



South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

1st Meeting of the Scientific Committee

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SC-01-INF-21

The ABNJ Deep-Sea Project



THE ABNJ DEEP-SEA PROJECT

INFORMATION NOTE FOR SPRFMO OCTOBER 2013

Background

1. The project “Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (The ABNJ Deep Seas Project)”¹ aims to achieve efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for:

- improving sustainable management practices for deep-sea fisheries, taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems
- improving the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and
- testing improved area-based planning for deep sea ecosystems.

2. The Project will be funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) with co-financing, including in-kind contributions, from FAO and partner agencies. Potential project partners include, amongst others, deep-sea RFMOs such as SPRFMO, SEAFO, SIOFA, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC and other multilateral organizations such as CCAMLR.

3. The ABNJ Program consists of four projects: Tuna, Deep Seas, Oceans Partnership and Capacity. The ABNJ Deep Seas Project has three technical components lead by FAO (policy and legal, VMEs and EBSAs, adaptive management and EAF) and one component lead by UNEP (area based planning).

4. The ABNJ Programme was approved by GEF in November 2011, and the concept note for the ABNJ Deep Seas Project in June 2012. The project preparation phase started in full in January 2013.

5. A summary document on the ABNJ Programme and the deep-seas project is provided in Annex 2 and the detailed activities matrix can be provided from FAO. Extensive stakeholder consultation and participation has been sought amongst the potential partner agencies for the further development of major activities and expected outcome, and these discussions are summarized in the project’s matrix of outcomes, outputs and activities that can be made available from FAO.

¹ http://www.thegef.org/gef/project_detail?projID=4660



Potential SPRFMO collaboration

6. The project consists of both global and regional pilot activities, the pilot regions being the Indian Ocean, the Southeast Atlantic and the South Pacific (mainly through Component 4). One aspect of SPRFMO's collaboration in the ABNJ Deep Seas Project could be to contribute information, background material and expertise for the sharing of experiences and lessons learned from SPRFMO and its members through the different processes supported by the project.

7. Similarly SPRFMO can benefit from the various lessons learning and networking opportunities that the project provides on the different topic areas covered by the project. This also include potential partnership arrangements or exchanges between deep-sea RFMOs for improving data collection and monitoring of fisheries and biodiversity, generating mutual benefits for the ABNJ Deep Seas Project and the partners concerned.

8. The proposed collaboration in the project by SPRFMO would be consistent with the Commission's objectives and current work plan. SPRFMO's participation in the project will contribute towards the achievement of international goals on improved fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the deep seas. The project's expected outcomes, including improved sustainable management practices for deep-sea fisheries and improved approached for protecting VMEs, may also provide new information and contributions to SPRFMO's work.

9. Related opportunities for collaboration on FAOs work on deep-sea high seas fisheries, include the work related to the development of a global VME database of which a prototype has been developed and is under discussions with partners. In addition, there is the possibility of collaborating on the organization of a regional VME workshop for the South Pacific which is part of the regional workshops on VMEs conducted by FAO (previous meetings were held in the Indian Ocean and the Southeast Atlantic, and the upcoming meeting in March for the north Pacific).

Next steps for the ABNJ Deep-sea project

10. A draft project document will be shared with potential partners for comments at the end of October, and a meeting will be held in Rome on 4-6 November 2013 to finalize discussions with those partners requiring further information or discussions. A representative from SPRFMO is welcome to join in this discussion. Based on the confirmation from partners on the proposed areas of involvement, and comments received, FAO and UNEP will submit the final project document to GEF in December 2013. The final project document will need to be accompanied by co-financing letters from each partner identifying co-financing to the ABNJ- Deep Seas Project. This co-financing is mainly in-kind, calculated on the basis of related ongoing processes within the RFMOs (e.g. as a percentage of budgets related to the work of the scientific committee, secretariat staff time, office space and operating/overhead costs associated with SPRFMO's core activities which may be considered as contributions to the Deep Seas Project).

11. FAO would like to ask SPRFMO to consider becoming a partner to the ABNJ Deep-sea project and provide a letter of support for GEF. An example letter is provided below (Annex I). FAO would be available to discuss such a letter further with SPRFMO.



ANNEX I – EXAMPLE OF CO-FINANCING LETTER

RFB ORGANISATIONS LETTER HEAD

November 2013

Barbara Cooney,
FAO-GEF Coordination Unit,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00153 Rome, Italy

Ref: xxxx

Subject: Co-financing letter for the FAO-GEF Project “Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”

Dear Mrs Cooney,

I hereby confirm that the [Regional Fisheries Body (RFB)] agrees to provide co-financing for the FAO-GEF Project “Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”.

The [RFB] support to the project is an in-kind contribution of [e.g....approximately USD 300 000] over the period of 2014-2018. Support will be in the form of in-kind contribution for [e.g. a) staff time for activities, included in the work plan of RFB; b) office space and c) expenses for RFB operations which are of direct relevance to the project.]

It is assumed that our participation in the above mentioned programme will not entail any supplementary workload or cost for [RFB] beyond those already being carried out to achieve the objectives of our Organisation

[RFB] reserves the right to not disclose any confidential data without the prior and explicit authorization of the concerned Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party.

The in-kind contribution from [RFB] will be managed by the Secretariat as a contribution to the project components to be implemented in the [RFB] Area of Competence and to support the participation of [RFB] in project activities.

The project will keep informed [RFB] Members on the progress of implementation of the project, through a regular reporting at its annual meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Executive Secretary

ANNEX II: SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE “ABNJ-PROGRAM” AND THE ABNJ DEEP-SEA PROJECT

THE “ABNJ-PROGRAM”

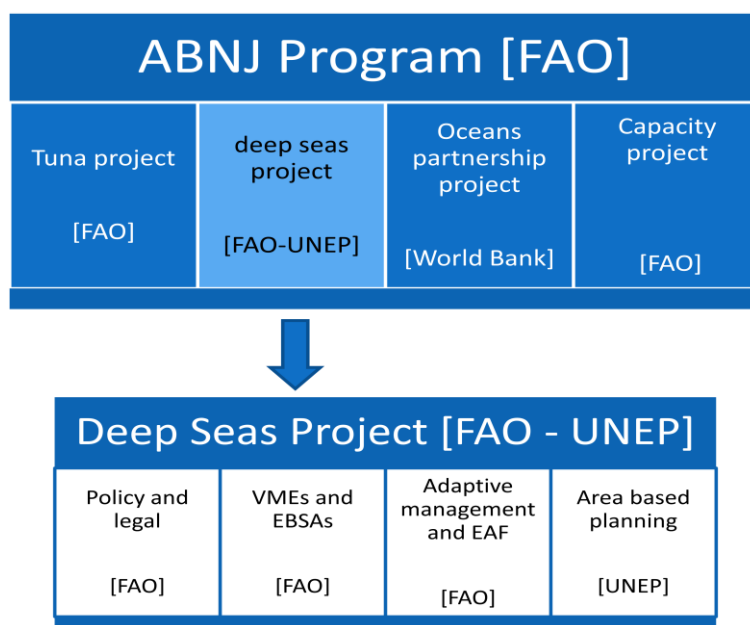
Focusing on tuna and deep-sea fisheries, in parallel with the conservation of biodiversity, the ABNJ Program aims to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ and to get on track with the global targets agreed in international fora.

The five-year ABNJ Program is a comprehensive initiative comprised of four projects which bring together governments, regional management bodies, relevant private sectors and industries and non-governmental organizations to work towards ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of the ABNJ biodiversity and long term maintenance of ecosystem services.

The 5-year ABNJ Program is comprised of 4 projects:

1. **The Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ.** Aims at enhancing fisheries governance; strengthening and harmonization of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS); reducing ecosystem impact of tuna fishing, including bycatch and associated species.
2. **The Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-Sea Ecosystems in the ABNJ.** Aims at improving implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks; reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and EBSAs; improving planning and adaptive management for ABNJ deep-sea fisheries; developing and testing of a methodology for area-based planning.
3. **The Ocean Partnership Facility (OPF).** Foresees the development of activities and projects for sustainable fisheries in priority seascapes; establishment of the Oceans Innovation Challenge Fund; monitoring and evaluation of pilots and challenge grants/lessons learnt.
4. **The Strengthening of Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ** aims at improving the global and regional coordination, including exchange of information, on ABNJ issues and focuses on cross-sectoral policy dialogue, capacity development and networking, as well as knowledge management and outreach .

FAO is the coordinating agency for the overall ABNJ program as well as the GEF implementing agency for Projects 1 and 4 and the GEF co-implementing agency together with UNEP for Project 2. The World Bank is the GEF implementing agency for Project 3. FAO is also the executing agency (along with partners) for selected project components within Projects 1, 2 and 4. The Program is governed by a Global Steering Committee, advised by a Technical Advisory Group and coordinated by the Global Program Coordination Unit, based at FAO. The World Bank will establish a specific governance structure for the Ocean Partnership Facility.



THE “ ABNJ DEEP-SEA PROJECT”

The “**ABNJ Deep-seas Project**”² (in full: *The Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)*) is one of the four projects under the FAO-led ABNJ Program.³

The preparation phase of the ABNJ Deep-sea Project officially started with the approval of the project preparation grant on 15 January 2013. Full stakeholder participation in the ABNJ Deep-sea Project is being sought by the lead agencies for the implementation of the project – FAO (Components 1 to 3) and UNEP (Component 4).

The ABNJ Deep-sea project consists of four technical components executed by FAO (components 1,2,3) and UNEP (component 4) which are described in detail below and depicted in the graph above. The overall approach of the Project will be to further develop and adapt management processes and best practices, to test the practical application of management instruments and tools to advance sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation. Adaptation of various measures and methodologies developed originally for coastal areas to ABNJ-DSF will be necessary and will therefore be given special attention. To ensure greater sustainability, the project will aim at working directly with countries through their RFMOs as well as with industry partners and other relevant stakeholders. Throughout the components, innovative partnerships with the fishing industry will enable greater uptake of practices and substantial increases in data availability. The project will continue to be in coherence with the ongoing discussions in the UN fora, but will not be addressing any issues related to governance regimes in the ABNJ.

Furthermore, the project will support countries’ commitments to international agreements. Fostering collaboration and participation among different stakeholder communities from both fisheries and conservation groups – and also from industry groups and civil society at large – that

² http://www.thegef.org/gef/project_detail?projID=4660

³ The GEF *Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)* Program is coordinated by FAO and comprises four projects.
<http://www.fao.org/cofi/33199-02b19a0956b086b1a64430e7a73205051.pdf>

will lead to improved communication and understanding among all stakeholders. The project will focus on the greatest threats to sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep-seas including those aiming at reducing significant adverse impacts of fisheries on VMEs and also addressing issues associated with EBSAs. Pilot activities for strengthening policy and legal frameworks as well as demonstrations of management frameworks and tools will be undertaken in sub-sections of the Indian and Southeast Atlantic oceans to improve practices for fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ. The project will also facilitate and test area-based planning tools in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean.

There have been many advances in the understanding of living marine resources and ecosystems in the deep-sea ABNJ. This has been accompanied by positive responses by RFMO/As and States to the protection of VMEs since UNGA Resolution 61/105 was published in 2006. More recently the EBSA identification process was initiated to catalogue special and important biological areas in the world's oceans. Increased public awareness and the challenge of managing deep-sea fisheries have highlighted the need for transparency and the collection and dissemination of accurate statistics. The importance of coherent spatial planning and zoning needs to be further developed to ensure that the harvesting of the fishery resources is sustainable and that ecosystems are protected. The broadening of the mandates of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations /Arrangements to be inclusive of the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and the development of international instruments, over the last 15 or so years, has provided the policy and legal instruments for sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation. The implementation of these instruments and the strengthening of institutions and related networks is key to sustainable management of fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ (**Component 1**). Even more recently, our understanding of deep-seas biodiversity, and the impacts that bottom fisheries may have on this, have improved and many areas are now managed primarily for biodiversity conservation (**Component 2**). These are complex issues and there is a need to assist the many stakeholders and user groups involved with deep-sea fisheries and conservation to manage through adaptive management encompassing an ecosystem approach and to ensure compliance and sustainability (**Component 3**). Testing of methodologies for area-based planning tools to better understand how tools used in coastal areas can be applied in the high seas will also help facilitate sustainable multiple use of these areas (**Component 4**).

Project components: Though the project is global in scope pilot demonstrations are integral to the project. The Indian Ocean, Southeast Atlantic and the Southeast Pacific have been pre-selected as possible pilot areas during the concept development phase.

1. Improved policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas:

This component will support the implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks and the incorporation of obligations and good practice from legal and policy instruments for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation at the regional and national levels. Global legal frameworks and international instruments relevant to deep-seas fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ will be reviewed and made available to competent authorities such as RFMOs, regional seas programs, other regional organizations, countries and other stakeholders, in a comprehensive but easily accessible global implementation guide. Furthermore, impediments to the implementation of international instruments will be identified, with particular emphasis on the DSF Guidelines and relevant CBD decisions, and remedial measures proposed. This will enhance the usefulness of the existing

frameworks, enable broader coverage and good practices in terms of suitable utilization and conservation of the deep-seas across regions, and stimulate sharing of experiences across biodiversity and fisheries communities. Training in the use of the implementation guide will also be provided. Furthermore and benefitting from the above analysis and guidance, model legal and policy frameworks will be developed for one pilot region, enabling comprehensive implementation of sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation frameworks at the regional and national levels, customized to suit the local context and with particular emphasis on support and capacity development for developing countries. Through this component, options for rights-based approaches and market-based incentives (e.g. trade certification, catch documentation and eco-labeling) will be formulated, based on a specific case study (pilot) and on existing experiences and lessons learned.

The component will also support the creation of sound global partnerships between different stakeholders groups within the fisheries and conservation communities as well as the strengthening or establishment of new networks addressing key issues (e.g. RFMO scientists meetings, skippers meetings, eco-labeling network, etc.), for the purpose of improving the understanding of existing relevant policy and legal frameworks and global processes for ABNJ management and related challenges. Support will be given to global networking opportunities as well as specialized networks, ensuring feedback mechanisms and contributions to the international and regional discussions on DSF and biodiversity conservation. Linkages will be established between these partnerships and the communities of practice supported through the ABNJ Global Coordination Project.

2. Reduced adverse impact on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs):

This component will focus on improving the application of management tools for avoiding or mitigating the greatest threats to ABNJ sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ. To facilitate the development of options for avoiding or mitigating threats, the current information available on the target stocks, marine areas in need of enhanced protection (particularly VMEs and EBSAs), as well as the socio-economic data associated with deep-sea fisheries and fishing practices, will be compiled, analyzed and fed into regional and national processes. The component will also facilitate coordination and exchange of information between specific fisheries and biodiversity conservation efforts related to VMEs and EBSAs. The information collected will be made available through several mechanisms including an information sharing platform which will facilitate the use of publically accessible data, and interactive web databases on VMEs and EBSAs which will allow greater use and ownership of data at the regional level. Combined, these platforms will provide improved access to the information required (including geospatial) for the competent authorities to identify or improve current management measures for fisheries, as well as to protect vulnerable areas, species or ecosystems. Particular attention will be given to involving the fishing industry in these activities, directly or through their flag states, as the industry holds a large amount of data and information and is crucial in creating real change of practices on the water. The use of effective indicators, targets and thresholds (in terms of species and critical habitats) and the development of associated monitoring programs, management measures and improved fishing practices, to reduce impacts on VMEs and EBSAs, will be supported in at least one pilot region.

The tools mentioned will also be used to foster an improved understanding of how to identify VMEs in an operational context at sea.

Capacity development for the use and application of methods and tools for protecting VMEs and EBSAs will also be supported through this component. Customized assistance will be provided to at least ten developing countries involved in DSF to apply the best practices developed – either port states, flag states, concerned coastal countries or members of deep-sea RFMO/As. The capacity of countries to address these issues through relevant international processes, including the identification of VMEs and the CBD EBSA process, will be strengthened with a view to facilitate their incorporation into national and regional processes.

3. Improved planning and adaptive management for ABNJ-DSF:

This component will focus on facilitating the adoption of sound planning and good practices for improving fisheries management processes and tools consistent with an ecosystem approach, based on existing experiences that are adapted to the special conditions for DSF in the ABNJ. As such, the component will make use of existing methodologies for stakeholder identification, consultation and engagement processes and risk assessment as a tool for setting priorities for decision-making, criteria and methods for the identification, assessment and prioritization of key issues, including adapting the tools to the special case of DSF. Both management processes and tools will be tested in at least one pilot area for lesson learning and eventual up-scaling. It will identify, evaluate and refine the management options that could be specifically applied to assist with the management of DSF including the potential value and difficulties related to the use of area based planning, better fishing methods and targeting strategies as well as access, effort or catch restrictions. Using also the improved policy and legal frameworks developed in Component 1 and the information and management tools developed in Component 2, the Project will develop the appropriate consultation and decision-making processes that should facilitate completion of EAF based management planning for DSF. Adaptive management planning based on an ecosystem approach will thus be facilitated, and support provided for implementation to competent authorities in at least one ABNJ area. The component will also promote strategies for improving management effectiveness through the development and testing of monitoring programs based on indicators and reference points and the development of an action plan for adoption of best MCS practices, adapted to the specific conditions of ABNJ-DSF, is formulated and adopted in one of the selected pilot areas. Finally experimental testing will be supported in selected pilot areas of improved management measures, indicators and thresholds as well as trial implementation of successful results from the testing.

4. Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning:

This component will develop and test methodologies of marine area-based planning, which is inter-sectoral, inter-disciplinary and ecosystem-based, in the deep seas of the high seas (otherwise known as ABNJ). The underlying principle is that current knowledge on the biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services of the deep-sea systems will be taken into consideration in the identification of zones for specific use or sectoral activity planning. UNEP developed ecosystem-based planning methodologies for specific marine and coastal areas, which are designed to protect the health of an ecosystem and its ability to support human well-being, through minimizing the cumulative impacts inherent in interacting and overlapping human activities. Within the framework of ecosystem-based planning, tools such as ecosystem service valuation, cost-benefit analysis and trade-off analysis, are powerful ways to demonstrate the value of an ecosystem in a spatial way and to visualize the benefits to sectors of differing planning scenarios.



Up to now, these existing methodologies have been applied primarily within EEZs. Component 4 will address the specific challenges required to further develop and test area-based planning tools for use within the deep seas context found in the ABNJ. A first step will be to share good practices, lessons learned and accumulated experiences on spatial management and area-based planning in the ABNJ from Northeast Atlantic, Mediterranean and elsewhere (Sargasso Sea and Southern Ocean, for example) as a way to enhance the capabilities of other competent authorities to use this tool in the management of their respective activities in the deep seas, as appropriate.

The major objective of the component will be to test these area-based planning methodologies in collaboration with the appropriate regional bodies. Both the Southeast Pacific and the Western Indian Ocean regions are well placed to test area-based planning tools, having RSP frameworks with member countries collectively taking positive steps towards responsible management of ABNJ resources. The activities in the Southeast Pacific will be conducted by and under the framework of CPPS (Permanent Commission for the South Pacific), which addresses environmental and fisheries management within the countries EEZs and has an interest in conservation and sustainable utilization of marine resources in its adjacent high seas. CPPS will work with the new South Pacific RMFO to explore area-based planning initiatives. Activities in the Western Indian Ocean will be executed by and under the framework of the Nairobi Convention working closely together with the newly established deep-sea RFMO, SIOFA and its member countries.



Project Title :	Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)
GEF Agencies:	FAO and UNEP
Status:	Project concept note approved by GEF council in June 2012. Full project formulation initiated in January 2013 with an aim to submit the full project proposal to GEF for consideration in December 2013. Estimated start of project implementation is spring 2014.
GEF grant:	Approximately US\$7.3 mill [2.5 mill US\$ from International Waters and US\$ 4.8 mill from Biodiversity], to be matched with co-financing of minimum 1:4 through partner engagements.
Project Objective:	To achieve efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for: i) improving sustainable management practices for deep-sea fisheries, taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems, ii) improving the protection vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and iii) testing improved area-based planning for deep sea ecosystems.
Institutional arrangements:	The Project will be implemented by the FAO and UNEP through a partnership approach, built on the international and regional bodies and associated stakeholder groups that have been involved in the background developments or would be expected to engage in policy development and practical implementation. FAO will be responsible for components 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the project and will be responsible for component 4 related to inter-sectoral area-based planning. There will be a number of executing partners, including institutions responsible for the fisheries, regional seas programmes, private sector and civil society. The partners, roles and responsibilities will be elaborated during project preparation. The RFMO/As with the competence to manage fishing activities in the high seas, and their member States as well as industry groups such as the Southern Indian Ocean Deepwater Fishers Association (SIODFA) and associations such as the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) will be instrumental partners in the project, assisting uptake of frameworks and practices and their practical implementation. IUCN is also a key partner.

The complete project concept note (Project Identification Form – PIF) can be accessed through www.thegef.org and a full draft project document is expected available early November.

PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Table 1: Project Outcomes		Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Grant (USD)
Component 1: Improved policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ deep seas			1,150,000
1.1 Improved policy and legal frameworks are tested and disseminated to all competent authorities	1.1.1 Impediments to the implementation of international policy and legal instruments identified and remedial measures are formulated. 1.1.2 Implementation guide for all relevant international policy and legal instruments to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation made available to competent authorities, industry partners and other stakeholders. <i>1.1.4 Model policy and legal frameworks, enabling sustainable Deep Sea Fisheries (DSF) management and biodiversity conservation at the regional and national levels, developed and integrated into national legislation in countries in at least one region</i> 1.1.3 Options for Rights-Based Management (RBM) systems and market-based incentives (e.g. trade certification and ecolabelling) developed and tested in at least one selected pilot area.		
1.2 Global and regional networks are strengthened and/or expanded	1.2.1 Collaborative networks and partnerships, including all stakeholders involved in ABNJ-DSF and biodiversity conservation, strengthened or set-up, with links to global and regional communities of practice under the ABNJ Programme.		
Component 2: Reducing adverse impact on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)			1,300,000
2.1 Improved application of management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity is demonstrated	2.1.1 Biological, ecological and economic analyses of DSF and biodiversity in the ABNJ carried out, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to classify risks and threats and identify vulnerable marine ecosvstems.		



	<p>2.1.2 Interactive web databases, for identification and use in mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in ABNJ, particularly for VMEs and EBSAs, improved for use in regions in close collaboration with all stakeholders.</p> <p><i>2.1.3 Indicators for the identification of potential VMEs and for description of areas meeting EBSA criteria, developed in at least one pilot area</i></p> <p><i>2.1.4 Improved fishing practices to reduce impacts on VMEs and marine biodiversity, piloted in at least one pilot area</i></p>	
2.2 The capacities of stakeholders are developed, to use improved management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity.	<p>2.2.1 Customized support provided to at least ten developing countries to fully integrate best practices for sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation in their management processes</p> <p>2.2.2 Technical and operational support on the application of VME and EBSA criteria provided (including training), for systematic use by countries</p>	
Component 3: Improved Planning and adaptive management for ABNJ DSF and EAF processes		1,952,235
3.1 Planning and management processes for achieving sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation are improved, tested, and disseminated to all competent authorities.	<p>3.1.1 Best practices, methods and tools for comprehensive management planning, encompassing an ecosystem approach and allowing for adaptive changes, reviewed and adapted to the special conditions of ABNJ-DSF</p> <p><i>3.1.2 Adaptive management processes demonstrated, including identification of management objectives and priorities, through participatory risk analysis in at least one selected pilot area</i></p> <p><i>3.1.3 Objective-based indicators and reference points (related to target species, catch/bycatch composition, biodiversity, etc) selected and a related monitoring programme for ABNJ-DSF tested in a selected pilot area</i></p> <p><i>3.1.4 Action plan for adoption of best MCS practices, adapted to the specific conditions of ABNJ-DSF,</i></p>	



	<p><i>formulated and adopted in one of the selected pilot areas</i></p> <p>3.1.5 Options for improved management measures for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation, including: i) encounters with vulnerable species/habitats; (ii) spatial management tools; and iii) fishing operations aimed at mitigating adverse impacts on sensitive habitats and ecosystems, developed and disseminated.</p>	
Component 4: Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning (UNEP)		2,415,000
4.1 Efficient area-based planning tools and good practices based on ecosystem-based management practices are made available to competent authorities, including regional seas programmes (RSPs) and RFMOs for regional management plans and policies.	<p>4.1.1. Adaptation and further development of available area-based planning tools addressing deep sea ecosystems in ABNJ and connected exclusive economic zones (EEZs). These tools include trade-off analysis, ecosystem service valuation and cost-benefit analysis.</p> <p>4.1.2. Knowledge and experience sharing from the Northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean concerning deep-sea</p>	
4.2 Area-based planning in ABNJ is incorporated into the regional marine planning processes in selected regions (preliminarily identified as Southeast Pacific and the Western Indian Ocean) through partnerships between competent authorities, including RSPs and RFMO.	<p>4.2.1. <i>Testing of area-based planning tools in the selected regions. The test application will be conducted with close linkage with the other components of this project.</i></p> <p>4.2.2 Science-based and policy relevant advice on area-based planning and management applied in regional deep-sea ecosystem planning processes in the selected test regions with engagement of relevant stakeholders and through the partnership between competent authorities, including RSPs and RFMOs. The planning process will also benefit from the information provided through Output 2.1.2 (VME and EBSA data bases).</p>	
Component 5: Project monitoring and evaluation		150,000
5.1 Project implementation conducted with adaptive results-	5.1.1 Website established which is compatible with IW-Learn	



based management, supported by progress monitoring and evaluation, including transmission of lessons learned via the IW:Learn program (financed at 1 percent of the GEF IW Grant).	program and contributes to ABNJ Programme portal. 5.1.2 Project monitoring system operating and systematically providing information on progress in meeting project output and outcome targets 5.1.3 Timely biannual project progress reports available for adaptive results-based management 5.1.4 Midterm and final evaluation carried out and reports available	
	Sub-total	6,967,235
	Project management costs	348,362
	Total	7,315,597

*Pilot activities are indicated in italics