



SPRFMO
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11TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, 13 to 17 February 2023

COMM 11 – Obs 08

Common Oceans Cross-sectoral Project update to SPRFMO

United Nations Environment Programme



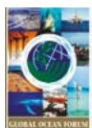
Cross-sectoral Project



**Common Oceans Cross-sectoral Project
update for the
11th Meeting of the SPRFMO Commission
7-17 January 2023**

Common Oceans Cross-sectoral Project (2023-2027)

Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction



Introduction/Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the development of the UNEP-GEF Project on *Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (Cross-sectoral Project) and to seek the collaboration of South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) in the conduct of this project. No financial contribution in cash or in kind is being requested. A letter of commitment to collaborate in the conduct of project activities as a project partner and/or stakeholder in the pilot region (Southeast Pacific) would be greatly appreciated.

Background

Many different sectors operate in ABNJ, with varying levels of compatibility between activities and limited collaboration between bodies with relevant interests and remits. Furthermore, there are growing threats, pressures, and potential conflicts due to increasing human activities in ABNJ. The existing international management framework for ABNJ (underpinned by international law) is fragmented and sectoral, leaving legal, governance and geographical gaps and limited scope for addressing cumulative impacts. This fragmented governance framework poses a barrier for effective biodiversity protection in ABNJ as well as a challenge for keeping resource use sustainable. There is a necessity for better cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation in ABNJ governance to ensure that biodiversity protection and sustainable resource use now and for the future. Tackling current and future environmental problems requires regulations and management, using best available science, to address the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss

The Cross-sectoral 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 through cooperation, coordination, and effective knowledge exchange in relation to sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation. A new treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction - the 'BBNJ Agreement' - is underway and is expected to strengthen ABNJ governance. The project aims to raise awareness of the BBNJ Agreement and improve cooperation on ABNJ governance in two pilot regions: the Southeast Pacific region and the Pacific Islands region.

This project, which is a follow-up project from the ABNJ Deep Sea Project (2014-2019) and from the ABNJ Capacity Project (2014-2019) of the GEF-funded Common Oceans Program Phase 1, is part of Common Oceans Program Phase 2 which includes four technical projects (Tuna Project, Cross-Sectoral Project, Deep Seas Fisheries Project, and Sargasso Sea Project) as well as an overall Global Coordination Project. Together with 23 co-financing partners, including global, regional, and national organizations, donor agencies, academic institutions, the project will exchange experiences and improve cross-sectoral collaboration on key issues such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, seabed disturbance, marine and land-based pollution, and climate change.

Project Status and Implementing Arrangements

The project received GEF CEO endorsement for funding in December 2022. A project inception workshop and launch are scheduled for 31 January 2023.

Funding Agency: Global Environment Facility

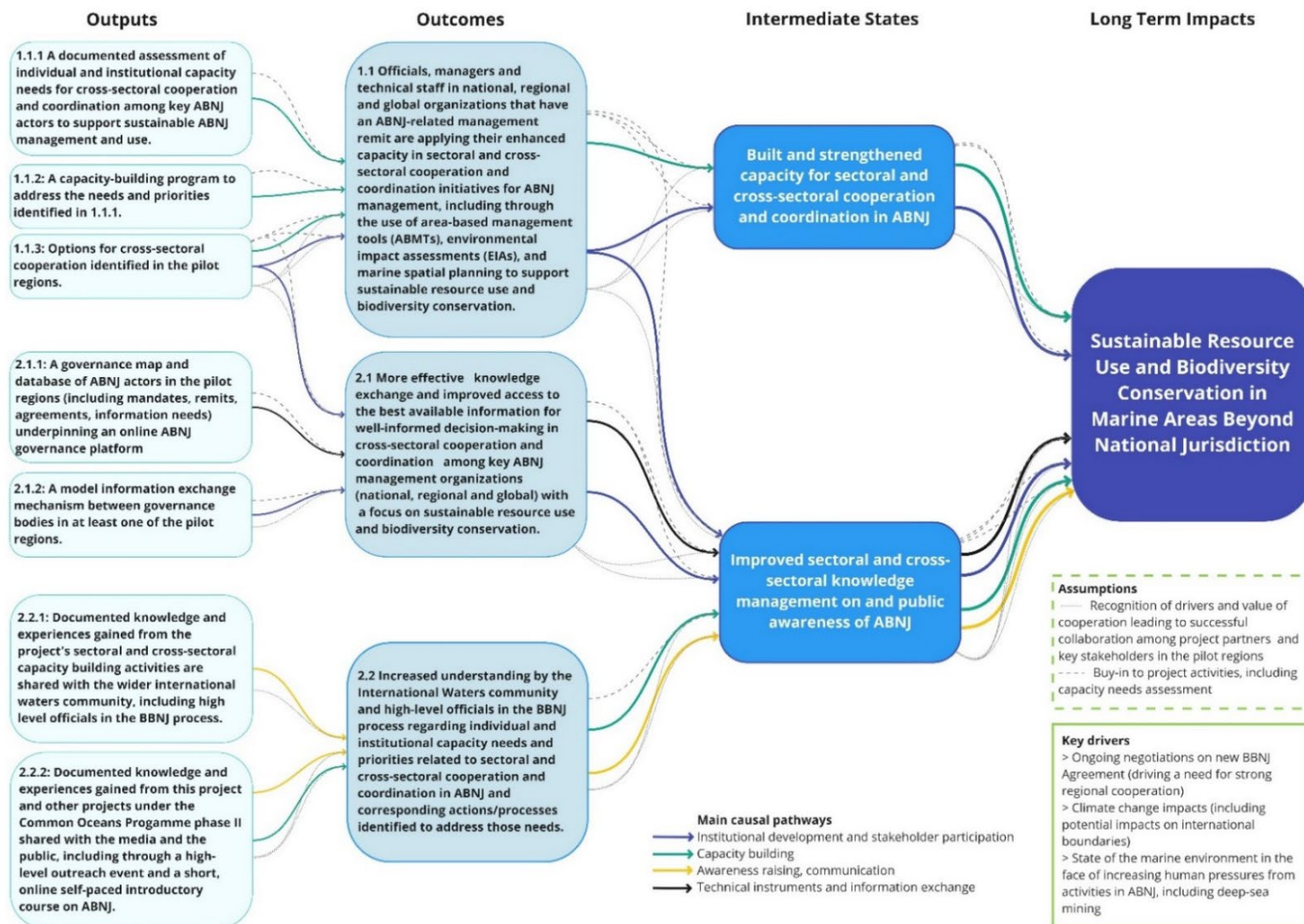
Implementing Agency: UN Environment Programme

Executing Agency: Global Ocean Forum

Co-executing Partners: World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), GRID-Arendal, Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur, Universidad Católica del Norte, Pacific Islands Forum Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, and the University of the South Pacific.

Next steps

The Cross-sectoral Project currently has partnership commitments from 23 co-financing partners including the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur and Universidad Católica del Norte from the Southeast Pacific. To achieve its objectives, the collaboration of other regional bodies in the implementation of the project activities in the two pilot regions is essential. The project's Theory of Change summarizes the activities, outputs and outcomes that underpin the project (Annex 1). Annex 2 shows the potential and invited contribution of SPRFMO in the project activities for consideration.



Annex 1. Project Theory of Change with the main impact pathways and assumptions mapped between project elements. Outputs 1.1.1 to 1.1.3 will jointly lead to outcome 1.1. and the first of the two intermediate states (project component 1), while outputs 2.1.1. to 2.2.2 will lead to outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 to lead to the second of the intermediate states (project component 2). Both intermediate states support the overarching project goal (articulated here as the long-term impacts). Thus, each project component has multiple causal pathways (colour-coded here to highlight the types of activity driving the impacts forward) that flow towards the project goal. There is some crossover in causal pathways between the components, illustrating that work in one component will strengthen the other. Each causal pathway depends on assumptions. The ones included here are high level and apply virtually to every impact pathway (a more fine-scale set of assumptions is articulated in the Results Framework).

Annex 2. Cross-sectoral Project Outputs and Activities and Proposed Contribution by SPRFMO

Project Output	Project Activity	Potential SPRFMO Activity
Output 1.1.1 A documented assessment of individual and institutional capacity needs for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination among key ABNJ actors to support sustainable ABNJ management and use	1.1.1.1. Preliminary identification and analysis of capacity building issues and constraints in each of the pilot regions constraints in each of the pilot regions	Respond to and assist in deployment of questionnaire, other data collection methods to SPRFMO member States in capacity needs assessment as appropriate to SPRFMO's mandate
	1.1.1.2. Analysis of the jobs that involve aspects of ABNJ management and governance in relevant organizations at the national and regional levels (job analysis)	
	1.1.1.3. Population analysis to provide an estimate of the number/overview of personnel that need to be trained	
	1.1.1.4. Validation workshop in the two pilot regions	
Output 1.1.2 A capacity-building program to address the needs and priorities in Output 1.1.1	1.1.2.1. Curriculum design and module development (development of an online individual capacity-building program, including curriculum design and module development)	Attend one workshop Provide substantive input/review on regional fisheries governance in module development
	1.1.2.2. Training program implementation (4 sessions: three regional sessions and one global session)	Assist in identifying training participants from SPRFMO member States
	1.1.2.3. Follow-up assessments of trainees to assess how they are applying acquired knowledge and skills (functional capacity) in sectoral and cross-sectoral coordination	Assist in trainee follow-up assessments
Output 1.1.3 Options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination identified in the pilot regions	1.1.3.1. Development and implementation of a regional training workshop program on cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination	Attend one workshop Share SPRFMO experience and ideas on cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ Participate in the working group process towards the development of a mechanism for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ
	1.1.3.2. Working group process on the development of options for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in preparation for adoption/institutionalization.	
	1.1.3.3. Development of at least one option/mechanism for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ in each of the pilot regions	
Output 2.1.1 A governance map and database of ABNJ actors in the pilot regions (including mandates, remits, agreements, information needs) underpinning an online ABNJ governance platform	2.1.1.1 Develop, consolidate and decide on options for database structure/ content, functionality and design of interface	Participate in consultation: Provide input and review Provide substantive input on regional arrangements on fisheries governance in ABNJ within area of competence

Project Output	Project Activity	Potential SPRFMO Activity
	2.1.1.2 Consultation with stakeholders in the pilot regions (the targeted user base) and with other data providers / data platform owners	
	2.1.1.3. User research to further inform database structure and content, functionality, and design. The database content will be completed for the pilot regions by project mid-point.	
	2.1.1.4. Adjustments to the design of the platform based on user feedback, and finalisation of the platform.	
	2.1.1.5. Collaboration with project partners and stakeholders to explore possible options for long-term custodianship and maintenance.	
Output 2.1.2 Information Exchange Mechanism - A model information exchange mechanism among governance bodies in at least one of the pilot regions.	2.1.2.1. Survey and documentation of information exchange needs among key stakeholders in the pilot regions (wrapped together with the needs assessment in component 1)	Provide input in needs assessment and design of information exchange mechanism
	2.1.2.2. Development of mechanism for addressing those information needs.	
Output 2.2.1 Documented knowledge and experiences gained from the project's sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity building activities are shared with the wider international waters community, including high level officials in the BBNJ process	2.2.1.1. Engagement with the GEF International Waters community to share progress and disseminate the knowledge and experiences gained from the project's sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity building activities through GEF IW platforms, and creation of experience note for IW:Learn.	Participate in IW and BBNJ meetings as appropriate subject to availability of project funds
	2.2.1.2. Ad-hoc engagement with high-level meetings and processes related to ABNJ management, including dissemination of the knowledge and experiences gained from the project's sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity building activities to country delegations and other participants of the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ	
Output 2.2.2 Documented knowledge and experiences gained from the project shared with the media and the public, including through a high-level outreach event and a short, online self-paced introductory course on ABNJ	2.2.2.1. Development of communications products on ABNJ and cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ	Provide input and review
	2.2.2.2. High-level media event	Participate in event as appropriate subject to availability of project funds
	2.2.2.3. Development and implementation of an on-demand online introductory course on ABNJ for the public.	Provide input and review Promote MOOC among stakeholders

Project Output	Project Activity	Potential SPRFMO Activity
Output 3.1.1 Documented monitoring and reporting process throughout the entire project execution life cycle ensuring project activities under Components 1 and 2 are on the right track.	3.1.1.1 Preparation of project progress reports, PIR, other reports; organization and conduct of Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings (budgetary allocation is for travel of PSC members for final PSC meeting)	Represent SPRFMO in PSC if appropriate
Output 3.1.2: Independent evaluations documenting the process of collecting and analyzing information to understand the progress, success, and effectiveness of project activities under Components 1 and 2.	3.1.2.1 Mid-term evaluation	Provide input as appropriate
	3.1.2.2 Terminal evaluation	Provide input as appropriate