management measures, coordination across different sectors, and often (with regards to developing countries) support for initiating implementation through pilot projects.

The CBD's work on ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs), through its data assimilation and distribution process, has synthesized a significant amount of scientific knowledge on marine biodiversity. In doing so, it has also provided an important basis for regional scientific collaboration, a starting point for future long-term continuous and more systematic assessment with increasing availability of scientific information and potential focus for future research and monitoring. In addition to the EBSA process, a number of SOI partners are conducting significant ongoing work related to assessment and monitoring of the marine environment.

The next piece of the puzzle is supporting the use of this knowledge in management interventions. The CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with a wide range of partners is engaged in a number of activities focused on providing guidance to Parties in selecting and implementing appropriate management measures for oceans and coasts. In particular, these efforts have recently focused on marine spatial planning (MSP) and measures to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems. Pursuant to decision XI/18 C, the Executive Secretary to the Convention is convening an expert workshop from 9 to 11 September 2014 in Montreal to provide consolidated practical guidance and a toolkit for marine spatial planning, building upon existing guidance, in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and other Governments on the application of the ecosystem approach to the implementation of integrated marine and coastal management, the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the design and establishment of conservation and management measures, as appropriate.

As well, the Parties to the CBD have recently made steps towards agreement on detailed guidance on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 10<sup>1</sup> for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems. Pursuant to decision XI/18 A, the Executive Secretary compiled and synthesized proposals to update the specific workplan on coral bleaching. Building on these proposals, CBD Secretariat developed a proposal on priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, which was presented to the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 18) in June 2014. The priority actions were well-received by SBSTTA and will be sent for consideration to the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in October 2014.

Enhanced knowledge of the marine environment and guidance on implementing management measures provide key tools to support implementation. In the context of capacity development, the provisioning of

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<sup>1</sup> Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.



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this information to developing countries should logically be accompanied by training, information-sharing and exchange, which can be facilitated through national-level workshops.

**Purpose**

This project will provide a platform to support focused training, information-sharing and exchange at national level in developing countries focused on enhancing the use sound scientific information (including EBSA information) and building critical technical skills, including on the use of CBD guidance on implementing marine spatial planning and priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems.

**Activities**

This component will entail:

- National-level training, information-sharing and exchange workshops focused on capacitating developing countries with access to sound scientific information on the marine environment and technical skills in utilizing this information, knowledge and skills in implementing marine spatial planning and priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems

<i><b>Engaging SOI Local Leaders—Local Leaders Forum</b></i>
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**Background**

Local leaders possess a wealth of knowledge and experience in management of ocean and coastal resources. These experiences can prove highly instructive to efforts and initiatives at various levels and in different areas around the world. As well, local initiatives often utilize unique types of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities in their conservation and management approaches.

However, the experiences of local leaders with respect to ocean and coastal management are too often ignored and the benefits of these unique experiences go unutilized by other efforts and initiatives. Also local leaders are often those tasked with conducted on-the-ground implementation of policy decisions taken at higher political levels, making them key players in the management of oceans and coasts.

**Purpose**

The SOI Local Leader Forums will seek to directly engage local leaders that are making tangible on-the-ground progress and highlight their experiences and knowledge for the benefit of a broader range of stakeholders. These Forums will provide an opportunity to showcase and celebrate successful and promising local initiatives around the world and a platform for sharing the experiences and lessons-learned from these initiatives with a view to facilitating partnerships and leveraging capacity support to broaden and enhance the impact of positive local level approaches around the world. These Forums will be convened every two years at the SOI Partnership and Training Center, alternating with the SOI Global Partnership Meetings.

The SOI Local Leader Forums will aim to:

- Highlight positive experiences in ocean management and stewardship at the local-level
- Draw lessons-learned across different local contexts
- Facilitate identification and synthesis of best practices emanating from local-level approaches
- Facilitate partnerships to catalyze support for tangible on-the-ground implementation and promising local-level initiatives

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- Contribute to the development of networks of local-level leaders to facilitate two-way learning among local-level efforts in different areas

**Target Audience**

The SOI Local Leader Forums will involve the following:

- Managers and ground-level implementers
- Scientists and researchers
- Coordinators of ocean management initiatives at different scales
- Donors and international financial institutions
- National-level government representations

**Description**

The SOI Local Leader Forums will entail:

- Panel presentations and discussions by local leaders making on-the-ground progress towards the Aichi Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity
- Presentations on emerging tools to support local implementation
- Breakout roundtable sessions on thematic areas (e.g. land-use planning and coastal management, coral reef management, community stewardship)
- Exhibits and poster sessions

<b><i>SOI Web-Based Information-Sharing and Coordination</i></b>
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**Background**

Information-sharing and coordination is a key aspect of capacity development. Providing stakeholders with streamlined access to relevant sources of information to support their work is a valuable means to enhance capacity, while ensuring that the knowledge and lessons learned from past experiences and various efforts can support the efforts of decision makers, managers and users in enhancing conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

Information-sharing and coordination is an important means to enhance synergies among various capacity development efforts and reduce overlap and duplication of efforts. As various efforts are underway around the world focused on ocean and coastal management and capacity development, providing up-to-date access to relevant information emanating from these experiences is a key means to directly support the capacity of decision makers, managers and users, while also informing the efforts of capacity development initiatives, allowing for greater impact of these efforts.

**Purpose**

SOI web-based information-sharing and coordination aims to support online collation and dissemination of knowledge on various issues related to conservation and sustainable use of marine resources (with a focus on capacity development activities), to support coordination among the activities of SOI partners and related initiatives and to support linkages to other sources of online information as well as relevant policy processes.

In addition to providing stakeholders, such as national level decisionmakers and ground-level managers, with access to information to support their activities and enhance their capacity, this will support both internal and external coordination. Web-based information-sharing and coordination will provide a platform by which SOI partners can learn about progress in SOI implementation, provide updates on their own activities and identify opportunities for partnerships. This will also bolster external coordination by

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providing a means to support synergies with other related initiatives and identify opportunities for partnerships and

The main goals of SOI web-based information-sharing and coordination are to:

- Disseminate information on the results and outputs of SOI activities and related initiatives
- Provide linkages to various online databases and other sources of relevant information
- Provide an online presence necessary to support SOI implementation, such as SOI Training of Trainers
- Support coordination among the activities of various SOI partners
- Support linkages to various global and regional policy processes

#### **Activities**

Information-sharing and coordination will be facilitated through a number of channels that address different issues. These will include both mechanisms hosted by the CBD Secretariat as well as those of partners, which will all be linked. In particular, these include:

- Sustainable Ocean Initiative online information-sharing mechanism
- CBD EBSA portal website and repository— <http://www.cbd.int/ebsa/>
- Blue Solutions platform

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**Annex 1. Format for Action Programming of SOI Implementation (2015 – 2020)**

Programme Elements	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	SOI Partner	Proposed roles and activities	SOI Partner	Proposed roles and activities	SOI Partner	Proposed roles and activities	SOI Partner	Proposed roles and activities	SOI Partner	Proposed roles and activities	SOI Partner	Proposed roles and activities
Global Partnership Meetings												
Regional Learning and Exchange Programme												
Training of Trainers												
National Training and Exchange												
Local Leaders Forum												
Web-based information-sharing and coordination												

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**Annex 2. Strengths and opportunities that can be provided by various SOI partners for SOI Action plan implementation<sup>2</sup>**

Organization	Networks / Sharing of Experiences	Scientific Information-Sharing / Technical support	Expertise / Guidance
<b>International Organizations and Initiatives</b>			
CBD Secretariat  Coordination of SOI implementation	--National-level experiences of CBD Parties in implementing ocean and coastal management --Experiences in implementing conservation and management based on EBSA information --EBSA website and SOI website as tools for online sharing of experiences --Global network of expert scientists, practitioners and policy analysts --Connection to global policy process	--Large amount of scientific and technical information compiled through ongoing EBSA regional workshop process --EBSA website and SOI website as tools for online information-sharing and coordination	--EBSA training manual and modules --CBD E-Learning Curricula --Technical analyses and guidance on specific topics, including through the CBD Technical Series Reports, Global Biodiversity Outlook reports, global expert workshops, and technical studies
UN Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)	--Connection to global policy process		--Experiences in training for ocean and coastal management (H.S. Amerasinghe Fellowship; TRAIN-SEA-COAST program; and Technical Cooperation Trust Fund-- Nippon Foundation of Japan)  --Publications and a collection of studies on oceans and the Law of the Sea
FAO	--Experiences in the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant guidelines --Linking experiences in management and implementation from FAO Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)	--Information on status and trends of global fisheries	--Relevant training materials on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, including the FAO Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Toolbox --FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other

<sup>2</sup> This list has to be confirmed by respective SOI partners. This was not prepared as an exhaustive list, but as an indicative list to facilitate collaboration among SOI partners.

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			<p>relevant guidelines</p> <p>--Expert studies and analyses on fisheries issues</p>
IOC/UNESCO	<p>--Relevant experiences from the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) Programme and the Ocean Data and Information Networks (ODINs)</p>	<p>--Scientific and technical information from GOOS, IODE, and the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)</p>	<p>--Training activities of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) Programme</p>
UNEP	<p>--Linking experiences from Regional Seas Programmes</p> <p>--Information from national and regional experiences in implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management, and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter</p>		<p>--Experiences from coordinating Training Workshops Ecosystem Approaches to Coastal and Ocean Management</p> <p>--UNEP expert reports on issues related to global environmental sustainability</p> <p>--Analysis of experiences and lessons-learned in marine spatial planning</p>
World Bank	<p>--Experiences and partnerships from the Global Partnership for Oceans, and the World Bank-led project on Oceans Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Models for Innovation and Reform</p> <p>--Experiences from other relevant World Bank-supported projects</p>		<p>--Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training</p> <p>--World Bank publications on specific topics</p>
Blue Solutions	<p>--Identification and analysis of “Blue Solutions” or positive approaches in sustainable ocean and coastal management</p> <p>--Blue Solutions online information-sharing mechanism</p> <p>--Sharing experiences from relevant projects supported by Blue Solutions partners (GIZ,</p>	<p>--Blue Solutions online information-sharing platform</p>	<p>--Training modules on ocean and coastal issues in the context of sustainable financing, climate change, and ecosystem services</p>



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	GRID-Arendal, IUCN and UNEP --Network of global, regional and national trainers/experts		
Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI)	--Experiences in expert support to EBSA process		--Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training --Scoping of capacity needs
Global Island Partnership	--Sharing the experiences of island nations --Engaging high-level political leaders		
IUCN BEST Initiative	--Partners and stakeholders from various BEST projects --Knowledge from experiences of BEST projects --Information-sharing through BEST online platform/clearinghouse mechanism		
IUCN-CEM-FEG			--Expert analyses on the ecosystem approach to fisheries and conservation
<b>Regional Organizations/Initiatives</b>			
Large Marine Ecosystem (LMEs) projects	--Experiences in tools and approaches across LME projects	--Information on status and trends regarding the state of the marine environment in specific regions --Information from relevant scientific monitoring networks	--Training materials in Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis/ Strategic Action Programme --Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training
Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)	--Experiences in tools and approaches, including with regards to management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)	--Information on status and trends of fisheries in specific regions --Monitoring and scientific networks	--Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training
Regional Seas Organizations	--Experiences across various Regional Seas Programmes	--Information on status and trends regarding the state of the marine environment in specific regions	--UNEP Regional Seas Series Reports
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	--Experiences across the South Pacific region	--Information on status and trends regarding the state of the	

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		marine environment in the South Pacific, through the SPC Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems	
<b>National Institutions</b>			
CSIRO (Australia)	--Experience in supporting regional governance approaches --Experience in technical support for EBSA process	--Scientific networks and information on status and trends of marine environment in South Pacific	--Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training programs
French MPA Agency <i>Ocean+ Action Plan</i>	--Expert MPA networks --Experiences in creating MPA management strategies and supporting MPA implementation in France and French overseas territories management teams --Experiences in supporting Natura 2000 network of marine parks		--Training for MPA creation and management --Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training --Guidance on implementation of MPA and MPA management efficiency
Korea Maritime Institute	--National-level experiences in ocean and coastal management	--Information on status and trends of oceans and coasts --Scientific networks	--Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training
Japan (MOE, MAFF, Cabinet Secretariat, Universities, Academic, Civil Society Groups)	--National-level experiences in ocean and coastal management	-- Information on status and trends of oceans and coasts --Scientific networks	--Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training
<b>Sub-National Partners</b>			
Indigenous and Local Communities	--Experience in traditional knowledge and local level management of marine resources		--Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training
BREST-Metropole—MITIN	--Networks of local level public authorities, scientific parks, development agencies and scientific organizations --Knowledge and lessons learned from local level experiences		--Identification of candidates to take part in SOI training

*Annex. 3. Examples of existing initiatives that can be aligned to SOI implementation<sup>3</sup>*

**1. The International Marine Protected Areas Network Agenda (IMPANA)—Ocean+ Action Plan**

**Aim of IMPANA:** The purpose of this initiative is to build and strengthen current work on the global marine protected areas network for 2020 and beyond. This is in order to assist governments and agencies in facilitating and completing the establishment of coherent and efficient networks of marine protected areas and marine conservation measures at all scales, be they national, regional and global scales.

**Target:** The development of a strategy and roadmap – the ‘Agenda’ - to provide the new required ambition and increase momentum based around but enhancing current efforts to achieve marine Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This target, agreed in decision X/2 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, is to:

*By 2020, 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are to be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.*

The IMPANA work will also prepare the basis for the definition of future targets by the international community.

**Corner stone:** develop a five year marine protected areas operational program (2015-2020) at global, regional and national levels, capitalizing the **Ocean+ IMPAC3** outcomes and results, implementing the **ministerial Ajaccio Message**, and teaming up with, inter alia, the Action Plan of the **Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI)** of the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity to generate or federate marine protected areas initiatives and projects

**Coordination:** The development of this Agenda is being coordinated by the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme (GMPP), with contributions from the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) supported by other IUCN Commissions.

**Partnership:** UN Institutional Organizations, International and national NGOs, IUCN membership, marine protected areas national Agencies and private sector.

**The IMPANA framework**

The IMPANA Agenda will engage decisions makers, stakeholders and all relevant MPAs operational actors on the needs to better achieve the global effective marine protected areas network by enhancing efforts around:

- Communication tools, cultural awareness and blue society outreach
- Policy commitment, legal frame and political willingness
- Sciences, knowledge, evaluation, data and mapping as tools
- Marine spatial planning process, governance and partnership with the fishing sector and marine industries
- Mobilizing stakeholders, involving local communities and the wider society

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<sup>3</sup> This list has to be confirmed by SOI partners. This was not prepared as an exhaustive list, but as an indicative list to facilitate collaboration among SOI partners.

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- Capacity building and training to management efficiency, monitoring-based Indicators and certification standards
- Facing the climate change and others external alterations
- Resources and sustainable financing mechanism, payment for ecosystem services
- International cooperation and regional networking

The IMPANA Agenda will be implemented in line with the SOI action Plan.

**Details of the IMPANA Agenda**

**1. Facilitating progresses**

**Inform, inspire, influence,**

- Develop communication tools , awareness and cultural outreach, to promote the socio-economic services of marine protected areas for biodiversity, human well being and livelihoods;
- Encourage sharing scientific and traditional knowledge, data, using miscellaneous maps and new technologies, defining protection measures for ecological and biological significant areas;
- Influence policy makers at all levels to commit MPAs strategies and others effective areas- based conservation measures integrating marine spatial planning processes in the framework of national and regional seas policies;
- Achieve a regularized, freely and widely accessible, and highly visible reporting process on designation progress against the Aichi target 11 with MPA data and information freely accessible through IT routes thus enabling much more analysis and use of the WDPA information.
- Celebrating hope spots and building a community engaged, highly visible and forward-looking agenda of what needs to be protected, not just a focus what has been protected thus far.

**2. Supporting effective management**

**Involve, improve, implement**

- Encourage local stakeholders involvement in management, develop governance systems , cross-sectoral dialogue and partnerships with sea users and sea industries at different scales;
- Provide expertise, skills, know how, training, know-how, technical cooperation, certification and professionalization to ensure management capacity and efficiency and to face changes by teaming up marine to initiatives such as IUCN's Green List;
- Setting up a tool for assessing the achievement of the international targets at the regional and sub-regional levels.
- Promote innovative sustainable financing mechanisms, incentives and taxes, payment for ecosystem services, and synergies for funding (e.g trust Fund);

**Implementing and promoting the IMPANA programme**

Actions above described will be implemented in the frame of regional, sub regional or national operational projects or initiatives to be developed either in a bottom up or top down approach, funded and dedicated to the protection of large key marine ecosystem areas (e.g. Coral Sea in Oceania; Mozambique Channel in the West Indian Ocean; Coastal areas of South East Pacific Ocean; Coastal areas of West Africa)

Synergies will be sought with on-going projects. The Agenda will be published and provide a phase 2 updated version of the original WPCA Marine Global Plan of Action for MPAs

## **2. BLUE SOLUTIONS--Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Development for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity**

### **Background**

Blue Solutions provides a global knowledge network and capacity development platform to collate, share and generate solutions for effective management and equitable governance of our planet's marine and coastal living spaces. The Blue Solutions Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through its International Climate Initiative (ICI) is being implemented by German International Cooperation (GIZ) in direct partnership with GRID-Arendal, IUCN and UNEP from 2013 to 2018.

Across our planet ocean, a multitude of inspiring “blue solutions” exist, which successfully help overcome marine and coastal challenges to sustainable development. Yet, how can we ensure that successful models, tools, approaches, partnerships or processes can be scaled and replicated to achieve the marine and coastal Aichi Targets?

To face this challenge, Blue Solutions provides a platform to collate, share and generate knowledge and capacity for sustainable management and equitable governance of our blue planet.

The following five closely inter-linked areas of work are the focus of Blue Solutions:

- Marine and Coastal Management
- Protected Area Management and Governance
- Integration of Ecosystem Services into Development Planning
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Mitigation
- Sustainable Financing

### **Blue Solutions activities related to the Sustainable Oceans Initiative (SOI)**

Marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has been identified as one of the priorities for action under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Blue Solutions Initiative supports the transfer and advancement of knowledge, as well as capacity development to enable state parties to the CBD in achieving the Aichi Targets of the CBD Strategic Plan. Technical know-how, improved capacities and the application of (cost-) effective and promising methods and tools can help to safeguard marine and coastal biodiversity.

Similar to SOI, Blue Solutions seeks to build on existing best practices to facilitate capacity development for on-the-ground implementation and, at the same time, foster the upscaling of promising solutions through the integration into policy processes. SOI and Blue Solutions will collaborate within strategic processes and join forces in favor of sustainable development in the marine and coastal realm.

The cooperation focuses initially on the following areas of action:

- Enabling the sharing and adaptation of solutions by convening solution providers and innovators in face-to-face meetings and via an online solutions exchange, e.g. at COP – side events or Regional Workshops.
- Enhancing capacities for the implementation of solutions by developing and offering a series of training modules, e.g. on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) or Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

### **3. IUCN BEST Initiative--BEST, Building partnerships and awareness of Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change for the future of an EU Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas**

#### **Background**

The overarching aim of the project is to implement useful and critical measures for the future of BEST and sustaining the EU's BEST initiative. The different activities will also constitute an important step towards implementing the Message from La Reunion and more specifically for the development of a voluntary scheme and the preparation of a dedicated financial mechanism both included in the 2008 agreement.

During the project, 7 regional knowledge hubs will be set up to develop 7 regional ecosystem profiles fully capitalising on and in collaboration with on-going activities. This work shall ensure facilitation and anchorage of the European BEST initiative at the local level, foster dialogue in close consultation with the local actors on the priorities and the needs and ease the development of the BEST strategies and agreed activities.

In addition a platform will be set up that shall enable and facilitate information-sharing on funding availability from different sources (EC but also MS and other possible partners — from international financial institutions to NGOs to private organisations and companies) for projects aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in EU outermost regions and overseas countries and territories. This structure/platform will also serve as clearing house making information available between the finance providers and possible project implementers, as well as profiling projects and highlighting the opportunities for investments.

#### **Approach**

The initiative is composed of two main parts:

- Part 1: Setting up and facilitating an interactive platform that will include the following tasks: setting up a BEST working team including 7 regional knowledge hubs, developing and managing an interactive website, setting up a steering committee and organising biannual steering committee meetings, enabling and facilitating information-sharing on funding availability, leverage of funds and outreach, and developing BEST strategies in close collaboration with ongoing activities, with local governments, stakeholders and civil society.
- Part 2: Developing 7 regional ecosystem profiles and BEST strategies for better profiling the challenges and the needs for support in the ORs and OCTs. It will seek for synergies with relevant ongoing activities and the establishment of regional ecosystem profiles and BEST strategies for investment with the help of local actors, supported by the regional knowledge hubs as established in Part 1.