

## **Annex**

### **Information on developments within the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea**

#### ***Executive Summary***

This note summarizes a selection of recent work under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relevant to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, on the theme “Capacity building and the transfer of marine technology: New developments, approaches and challenges”.

The Secretariat has continued its capacity-building and partnership efforts under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), which began in 2010, by convening several national, regional and global workshops. This also includes the convening of the Fourth Meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, an initiative that provides an opportunity for regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies to share experiences and identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

In addition, the Secretariat has been conducting regional and subregional capacity-building workshops on Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to support Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders to achieve their commitments under Target 3 and related targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

Finally, at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support implementation of the KMGBF at the national level as well as a technical and scientific cooperation mechanism comprising a network of subregional support centres to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This note consists of brief descriptions of recent work carried out under the CBD relevant to capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, including content on:

- Activities of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), including the Global Dialogue;
- Subregional workshops on Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF);
- Long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support implementation of the KMGBF; and
- Adoption of a technical and scientific cooperation mechanism comprising a network of subregional support centres to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

#### **SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE**

The Executive Secretary has continued its capacity-building work under SOI, which began in 2010, convening a series of capacity-building workshops at the regional, subregional and national levels, in addition to a global-level initiative. SOI is a global platform that aims to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve global goals and targets on marine and coastal biodiversity. Its implementation is coordinated by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with various partners. SOI was created on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to respond to the need for capacity-building of developing country Parties with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and its implementation is being further enhanced within the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the

Convention at its fifteenth meeting in December 2022. Below are brief descriptions of meetings and events under SOI that were recently convened, or are currently being planned. Information on SOI, including activities held prior to August 2023, is available here: <https://www.cbd.int/soi/>

- ***Sustainable Ocean Initiative regional capacity-building workshop for States of the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of Africa (10-13 February 2024, Dakar, Senegal)***

The workshop is being convened by the Secretariat of the CBD, in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations and initiatives, and will be hosted by the Government of Senegal, with financial support from the Governments of France (French Biodiversity Agency) and the Republic of Korea (Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries). The workshop will be attended by experts nominated by Parties along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of Africa, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth groups, as well as from relevant global and regional organizations.

The workshop will focus on the capacity needs of developing countries in the region, in the context of the goals and targets of the KMGBF. It will focus specifically on opportunities to improve the coverage, effectiveness and representativity of area-based conservation through the use of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

More information is available here: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-WS-2025-01>

- ***Fourth meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies (11-14 June 2024, Seoul, Republic of Korea)***

The Fourth Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies was convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 11 to 14 June 2024, by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea. The organization of this meeting was financially supported by the Governments of the Republic of Korea (through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries), France (through the French Office for Biodiversity) and Monaco. Participants comprised representatives of regional seas organizations (RSOs), regional fishery bodies (RFBs), other global and regional organizations and initiatives, national governments and non-governmental organizations.

In light of the evolving global policy framework for the ocean, the fourth meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue was a timely and critical opportunity to solidify the key roles of regional organizations, and cooperation among them, in supporting the implementation of two new global instruments: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022, and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction ("BBNJ Agreement"), in June 2023, which present key opportunities for regional organizations and regional collaboration in the implementation process to achieve a sustainable, healthy and productive ocean. It provided a valuable means to share lessons and experiences on areas of mutual interest to regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies both within and across regions, report on progress in regional scale cross-sectoral collaboration and identify tangible opportunities to advance regional-scale collaboration.

The meeting focused on the core objectives of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue, namely (i) sharing experiences in the respective work of RSOs and RFBs, (ii) sharing experiences in coordination and collaboration between RSOs and RFBs in regions where this is occurring, (iii) identifying opportunities and approaches for coordination and collaboration between RSOs and RFBs, and (iv) identifying the roles of, and opportunities for, RSOs and RFBs in facilitating and monitoring progress towards global goals and targets for the ocean.

More information is available here: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-OM-2024-01>

- ***Side event at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Nairobi, 15 May, 2024: Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework in the Ocean – The Sustainable Ocean Initiative and other key efforts to identify and address capacity needs for marine and coastal biodiversity***

This side event focused on key capacity needs and considerations at the global, regional and national levels for implementing the Framework in the ocean and highlighted efforts under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) and other key initiatives to address these needs. The Global Biodiversity Framework requires robust action through an all-of-society approach. It requires the careful balancing of various needs and priorities for biodiversity, which can prove especially challenging in marine and coastal areas. In this regard, there are important capacity needs and enabling factors that must be addressed in order to ensure the robust implementation of the Framework with respect to marine biodiversity. More information is available here: <https://www.cbd.int/side-events/6493>

- ***Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, special event at European Parliament, Brussels, 20 March 2024, Brussels***

This event brought together representatives from UN agencies, regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies alongside EU policymakers, to showcase the need for improved regional collaboration across fisheries and biodiversity at the regional scale, and to demonstrate tangible initiatives and efforts, that are working to advance this collaboration in support of achieving global goals for the ocean. The CBD Secretariat delivered a presentation on the Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies as well as on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. More information is available here: <https://ebcd.org/events/hybrid-event-international-ocean-governance-sustainable-ocean-initiative-soi-global-dialogue-with-regional-seas-organizations-regional-fishery-bodies/>

- ***Sustainable Ocean Initiative national workshop for Oman (Muscat, 1 October 2023)***

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative National Workshop for Oman was convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat of the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) and the Environment Authority of Oman. Financial support for the workshop was kindly provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries). This workshop aimed to bring together relevant stakeholders in Oman, to:

- Enhance participants' understanding of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
  - Highlight existing conservation and environmental protection efforts in Oman
  - Identify approaches, opportunities and challenges to implement Targets 1, 2 and 3 of the Framework in Oman
  - Discuss next steps and how to advance these initiatives in Oman
- ***Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) regional capacity-building workshop for East, South and South-East Asia (5 - 8 September 2023, Seoul, Republic of Korea)***

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-building Workshop for East, South and South-East Asia, held from 5 to 8 September 2023 in Seoul, Republic of Korea was convened by the Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations and initiatives, and was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, with financial support from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and technical support from the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK).

The workshop focused on the capacity needs of developing countries in the region in the context of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It addressed a range of thematic

issues relevant to the goals and targets of the Framework, such as area-based conservation, restoration, fisheries management, and biodiversity mainstreaming, and will seek to facilitate cross-sectoral, multi-agency scientific, technical and financial partnerships to support the effective implementation of various management tools and approaches.

More information is available here: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-WS-2023-03>

- *Virtual Intersessional workshop of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, 1-3 August 2023*

With a view to advancing the discussion on timely issues prior to the fourth meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs, to take place from 11 to 14 June 2024, the Acting Executive Secretary convened the Intersessional workshop of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs, in collaboration with FAO and UNEP, and with generous financial support from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea.

The workshop aimed to discuss regional collaboration in the context of recent developments, such as the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022, and the finalization of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as progress in the implementation of the regional roadmaps contained in the Busan Outcome. Planning, approaches and potential outcomes for the fourth meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue were also discussed.

Participants in the workshop comprised experts from regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies, various other regional organizations and initiatives, government representatives, global intergovernmental organizations, and other relevant organizations. The workshop was organized in plenary and breakout group sessions and included thematic presentations with question-and-answer sessions, interactive sessions, plenary moderated discussions, and breakout group exercises and discussions.

## **REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS ON TARGET 3 OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework focuses on the conservation of 30 per cent of land, waters and seas within systems of protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures, and indigenous and traditional territories.

In this vein, the Secretariat has been organizing a series of regional and sub-regional workshops in collaboration with global and regional partners, including the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

### Workshops (recent or upcoming):

- Central, Southern and Eastern Africa (17-20 February 2025) (<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/PA-WS-2025-01>)
- South Asia (Kathmandu, Nepal, 29 July to 1 August 2024) (<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/PA-WS-2024-04>)
- Latin American countries (Punta Leona, Costa Rica, 9-13 June 2024) (<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/PA-WS-2024-03>)
- Caribbean countries (Georgetown, Guyana, 18-19 April 2024) (<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/PA-WS-2024-02>)
- Pacific region (Nadi, Fiji, 22-23 March 2024) (<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/PA-WS-2024-01>)

The purpose of the workshops is to support Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders to achieve their commitments under Target 3 and related targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to encourage the development of national priority actions that will facilitate effective implementation of the Target. The workshops focus on the quantitative and qualitative elements of Target 3 and also serve as a platform for a dialogue on status, gaps, challenges and opportunities available to enhance progress towards the achievement of the Target. Additional workshops will be held in other sub-regions later in 2025.

## **CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AND TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION**

At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a [long-term strategic framework \(LTSF\) for capacity-building and development](#) to support nationally determined priorities for implementation of the KMGBF (annex I of [decision 15/8](#)). The LTSF provides an overarching framework for improving the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building and development support at the global, regional and national levels. The Conference of the Parties invited Parties and stakeholders to develop action plans and programmes to implement the LTSF and to share their related needs and activities through the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and requested the Secretariat to implement joint capacity-building activities with the Rio conventions and biodiversity-related conventions.

Also in decision 15/8, the Conference of the Parties also adopted a technical and scientific cooperation mechanism comprising a network of subregional support centres to be coordinated at the global level by a coordination entity (annex II of decision 15/8). Subsequently, 18 entities and organizations were selected by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to host the [regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres](#). These support centres aim to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer; provide a “one-stop service centre” for accessing technical and scientific knowledge, expertise, capacity-building tools, and information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer; mobilize resources and facilitate matchmaking. At its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in decision 16/3, welcomed these entities and organizations, mandated the Secretariat to host the global coordination entity, and adopted the modalities for its operationalization.

Pursuant to decision 15/8, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Government of Colombia and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) Accelerator Partnership, organized the first Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum on 19 October 2024 in Cali, Colombia. Party representatives, capacity development practitioners and providers, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, as well as other relevant stakeholders, attended the Forum.

Held under the theme “Strengthening Capacities for the Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)”, the 2024 Forum provided participants an opportunity to:

- Share experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the design and implementation of national capacity-building and development initiatives in support of NBSAPs,
- Foster coordination and cooperation on biodiversity capacity-building and development initiatives, and
- Promote partnerships and synergies in the capacity-building and development efforts to support the implementation of NBSAPs and the KMGBF.

More information on the Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum, including the outcomes of the 2024 Forum, is available at [www.cbd.int/cb/forum](http://www.cbd.int/cb/forum)