

## GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

**CHILD PROJECT TYPE:** FULL-SIZED CHILD PROJECT

**PROGRAM:** OTHER PROGRAM

<b>Child Project Title:</b>	<i>Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (The Cross-Sectoral Project, Common Oceans Program, Phase II)</i>
<b>Country:</b>	Global
<b>Lead Agency</b>	FAO
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	UNEP

### INDICATIVE FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS AND FINANCING

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
IW 2	GEF	2,500,000	21,550,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>21,550,000</b>

### PROJECT COMPONENTS AND FINANCING

<b>Project Objective:</b> Develop and strengthen capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination among national, regional and global institutions in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ.						
Project Components	Component Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-Financing
<b>Component 1.</b> Building and strengthening capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 1.1</b> Enhanced functional capacity of national, regional and global organizations in sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination initiatives in ABNJ management.</p> <p><b>Indicators and Targets (indicative):</b> - % improvement in capacity representing enhanced application of area based management tools (ABMTs), environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and marine spatial planning.</p>	<p><b>Output 1.1.1</b> Assessment of individual and institutional capacity needs and priorities completed.</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.2</b> A capacity-building program developed to address identified needs and priorities (engaging at least 10 national, regional and global organizations and at least 100 individuals).</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.3</b></p>	GEF	1,600,000	14,481,602

			<p>Program implemented targeting at least 10 national, regional and global organizations and at least 100 individuals (officials/managers/staff) within those organizations.</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.4</b> Options identified for institutionalizing mechanisms for the sustained implementation of capacity building, including through the development of strategic partnerships and financing.</p>			
<p><b>Component 2.</b> Improving sectoral and cross-sectoral knowledge management on and public awareness of ABNJ.</p>	<p>Technical Assistance</p>	<p><b>Outcome 2.1</b> Effective knowledge exchange and improved access to the best available information for well-informed decision-making in cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination among key ABNJ management organizations (national, regional and global).</p> <p><b>Indicators and Targets (indicative):</b> - A cross-organizational knowledge exchange process tested in each pilot region.</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1.1</b> A map of data providers and stakeholders produced, and options and opportunities identified for an institutionalized system of knowledge management at regional and national levels.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.2</b> An established and documented sustainable process for improved cross-</p>	<p>GEF</p>	<p>780,952</p>	<p>7,068,398</p>

		- # improvement in effectiveness score/indicator.	organizational knowledge exchange within regions.			
	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 2.2</b> Increased understanding by the International Waters community and high-level officials in the BBNJ process regarding sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ priorities and corresponding actions/processes to address those needs.</p> <p><b>Indicators and Targets (indicative):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity building activities given consideration in the BBNJ process.</li> <li>- At least 2 IW:LEARN Experience Notes documenting knowledge and experiences gained through the project's sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity building activities produced</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output 2.2.1</b> Documented knowledge and experiences gained from the project's sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity building activities are shared through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the Common Oceans Portal, 2) GEF IW:LEARN Experience Notes and IW conferences and topical/regional events, and 3) events in the BBNJ process.</li> </ul>			
	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 2.3</b> Enhanced understanding of ABNJ benefits derived from ABNJ and engagement in associated sectoral and cross-sectoral issues and opportunities by the media and the public.</p> <p><b>Indicators and Targets (indicative):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # Communications products and events delivered to target stakeholders;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output 2.3.1</b> Knowledge and communication products systematically developed and disseminated, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a short, online self-paced introductory course on ABNJ.</li> <li>- high-level outreach event(s)</li> </ul>			

		- Survey results showing improved awareness and understanding of benefits derived from ABNJ and engagement in associated sectoral and cross-sectoral issues.	- brochures, video, posters.			
Subtotal			GEFT F	2,380,952	21,550,000	
Project Management Cost (PMC)			GEFT F	119,048		
<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>21,550,000</b>	

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ( )

**INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized <sup>1</sup>	Amount (\$)
<i>Discussions are underway with the following possible capacity co-financing partners:</i>				
<i>Lead Project Organizations</i>	Global Ocean Forum	Grant	Investment Mobilized	1,500,000
	WCMC	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	1,000,000
	GRID-Arendal	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	2,500,000
	UNEP	Grant	Investment Mobilized	1,500,000
<i>Invited governments:</i>	France	Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
	New Zealand	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
	Portugal	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
	Netherlands	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000

<sup>1</sup> Identification of investment mobilized: These include non-recurring expenditures associated with projects in the lead project organizations, government organizations, foundations, UN agencies, civil society, and private sector in the form of financial contributions (grants) and/or in-kind contributions (e.g., salaries and wages, office space, and utilities) that are directly related to the activities of the Cross-Sectoral Project.

		Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
	Singapore	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
	European Commission	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
	Norway	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
	Sweden	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	500,000
<i>Foundations</i>	OPRI, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	250,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	750,000
	Nippon Foundation, Japan	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	375,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	1,125,000
	Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	750,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	250,000
	Pew Charitable Trusts	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	750,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	250,000
<i>UN Agencies</i>	UNDOALOS	Grant	Investment Mobilized	75,000
	IOC/UNESCO	Grant	Investment Mobilized	75,000
	CBD Secretariat	Grant	Investment Mobilized	75,000
	IMO	Grant	Investment Mobilized	75,000
	UNDP	Grant	Investment Mobilized	75,000
	World Tourism Organization	Grant	Investment Mobilized	75,000

<i>Regional Organizations</i>	Pacific Islands Forum	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	Abidjan Convention	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	Nairobi Convention	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	OSPAR	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	IOTC	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	SIOFA	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	CARICOM	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	CPPS	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	NEAFC	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	SPRFMO	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	WCPFC	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	Benguela Commission LME	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000

		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	Sargasso Sea Commission	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
<i>Civil Society</i>	iAtlantic	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	STRONG High Seas Project	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	112,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	37,500
	Nausicaa National Sea Center, France	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	112,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	37,500
	World Ocean Network	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	25,000
	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	112,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	37,500
	World Maritime University	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	112,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	37,500
	WWF	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	112,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	37,500
	GOBI	Grant	Investment Mobilized	150,000
	Wollongong University, Australia	Grant	Investment Mobilized	75,000
	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association	Grant	Investment Mobilized	75,000
	University of South Pacific	In Kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
	University of West Indies	In kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
	University of Cape Town	In Kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000

	Xiamen University, China	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	75,000
<i>Private Sector</i>	International Cable Protection Committee	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	37,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	112,500
	International Chamber of Shipping	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	37,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	112,500
	International Coalition of Fisheries Associations	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	37,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	112,500
	Google	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	37,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	112,500
	Facebook	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	37,500
		Grant	Investment Mobilized	112,500
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>\$21,550,000</b>

**TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS**

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEF	Global	International Waters		2,500,000	225,000	2,725,000
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>2,725,000</b>

**PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)**

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

Yes  If yes, PPG funds **have to be requested via the Portal** once the PFD is approved

No  If no, skip this item.

**PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS**

		Country/	Focal Area	Programming	(in \$)
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GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Regional/Global		of Funds	PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEF	Global	International Waters		100,000	9,000	109,000
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>					100,000	9,000	109,000

### PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEF 7 CORE INDICATORS

Provide the relevant sub-indicator values for this project using the methodologies indicated in the Core Indicator Worksheet provided in Annex B and aggregating them in the table below. Progress in programming against these targets is updated at the time of CEO endorsement, at midterm evaluation, and at terminal evaluation. Achieved targets will be aggregated and reported at anytime during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Project Core Indicators		Expected at PIF
1	<b>Terrestrial protected areas</b> created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	N.A.
2	<b>Marine protected areas</b> created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	N.A.
3	Area of <b>land restored</b> (Hectares)	N.A.
4	Area of <b>landscapes under improved practices</b> (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	N.A.
5	Area of <b>marine habitat under improved practices</b> (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	N.A.
6	<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated</b> (metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e) Help to bring climate	N.A.
7	<b>Number of shared water ecosystems</b> (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	2
8	Globally over-exploited <b>marine fisheries</b> moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)	N.A.
9	<b>Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination</b> and avoidance of <b>chemicals of global concern</b> and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)	N.A.
10	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of <b>POPs to air</b> from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	N.A.
11	Number of <b>direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender</b> as co-benefit of GEF investment	1,750 Women and 1,750 Men

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 1. Country Context (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

Human activities and stakeholder interests in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) are wide-ranging and diverse: 90% of world trade and extensive submarine telecommunications cables pass through ABNJ; significant marine capture fisheries (i.e. 16% of the value of all marine capture fisheries comes from tuna fisheries), and a rich array of unique biodiversity and vulnerable ecosystems exist in ABNJ. With activities in ABNJ set to increase, communication

and coordination among ABNJ stakeholders is vital to ensure the long-term sustainability and sustainable development of these resources.

Activities in ABNJ are governed under the framework of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), together with specialized international agreements related to particular activities. Some sectors are governed at the global scale by UN specialized agencies, including shipping, governed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Fisheries are governed by RFMOs at a regional scale and under global guidelines from FAO. The marine environment is managed through the aforementioned organizations, as well as: 18 RSPs that facilitate regional-scale ocean assessment and management of trans-boundary issues; 23 LME programs that convene countries bordering major ocean current systems to conduct transboundary analyses and the develop strategic action programs for long-term governance of transboundary resources; and other regional arrangement such as the Pacific Islands Forum and CARICOM. These regional arrangements are driven by the interests of Member States, which vary across regions depending on regional context and sustainable development priorities, for example area-based management, fisheries or transboundary action. Presently, there is no global organization responsible for addressing biodiversity and multiple resource use issues in ABNJ on a cross-sectoral basis.

2020 represents a “super year” for biodiversity and the environment, with many global processes ending, assessing progress or kicking-off, including: the 2030 Agenda and associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and upcoming UN Decade of Action and UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. These processes will reiterate the importance of integrated, cross-sectoral management to achieve a global sustainable resource use. This includes the conclusion of ongoing UN negotiations to agree a new international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (expected in 2021). This new agreement will provide a new legal framework for, *inter alia*, cross-sectoral ABNJ management.

This project aims to enhance the **sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity of national governments, and relevant regional and global entities** to effectively address issues of common concern in ABNJ, including through the use of cross-sectoral approaches, area-based management tools and in conducting environmental impact/strategic environmental assessments, in line with existing and emerging legal frameworks and global processes. Specifically, the project will build the capacity of regional organizations (e.g., *inter alia*, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs), Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) programs), their Member States (officials, managers, ministerial representatives), and representatives from global ocean-related organizations, to facilitate cross-sectoral coordination to achieve sustainable ocean use.

To support regional and global entities (and their Member States) to progress towards the implementation of a new BBNJ agreement, and towards global targets, such as SDG14 (specifically targets 14.2, 14.5, 14.4 and 14.C), the project will develop and deliver capacity-building activities to build functional capacity (i.e. planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating) to undertake and sustain sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation, coordination and information exchange. Throughout, the project will pursue practical and catalytic outcomes, and stimulate stronger, more coordinated linkages across relevant global processes through direct

engagement with global and regional ocean groups and dialogues, such as High Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy and Friends of Ocean Action.

## **2. Project Overview and Approach** (*maximum 1250 words*)

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;

This project combines a global scope with activities centered on 2 specific regions (to be selected during the project preparation stage; see initial selection process of the project's focus regions in Annex 1), during which the project team will work with RFMOs, RSPs, LME programs, and other relevant regional and global organizations as well as their national focal points from member states.

A systemic challenge in managing transboundary impacts on biodiversity and sustainable use of ABNJ resources to be addressed by this project will be the separate ABNJ governance framework and the need for improved capacity for coordination, collaboration and cooperation among individuals and organizations with an interest or management remit in ABNJ. Growing interest in protecting ABNJ, growth in human activities in ABNJ, as well as the future governance mechanism being developed by the BBNJ process are drivers that will demand significantly enhanced capacity over time.

- b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework

Some cooperation and coordination mechanisms already exist among RSPs, LME Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs—including RFMOs), with variation across regions. For example, in the West, Central and Southern Africa Region, cooperation between RFBs and the Abidjan Convention has been initiated. In the Northeast Atlantic, a Collective Agreement between OSPAR and NEAFC was forged to facilitate and improve information exchange between the two organizations, and coordination of efforts to protect the wider marine ecosystem and to develop coordinated approaches to managing human activities, including in protected areas. The effectiveness of such mechanisms ultimately depends on the capacity of member states of regional bodies. At present, capacity to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination activities is generally lacking among these regional organizations and their member states.

A Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) [report](#) on Assessment of Governance Arrangements for the Ocean, which examined over 100 international agreements comprising the global ocean governance structure for fisheries, pollution, biodiversity and climate change in ABNJ and considered the linkages of governance arrangements in ABNJ with those for areas within national jurisdiction confirmed that there is considerable room for improvement in integration at the global and regional levels of ocean governance, and that there are indications of where interventions may be needed towards a more approachable ocean governance structure.

Ongoing relevant capacity building initiatives include, among others: 1) the STRONG High Seas Project, which aims to support regional cooperation and coordination by providing regional level

decision-makers with improved knowledge and understanding about the gaps, challenges and opportunities in the legal and governance framework; 2) the work of the Global Ocean Forum to enhance understanding of capacity-building needs in ABNJ through the ‘Friends of BBNJ Capacity Development’ forum, and providing information to country delegations throughout the BBNJ process to formulate robust provisions for capacity-building in the new international agreement.

Action towards sustainable use of ABNJ is driven predominantly by nations. These same States seek to progress towards the globally agreed SDGs, of which many will benefit from the effective management of ABNJ. In particular, SDG 2 on ending hunger and achieving food security; SDG 8 on promoting sustainable economic growth and decent work for all; SDG14 on sustainable ocean use (specifically 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.A and 14.C); and SDG 17 on partnerships. The effective management of ABNJ will therefore support countries to more effectively progress towards these goals and others, working to promote sustainable resource use and collaboration across countries, sectors and organizations to combat the adverse impacts of human activities and climate change (SDG 13).

Work is currently underway by the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (HPL) expert network and advisory group to improve understanding of the current and future uses of the ocean, including ABNJ, for food, energy and minerals, as well as research into the relationship between humans and the ocean. These reports are due to be completed in 2020, and the project will utilize these findings to influence the development and undertaking of project activities. In addition, and where possible, the project team will directly engage with the HPL as well as with other relevant global and regional bodies to promote collaboration and sharing of experience and expertise related to ABNJ management.

Previous work conducted under Phase I of the Common Oceans Program has built the base to accelerate the upscaling of capacity building among national, regional, and global actors:

--The Global Ocean Forum led the ABNJ Capacity Project Phase I, and together with FAO, undertook capacity development assessments and targeted training of national, regional, and global level leaders, as well as information exchange activities to enhance the capacity of stakeholders at global, regional, and national levels to address issues of common concern in ABNJ. Such activities included, inter alia, targeted workshops on assessing capacity needs and possible actions, including financing, bringing together leaders from different regions; organization of UN side events at the BBNJ global negotiations focusing especially on possible modalities for capacity development under the new agreement; the preparation of multi-author policy briefs on the possible configuration of capacity development efforts linking global, regional, and national processes and activities, and considering options for underlying financing and for a clearing-house information mechanism; media and public outreach, with the aquaria community, to inform the general public as to the public role in ABNJ stewardship. See Capacity Project (Common Oceans Program Phase 1) synopsis [here](#).

--The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), together with FAO, UNEP-WCMC and GRID-Arendal, in the Deep Seas Project, explored options for collaborative management in the ABNJ in a manner that accounts for and integrates social, ecological, and governance principles

to achieve sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ. Together with national and regional level stakeholders, the project focused on two pilot regions (Western Indian Ocean and Southeast Pacific Ocean), focusing on an area-based planning framework, also assessing existing capacity for area-based planning in each region, and developing a prototype knowledge platform and database on ABNJ governance to complement existing ocean data platforms and webGIS portals.

Both projects carried out multi-stakeholder workshops and ensured gender integration in project initiatives. The Capacity Project (Common Oceans Phase I), for example, achieved close to 50% participation by women in its activities (see Capacity Project synopsis [here](#) and information on the Deep Seas Project [here](#)).

The planned investments of the project will have two components:

### **1. Building and Strengthening Capacity for Sectoral and Cross-sectoral Cooperation and Coordination**

### **2. Improving Sectoral and Cross-sectoral Knowledge Management on and Public Awareness of ABNJ**

Stakeholder consultation and engagement as well as gender integration in all project activities and interventions will be carried out starting from the project preparation phase. This ensures that stakeholder and balanced gender interests and perspectives are well represented and incorporated in the project activities, outputs, and outcomes.

- c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits; and

The project's theory of change (Annex 2) shows a multi-track approach through which to improve capacity for constructive networking of national, regional and global entities with interests or management responsibilities in ABNJ. It is broken down into five outcomes and eight outputs across the above two components:

Component 1 has a major outcome (Outcome 1.1), which envisions that national, regional and global entities will have enhanced functional capacity to address issues of common concern in the ABNJ and to network within and across sectoral entities. This will be achieved by assessing existing capacity and identification of gaps, developing and implementing capacity building programs in response to identified needs (training aimed at individuals and institutions); and identifying mechanisms to institutionalize and sustain implementation of capacity building (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4). Component 1 will contribute to the Common Oceans Programme Phase II Component 3.

Component 2 has four outcomes:

Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 envision more effective knowledge exchange happening across national, regional and global entities, achieved by mapping data providers and stakeholders with

information needs (Output 2.1.1) and establishing a sustainable process for improved cross-organizational knowledge exchange (Output 2.1.2).

Outcome 2.3 envisions an increased understanding by high-level officials in the BBNJ process of the project's capacity building work, via the Common Oceans Portal, IW:LEARN, the GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences, and special events in the BBNJ process (Output 2.3.1).

Outcome 2.4 envisions an enhanced public understanding of ABNJ and engagement in associated issues and opportunities. Public awareness is needed to support policy-making as well as concrete actions in improved ABNJ management.

The Component 2 Outcomes link to the Common Oceans Programme Phase II Component 4.

All proposed Project Outcomes are expected to have a flow-on effect of effective and sustainable transparent cross-sectoral governance of natural resources in ABNJ (Programme Medium-term Outcome) and eventually to sustainable use of ABNJ resources and strengthened biodiversity conservation in face of a changing environment (Programme Goal) as depicted in the Programme Theory of Change.

- d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

This project will provide a step-change in the status quo, by developing a necessary foundation for effective and cooperative networks of ABNJ actors to be built. Such networks can take many forms, but they share one characteristic, which is that they have to be developed by the existing relevant national, regional and global entities themselves—and it is their capacity to do this that this project aims to build. This creates a foundation for better and more collaborative and coordinated management actions to be taken in the future, addressing both growing demands on ABNJ resources and growing pressures to protect ABNJ biodiversity, and facilitating, as well, the effective implementation of the future legally binding international agreement on BBNJ.

Building of capacity must be tailored to the unique characteristics of each region, and utilize home-grown approaches. Pathways to capacity development, include, inter alia, fostering national and regional centers of excellence and cross-national networks of universities on ocean governance related to EEZs and to ABNJ; institutionalization of curricula and courses related to ABNJ; networked institutional utilization of manuals, guidelines, criteria, standards, and reference materials related to ABNJ, etc. This project will assess and identify the most suitable mechanisms as well as their financing requirements and potential financing sources including existing innovative ocean financing schemes, e.g., those that function within the LMEs, which may offer certain lessons learned of potential applicability in ABNJ (see, for example, [Meloy Fund for Sustainable Community Fisheries](#) and [Seychelles Blue Bond](#)). See, as well, two multi-author policy briefs on capacity development prepared by the ABNJ Capacity Project in the Common Oceans Phase I: [2018](#); [2019](#)) which address capacity development linkages among global, regional, and national levels; options for addressing, inter alia, area-based management and environmental impact assessment associated with the BBNJ agreement; options for a clearinghouse mechanism for knowledge management; options for financing to support capacity

development; and approaches to building capacity to address climate change issues present in ABNJ.

The project will form an Advisory Committee bringing together representatives from major ocean industries operating in the ABNJ such as the International Coalition of Fishing Associations, International Chamber of Shipping, the International Cable Protection Committee, and others, to provide perspectives of direct users of the ABNJ and to engage in knowledge exchange. Considering the prospects of tourism in ABNJ, the World Tourism Organization could be part of the Advisory Committee as well. This project will also invite new private sector stakeholders such as Google, Facebook, and others in the technology sector to participate in the Advisory Committee--these companies have a direct interest in deep sea cables and are already involved in the construction of subsea cables in some regions. Given their enormous public reach, including these organizations can also bolster the communications and public outreach components of this project. As well, important data providers that are highly active in the data management area within the ABNJ space, such as Vulcan, would be useful additions to the Advisory Committee, especially in terms of the Knowledge Management Component.

### **3. Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework** (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

The Project will ensure that the links between this and other projects in the Common Oceans Program Phase II are continuously maintained. Other proposed projects in the program are focused more specifically on improving either fisheries management or environmental protection. This project therefore constitutes an integral element of the overall program, tying it together across multiple sectors.

The Cross-Sectoral Project will collaborate and coordinate with the Global Coordination Project (GCP), sharing its activities on strengthening of capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ, and dissemination of knowledge, by documenting all the capacity building, cross-sectoral exchanges, and knowledge management activities of the Project for timely dissemination through the Program and the Cross-Sectoral Project websites and other communications activities of the Project.

Uptake of project outputs and products will be facilitated through a participatory and collaborative approach. This will include extensive engagement with stakeholders such as resource managers, industry representatives, decision-makers within relevant regional, sectoral and global organizations, and national governments in the regions. Together, this will strengthen regional engagement, buy-in and ownership of the project. Project outputs will demonstrate the essential role of capacity development in undertaking cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ, and of regional information systems, and will serve as flagship reference for decision-makers, national and regional organizations operating in ABNJ and other sectors, supporting the ongoing BBNJ process and the eventual implementation of the resulting Agreement, and the wider conservation and management ambitions.

Outputs will feed directly into the UN-led process to develop (and ultimately to implement) the new legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ and will raise the global profile and significance of BBNJ management and conservation. Through attendance at high level meetings and workshops, the wider international community involved in the BBNJ process and other ongoing global processes (e.g. the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, etc.) will be consulted and made aware of the project and its associated outputs. In order to ensure the greatest impact, dissemination of project products will be undertaken in a number of ways, as noted below:

- Direct communication and information sharing with project partners and in-region organizations
- Wider communication with other projects and/or regions to share lessons or ‘best practice’ for similar approaches
- Dedicated website on ABNJ Capacity Development
- Contributions to the IW:LEARN newsletters and IW:LEARN international/regional/topical conferences
- Online media, such as project and project partner websites, including the FAO Common Oceans website and the IW:LEARN Platform
- Social media
- Online information-sharing and/or training webinars
- Knowledge exchange and information sharing workshops and training workshops
- Dissemination of project outputs at regional and international events, such as side events at BBNJ process, COFI meetings, CBD and IMO meetings, meetings of Regional Organizations, especially information packages, containing, among others, policy briefs and infographics, to inform national governments and regional/international entities towards more informed decision making.

In principle, environmental improvement in ABNJ is considered to be global environmental benefits. Filling a capacity gap for BBNJ management would be incremental to the countries’ and regions’ existing sectoral investment in the ABNJ. Countries and regions have different starting points, cultures, capacities, and achievements, including socioeconomic and institutional/governance arrangements. Instead of a one-size-fits-all solution, capacity development efforts under this project will build on and strengthen local innovations and good capacity building practices while filling gaps for global participation. Strengthening the capacity of countries to manage both their national EEZs and to participate in collaborative ocean governance in ABNJ is important for integrated ocean management.



## GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet (Annex B)

<b>Core Indicator 7</b>	<b>Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</b>			
<b>Indicator 7.2</b>	<b>Level of Regional Legal Agreement and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation</b>			
Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
	PIF stage	Endorsement	Mid-Term Review	Terminal Evaluation
Pacific Islands Region/Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	1	1	1.5	1.5
Nairobi Convention (Western Indian Ocean)	1	1	1.5	1.5
Abidjan Convention (Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region)	1	1	1.5	1.5
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) (Southeast Pacific)	1	1	1.5	1.5
Bay of Bengal	1	1	1.5	1.5
Caribbean	1	1	1.5	1.5
2 regions (to be decided during PP phase)				
<p>1 = No regional legal agreement, or neither institutional framework nor RMI in place [for the Cross-Sectoral Project, we take this to mean a new regional cross-sectoral mechanism on ABNJ]</p> <p>A rating of 1.5 means capacity is built to develop a new regional cross-sectoral mechanism in ABNJ by the end of the project.</p> <p>2 = Regional legal agreement under development</p> <p>3 = Regional legal agreement signed and RMI in place</p> <p>4 = Regional legal agreement ratified and RMI functional</p>				
<b>Indicator 7.3</b>	<b>Level of National/Local Reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees</b>			
Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
	PIF stage	Endorsement	Mid-Term Review	Terminal Evaluation
Pacific Islands Region/Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	1	1	1.5	1.5
Nairobi Convention (Western Indian Ocean)	1	1	1.5	1.5

Abidjan Convention (Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region)	1	1	1.5	1.5
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) (Southeast Pacific)	1	1	1.5	1.5
Bay of Bengal	1	1	1.5	1.5
Caribbean	1	1	1.5	1.5
2 regions (to be decided during PP phase)	1	1	1.5	1.5

1 = Neither national/local reforms nor IMCs [for the Cross-Sectoral Project, we take this to mean any new cross-sectoral mechanism developed at the national level, including Inter-Ministerial Committees on ABNJ]  
A rating of 1.5 means capacity is built to develop any new national cross-sectoral mechanism for ABNJ by the end of the project.  
2 = National/local reforms in preparation, IMCs functional  
3 = National/local reforms and IMCs in place  
4 = National/local reforms/policies implemented, supported by IMCs

<b>Indicator 7.4</b>	<b>Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products</b>			
Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
	PIF stage	Endorsement	Mid-Term Review	Terminal Evaluation
Pacific Islands Region/Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	1	1	2	4
Nairobi Convention (Western Indian Ocean)	1	1	2	4
Abidjan Convention (Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region)	1	1	2	4
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) (Southeast Pacific)	1	1	2	4
Bay of Bengal	1	1	2	4
Caribbean	1	1	2	4
2 regions (to be decided during PP phase)				

1 = No participation  
2 = Website in line with IW:LEARN guidance active  
3 = As above, plus strong participation in training/twinning events and production of at least one experience note and one results note

4 = As above, plus active participation of project staff and country representatives at International Waters conferences and the provision of spatial data and other data points via project website.

Indicator 11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment					
			Number			
		Expected		Achieved*		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	Mid-Term Review	Terminal Evaluation	
	Female	1,750				
	Male	1,750				
	<i>Total</i>	3,500				

This indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support from a given GEF project/activity and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Support is defined as direct assistance from the project/activity. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving targeted support from a given project. Targeted support is the intentional and direct assistance of a project to individuals or groups of individuals who are aware that they are receiving that support and/or who use the specific resources.

\*For the Cross-Sectoral Project, we expect to achieve 500 participants from Outcome 1.1; 500 participants from Outcome 2.1; 500 participants from Outcome 2.2; 2,000 participants from Outcome 2.3 (media event and online self-paced training) = 3,500 participants

## Annex 1. Selection of Project's Focus Regions

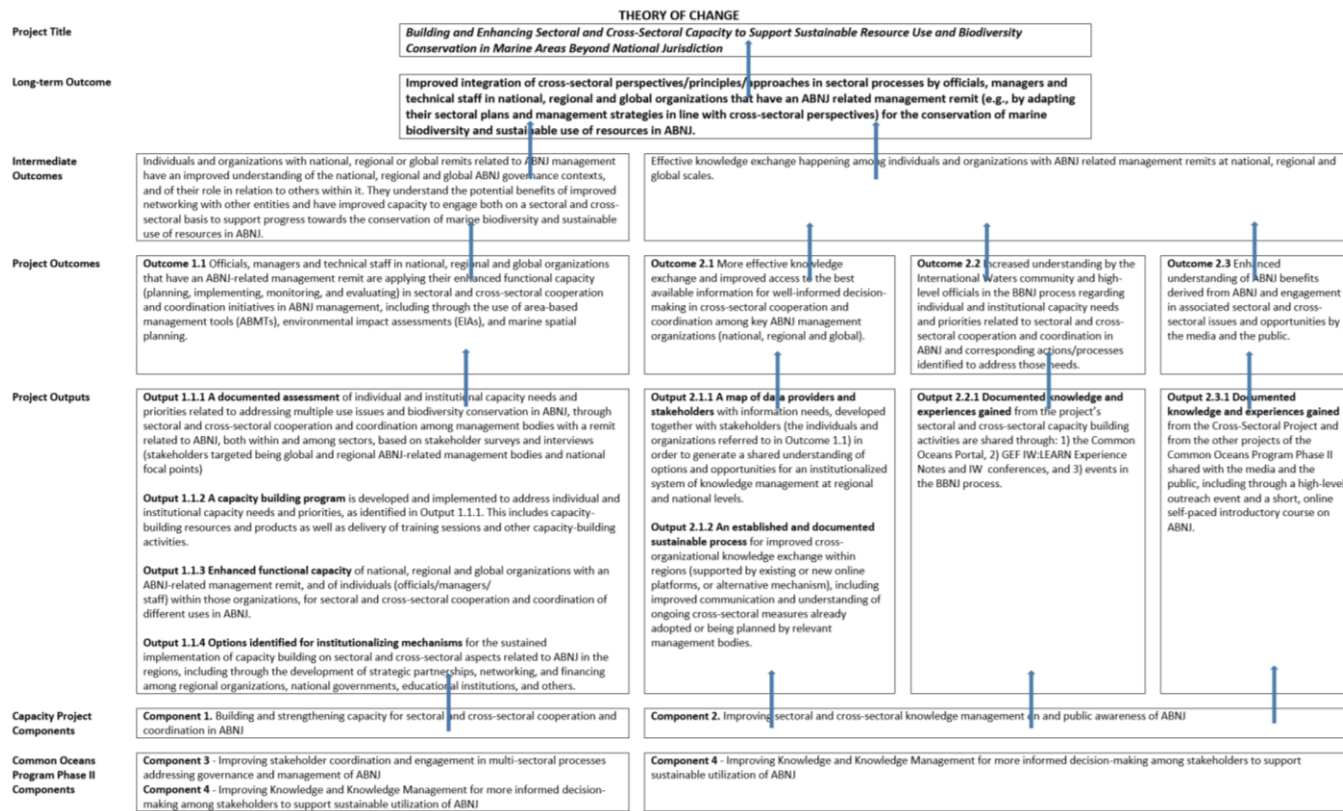
During the PPG process and following consultation with partners and candidate regional entities, we will consider the selection of two regions for special attention in the project, analyzing, inter alia, the following factors.

The regions under consideration are Pacific Islands Region/Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Nairobi Convention (Western Indian Ocean), Abidjan Convention (Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region), Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) (Southeast Pacific), Bay of Bengal, and the Caribbean region.

Possible draft selection criteria:

1. *Nature and complexity of the region*—e.g., area covered; number of countries; economic/social value; resource utilization issues; climate change issues; etc.
2. *Nature of and issues in the adjoining ABNJ areas*—e.g., major resources and issues in the ABNJ areas; patterns of resource utilization; economic/social value; interaction between resources and issues in the ABNJ and in EEZ areas; climate change issues; etc.
3. *Existing/past efforts in ocean/coastal management in the region, both related to EEZs and ABNJ*—e.g., past and current efforts to analyze and map uses and issues in the relevant EEZs/ABNJ in the region; past discussions among regional entities and national governments in the region vis-à-vis EEZs and ABNJ; possible methodologies utilized in the context of EEZs which might be applied in the context of ABNJ (e.g. TDA/SAP in the case of the LME programs; Regional conventions and regional action plans in the case of the Regional Seas Program,); etc.
4. *Presence of a (or several) major regional entity charged with ocean and coastal affairs in the region*—area of competence of the regional entity; remit/authority over EEZ; remit/authority over ABNJ issues; interest and commitment of the regional entity in participating in the project; etc.
5. *Perspectives of key sponsors (GEF), lead agencies (FAO), project partners (partners participating in the process, including leaders in the BBNJ process), on what regional foci may best achieve global purposes (e.g., as “test cases” for the implementation of the BBNJ agreement, fulfillment of global goals such as SDG 14).*
6. *Other relevant factors.*

## Annex 2. Cross-Sectoral Project Theory of Change



Possible assumptions to build into ToC:

1. There is limited capacity among the regional organizations (RFMOs, RSPs, LME programs, other regional organizations) and their national focal points as well as the secretariats of global sectoral organizations for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation in ABNJ.
2. There is limited awareness of individual sectoral processes and exchange of information across sectors to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in ABNJ.
3. There is insufficient recognition of the impacts that multiple sectors have on biodiversity and the co-benefits of environmentally-based and sustainable development-based policy action on ocean management in ABNJ
4. Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation can enable co-benefits based strategies through cross-sectoral assessment of both the benefits of action and the costs of inaction.
5. Deeper understanding of existing sectoral and cross-sectoral governance and management in ABNJ will help policy makers to make more informed decisions to design, target, implement, and evaluate interventions.