



# ACTION PLAN FOR 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.

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, Republic of Korea). The execution of SOI activities 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

<u>Target 6</u>: 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.

<u>Target 10</u>: 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.

<u>Target 11</u>: 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:

- <u>Capacity gaps</u>—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;
- <u>Issues related to governance</u>—Sectoral conflicts; lack of coordination across governmental agencies and levels of governments; limited participation of indigenous and local communities;
- <u>Limited information base</u>—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 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. It aims to package and deliver, in an integrated and holistic manner, the wide range of resources, knowledge and initiatives present in different forms and at different levels around the world in order to meet regional and national priorities for capacity building.

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative 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.

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative addresses capacity building needs across the major ocean sectors, with a clear focus on improving coordination and cooperation between the fisheries and biodiversity sectors and across the science and policy realms. It takes a multi-scale approach, providing tools and resources to support ground-level implementation, in line with national and regional priorities in order to meet global level commitments, and to improve exchange across these multiple scales (global, regional, national and local). The Sustainable Ocean Initiative facilitates inter-regional exchange of experiences, expertise, skills and best practices, while enhancing regional impact through global-level scientific and technical collaboration and learning exchange.

#### 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

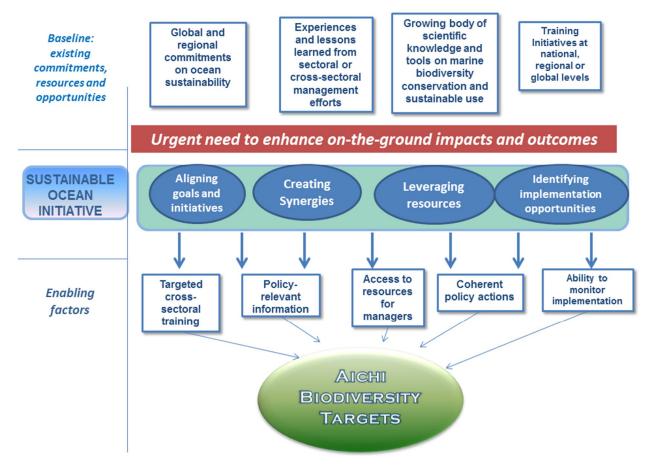
The mission of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative is to provide a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity in a holistic manner.

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 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.



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 undertaken 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 it's 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?

CBD developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, benefit from SOI. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative aims to support CBD Parties in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in line with the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity as well as the decisions of the Conference of the Parties on marine and coastal biodiversity (especially decisions X/29, XI/17 and XI/18) on addressing capacity building needs. As such, countries benefit from the opportunities provided through collaboration in SOI, which subsequently benefits the stakeholders, communities, individuals, and ecosystems in those countries.

As well, SOI also benefits those countries, donors and organizations that provide capacity building. SOI partners that contribute in-kind support benefit from involvement in SOI by enhanced impact and exposure of their respective activities. As a global cross-sectoral platform, SOI provides countries and organizations that are engaged in capacity building a means to:

- Develop partnerships across sectors and ensure delivery of their resources/tools in the broader scope of improved cross-sectoral management of ocean resources;
- Gain increased exposure and uptake of their resources/tools by CBD Parties, organizations and practitioners; and
- Contribute directly to the efforts of CBD Parties to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through the development of a coherent and holistic capacity building package focused on conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

CBD Parties can support SOI activities in more proactive manner by becoming SOI donors or providing in-kind contributions through their relevant national programmes/organizations as SOI partners, as described below.

#### How to become a SOI donor?

Parties interested in providing financial resources to support SOI activities 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, Republic of Korea (in preparation). In some cases, the activities are carried out through in-kind financial contribution by hosting countries (e.g. hosting meetings/workshop: Republic of Korea, PR China; sending resource speakers at the workshop: Australia; providing technical staff to the Secretariat: Germany, etc).

#### 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, networks 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 various types of in-kind contributions to contribute to the mission of SOI. 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. In addition to those that provide in-kind support, SOI partners also entail those countries or organizations that participate in SOI activities (workshops, training, etc.), work to enhance implementation in their respective regions/countries/communities by using tools, resources and knowledge gained through involvement in SOI, and commit to share their experiences, knowledge, and lessons learned through SOI for the benefit of CBD Parties and other SOI partners. In this way, SOI creates an iterative process whereby recipients of capacity building resources provided through SOI enhance their implementation, then develop their own experiences, lessons, and knowledge to share with others through SOI.

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 Blue Solutions – GIZ, GRID-Arendal, IUCN, UNEP), 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 Oceane as the chair of the Maritime Innovative Territories' International Network – MITIN, and many other partner organizations.

#### How does SOI function?

The execution of SOI activities is coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with SOI donors and partners, and responds to capacity development needs toward implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas, in line with the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity as well as the requests made by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the capacity development needs for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

SOI activities include: (i) those directly carried out by the CBD Secretariat, in accordance with the mandates provided by relevant COP decisions (especially in decisions X/29, XI/17 and XI/18), in collaboration with SOI partners, (ii) those directly carried out by SOI partners in collaboration with CBD Secretariat, and (iii) those aligned to SOI vision and mission carried out by SOI partners, of which results and lessons learned are shared through various forums and information-sharing mechanism provided by SOI.

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. SOI is designed to be flexible and adaptive, responding to capacity building opportunities and needs as they arise.

Likewise, the relevant activities of SOI partners can be characterized as "aligned initiatives". 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 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.

SOI partners can contribute to planning and scoping of SOI activities through SOI Partners Planning Forums, which are convened as part of the SOI Global Partnership Meetings. These Forums involve SOI partners and relevant experts, and focus on taking stock of SOI activities and identifying future opportunities and directions for SOI, in accordance with the mandates provided by relevant COP decisions (especially in decisions X/29, XI/17 and XI/18).

#### **SOI** Activities Thus Far

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

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

# Regional workshops, partnership meeting, and information-sharing activities (2013 -2014)

- Sustainable Ocean Initiative Capacity Building Workshop for West Africa (4- 8 February, 2013, Dakar, Senegal)
- Sustainable Ocean Initiative 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 Biodiversity Targets through Integrated Coastal Management (2013-2014)
- SOI Global Partnership meeting in conjunction with COP 12 (3-4 Oct 2014, Seoul, Republic of Korea)



# Planned activities (2014-2015)<sup>1</sup>

- SOI High level Meeting as a parallel session of COP 12 High-level Segment (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)
- Further refinement of SOI Website/Information-sharing Platform and development of linkages with other relevant online resources

# **Expected Impacts of SOI Action Plan 2015-2020**

Enhanced cross-sectoral coordination among providers of capacity development related to both science and policy for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity

Improved delivery of tools, resources and knowledge to support the capacity needs of CBD Parties

Increased exchange of knowledge, lessons learned and experiences among global, regional, national and local levels

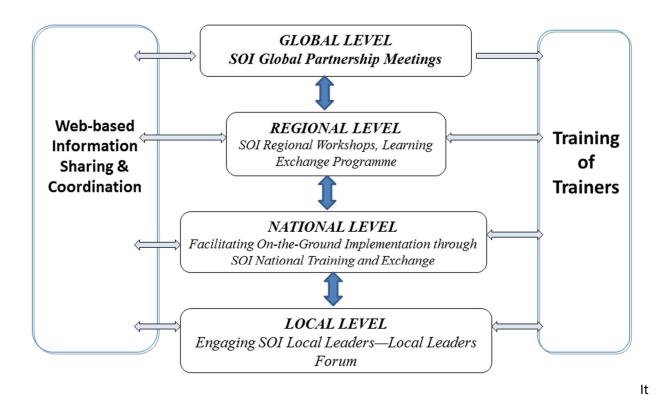
Enhanced sharing of information on progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets through a global platform and community of practitioners

Increased exchange within regions and between regions regarding tools, approaches and knowledge

Improved awareness of, and access to, capacity building opportunities for CBD Parties

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Includes only those events/activities planned thus far.

#### SOI ACTION PLAN 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 multi-stakeholder event in the form of SOI Global Partnership Meetings will be instrumental in planning and coordinating 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.



SOI Global Partnership Meetings will be convened every one 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.

SOI Global Partnership Meetings will also host meetings of the SOI Partners Planning Forums, which involve SOI partners and relevant experts, and focus on taking stock of SOI activities and identifying future opportunities and directions for SOI.

## **Potential Participants**

The SOI Global Partnership Meetings will involve the following:

- Donors and providers of training and capacity support
- Representatives of international and regional organizations
- National government representatives
- Coordinators of initiatives on marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at different scales

#### **Proposed Activities**

The SOI Global Partnership Meetings will entail:

- SOI Partners Planning Forums
- Technical Forums organized thematically responding to priority issues identified by COP in its decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity
- Symposium sessions/side events on specific topics of relevance to the theme of the Meeting
- Exhibits and poster sessions highlighting experiences
- Donor roundtables

# Focusing on Regional Priorities: SOI Regional Workshops and Learning 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-learned, identify opportunities for synergies and partners, cultivate regional networks and communities of practitioners and provide managers and decision makers with the tools 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 Workshops and Learning Exchange Programme will provide key opportunities for information-sharing and peer-to-peer learning and exchange in various regions or sub-regions tailored to the unique needs, priorities and challenges of each area. This will be carried out in close partnership with one or more regional organizations and initiatives (e.g., regional Seas organizations, regional fisheries management organizations or other regional initiatives) and with countries in the region. 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 SOI Regional Workshops and Learning Exchange Programme will aim to:

- Support the development of strong linkages and networking for scientific and technical collaboration 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 national officials and practitioners with the skills and resources they need for sound management of marine resources;
- Provide for the creation of strong group of qualified recipients of support from SOI partners and donors and opportunities for partnerships; and
- Build linkages between global and regional/sub-regional initiatives on marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

#### **Potential Participants**

The SOI Regional Workshops and Learning Exchange Programme will target:

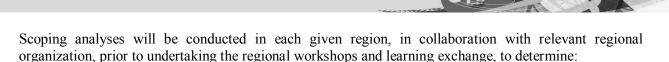
- Practitioners or programme managers at the national level from different sectors (e.g. environment, fishery, etc.)
- Managers and project leaders at regional/sub-regional levels

Individuals who take part in these workshops and learning exchange will compose a SOI community of practitioners, along with individuals who undergo SOI Training of Trainers. These individuals will be encouraged to report on the application of knowledge and tools gained through SOI at SOI Global Partnership Meetings and through the SOI online information-sharing mechanism.

#### **Proposed Activities**

The SOI Regional Workshops and Learning Exchange Programme will entail:

- Packaging of training materials and modules composed of materials, knowledge and experiences of SOI partners and tailored to the unique needs of each region
- Regional workshops focused on delivery of training packages, peer-to-peer exchange sessions, and networking opportunities
- Online forums to facilitate continued dialogue, discussion and exchange among workshop participants through SOI online information-sharing mechanism



- Regional priorities-Capacity building needs of countries in the region; and
- -Capacity building providers active in the region in order to develop synergies and build on existing efforts.

This will allow tailoring to the unique context of the SOI Regional Workshops and Learning Exchange Programme to each region. The Programme will aim to create a unique package of capacity development materials for each region, composed of existing training materials and resources developed by SOI partners (including special skills training in specific areas) tailored to the unique needs of the region in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and deliver this package through regional workshops and follow-up activities.

# 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 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN DOALOS), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission-UNESCO and Blue Solutions/GIZ have developed training materials focused on certain ocean sectors or tools (such as fisheries or marine protected areas) or are in the process of further developing training materials.

A key means to enhance the sustainability, longevity, and broader impact of capacity development is to provide training to individuals who are in a position to transmit the knowledge gained through training to

their colleagues in the respective contexts. This can be done in two key ways: (1) the training recipient carries out further training within their respective agencies/organizations, or (2) the training recipient leads key projects and programmes, transmitting knowledge gained through training to their colleagues by working with them to implement this knowledge in practice (i.e., learning by doing).

#### **Purpose**

The SOI Training of Trainers programme will aim to provide targeted training to individuals in agencies tasked with implementing ocean and coastal management, to support them in not only using this knowledge but also transmitting it to other practitioners. 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.

#### **Potential Participants**

The SOI Training of Trainers will target individuals from national-level agencies tasked with ocean and coastal research and management

Individuals who undergo SOI Training of Trainers will compose a SOI community of practitioners, along with individuals take part in SOI Regional Workshops and Learning Exchange. These individuals will be encouraged to report on the implementation of knowledge and tools gained through SOI at SOI Global Partnership Meetings and through the SOI online information-sharing mechanism.

#### **Proposed Activities**

SOI Training of Trainers will entail:

- Packaging of training materials and modules, 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 at the global or regional scale
- Development of online forum on SOI online information-sharing mechanism to facilitate access to training resources and 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 most up to date information on ocean science and policy

Prior to conducting training of trainers, scoping analyses will be conducted, in collaboration with countries and regional organizations, to assess the priorities, needs, and knowledge and capacity gaps of training recipients. This will also identify which actors are active in providing training in a given region or focal area, with a view to engaging these actors and tailoring existing training materials to the needs of CBD Parties in achieving the Aichi Targets. These scoping assessments will be critical to shaping the training to the needs and interests of the recipients, identifying an appropriate mode of delivery, and also ensuring that the tools and information provided are within the capacity of the recipients to implement after the training. These scoping assessments can rely on various analyses, including national capacity self-assessments submitted to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Ocean Assessment.

As well, SOI Training of Trainers will focus on engaging those training recipients that will best carry on the knowledge and tools gained through this training. This is accomplished by ensuring that countries who send recipients to SOI Training of Trainers will either be supported by their respective agency in undertaking further training using the knowledge gained, or that the individual will be in a lead role in a project or programme related to the training received and therefore in a position to transmit knowledge gained through SOI Training of Trainers to their colleagues through practical application.

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.

# **Training Programme Elements**

The SOI Training of Trainers Programme will package training materials and modules around the following key elements, among others:

- 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 convened 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>2</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 considered by 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 for key tools to support implementation. In the context of capacity development, the provisioning of 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 activity will provide a platform to support 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 (as considered by SBSTTA 18 and COP 12)".

#### **Proposed 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

# Engaging SOI Local Leaders—Local Leaders Forum

# **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 and the benefits of these unique experiences go unutilized by other efforts and initiatives. Also local leaders are often

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>Target 10</u>: 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.



those tasked with 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 back to back with SOI Global Partnership Meetings, as appropriate.

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

## **Potential Participants**

The SOI Local Leader Forums will involve the following:

- Representatives of local authorities with experiences in ocean and coastal management
- Managers and ground-level practitioners at the local level
- Donors and providers of capacity development resources

# **Proposed Activities**

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)

# SOI Web-Based Information-Sharing and Coordination

# **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 decision-makers 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 be a platform to support the activities of SOI and maintain communication among SOI partners and training recipients by providing a means by which SOI partners can learn about progress of SOI activities, provide updates on their own activities, identify opportunities for partnerships, and access key resources and capacity development materials. This will also bolster external coordination by providing a means to support synergies with other related initiatives and identify opportunities for partnerships.

The SOI information-sharing mechanism will prove especially useful to global, regional and national-level decision-makers, managers and practitioners, and donors, and will provide a means to enhance the exposure and uptake of capacity building tools and resources of SOI partners.

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 sources of relevant information on case-studies, best practices, tools and solutions
- Provide linkages to relevant training materials of SOI partners
- Provide an online presence necessary to support on-ground implementation and maintain ongoing dialogue among the SOI community of practice (i.e., recipients of training through SOI Training of Trainers and Regional Workshops and Learning Exchange)
- Support coordination among the activities of SOI partners
- Support linkages to various global and regional policy processes
- Highlight experiences of CBD Parties in moving towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Provide a means for those who have taken part in SOI activities to report on progress made in their respective regions, countries or communities using the tools/resources/information provided through SOI

#### **Proposed Activities**

Information-sharing and coordination will be primarily facilitated through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative website and online information-sharing mechanism, which will be linked to other online mechanisms, including the CBD EBSA portal website (<a href="http://www.cbd.int/ebsa/">http://www.cbd.int/ebsa/</a>), the Blue Solutions online platform, the CBD's NBSAP Forum (<a href="http://nbsapforum.net">http://nbsapforum.net</a>), and an on-line information-sharing mechanism on the use and experiences of marine spatial planning (being developed in response to decision XI/18), and many other web-based information-sharing mechanisms. In this way, the SOI information-sharing mechanism will provide a portal for CBD Parties and other SOI partners to access relevant information on scientific and technical resources, tools and approaches, experiences and best practices, and training materials relevant to their work in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity. The SOI information-sharing mechanism will also serve to maintain ongoing communication and exchange among SOI partners and those engaged in SOI activities, including



the SOI Training of Trainers thereby providing a means for members of the SOI community of practitioners to stay informed of each other's activities.

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