



## **Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-sectoral capacity to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **Name of Parent Program**

**Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction**

#### **GEF ID**

**10697**

#### **Project Type**

FSP

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **CBIT/NGI**

**CBIT No**

**NGI No**

#### **Project Title**

Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-sectoral capacity to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction

#### **Countries**

Global

#### **Agency(ies)**

UNEP

#### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

Global Oceans Forum, WCMC, Grid-Arendal

#### **Executing Partner Type**

Others

**GEF Focal Area**

International Waters

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, International Waters, Learning, Pollution, Nutrient pollution from Wastewater, Persistent toxic substances, Plastics, Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, Ship, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Fisheries, Marine Protected Area, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Education, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Knowledge Generation, Training, Workshop, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Exchange, Exhibit, Conference, South-South, Twinning, Field Visit

**Sector****Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Submission Date**

12/3/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**

12/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

11/30/2027

**Duration**

60In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

225,000.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
IW-2-4	Improving Management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	GET	2,500,000.00	22,165,273.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>2,500,000.00</b>	<b>22,165,273.00</b>

## **B. Project description summary**

### **Project Objective**

To enhance awareness of ABNJ governance to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction through strengthened cross-sectoral capacity building.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Building and strengthening capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to improve sustainable use and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ in two pilot regions. [Will support core indicator 7 (covering 2 regionally-defined ecosystems (Pacific Islands and South East Pacific)) and indicator 11 (1750 Women, 1750 Men)]	Technical Assistance	<b>Outcome 1.1.</b> Officials, managers and technical staff in national, regional, and global organizations that have an ABNJ-related management remit <b>are applying their enhanced functional capacity</b> (planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluating) in sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination initiatives in ABNJ management, including through the use of area-based management tools (ABMTs), environmental impact assessments (EIAs), and marine spatial planning to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.	<b>Output 1.1.1 Needs Assessment.</b> 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.  <b>Output 1.1.2 Capacity Building Program.</b> A capacity-building program to address the needs and priorities in Output 1.1.1.  <b>Output 1.1.3 Integration Mechanism Options.</b> Options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination identified in the pilot regions.	GET	1,239,663.00	10,990,988.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Improving sectoral and cross-sectoral knowledge management on and public awareness of ABNJ in the pilot regions.	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 2.1: Knowledge Exchange</b> - More effective <b>knowledge exchange</b> and <b>improved access</b> 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) with a focus on sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p><b>Outcome 2.2: Dissemination</b> ? <b>Increased understanding</b> by the International Waters community and <b>high-level officials in the BBNJ process</b> regarding individual and institutional capacity needs and priorities related to sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ and corresponding actions/processes identified to</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1.1: Governance Map</b> - A governance map and database of ABNJ actors in the pilot regions (including mandates, remits, agreements, information needs to make decisions) underpinning an online ABNJ governance platform.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.2: Information Exchange Mechanism</b> A model information exchange mechanism between governance bodies in at least one of the pilot regions.</p> <p><b>Output 2.2.1: Dissemination to International Waters Community</b> - Documented knowledge and experiences gained from the project's sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity</p>	GET	1,060,337.00	9,401,064.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Monitoring & Evaluation	Technical Assistance	<b>Outcome 3.1</b> Efficient and timely project execution, monitoring and evaluation process carried out in support of Components 1 and 2 activities, and corresponding improvement of project execution as appropriate.	<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> 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.  <b>Output 3.1.2:</b> Independent evaluations documenting the process of collecting and analyzing information in order to understand the progress, success, and effectiveness of project activities under Components 1 and 2.	GET	80,952.00	717,728.00
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>2,380,952.00</b>	<b>21,109,780.00</b>

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

GET	119,048.00	1,055,493.00
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>119,048.00</b>	<b>1,055,493.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>2,500,000.00</b>	<b>22,165,273.00</b>

**Please provide justification**



**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
GEF Agency	United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	140,000.00
GEF Agency	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
Other	Global Resource Information Database (GRID) ? Arenal	In-kind	Investment mobilized	2,915,500.00
Other	Global Ocean Forum	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	546,847.00
Beneficiaries	Comisi?n Permanente del Pac?fico Sur (CPPS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
Other	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,650,000.00
Other	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (GFCM)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Other	The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies CERMES	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Donor Agency	The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	2,435,000.00

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Other	University of Portsmouth	In-kind	Investment mobilized	3,769,815.00
Other	Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	509,360.00
Other	University of Queensland	In-kind	Investment mobilized	635,318.00
Other	One Ocean Hub	In-kind	Investment mobilized	885,909.00
Other	Duke University	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,752,426.00
Other	Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
Donor Agency	French Biodiversity Agency (OFB)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	242,000.00
Other	Universit? de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	750,000.00
Other	National University of Singapore	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00
Other	Mar-Viva Foundation	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,657,000.00
Other	Univesidata Cat?lica del Norte	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	58,311.00
Other	The University of the South Pacific	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	143,787.00
Other	Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner	In-kind	Investment mobilized	480,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Other	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	694,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>22,165,273.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

Co-financing for the Cross-sectoral Project which were identified as investment mobilized include non-recurring expenditures associated with projects and initiatives in executing partner organizations, UN agencies, regional organizations, academic, research and other civil society organizations in the form of in-kind contributions that are directly related to/aligned with the capacity building, knowledge exchange and other activities of the Cross-Sectoral Project as summarized below. CBD Secretariat: Regional governance, capacity building for cross-sectoral management, and facilitating the management of EBSAs through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative with support from the Republic of Korea. UNEP-WCMC: Development and maintenance of online platforms for data compilation and exchange (Ocean + Library; Protected Planet Initiative); capacity building at the regional level (West, Central & East Africa) focusing on the development of 3 Master's programme and early career professional training programme targeting government officials and national representatives; with support from the Proteus Partnership and International Climate Initiative (IKI). GRID-Arendal: Knowledge generation, knowledge exchange and capacity building efforts which have relevance for and/or impact on ABNJ cooperation and coordination for improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through the Mami Wata project on transboundary integrated ocean management approaches in West Africa, activities carried out in 2020 and 2021; EMODNET; Blue Solutions III; Uruguay Blue Economy Rapid Assessment; UNEP Sustainable Blue Economy Support; Pacific CTCN - UNIDO; and JPIO Deep Sea Mining. IUCN: Complementary projects on high seas/BBNJ governance through: Building and broadening ambition for the high seas/Sweden MES; Post-2020 global biodiversity strategy/OFB France; IUCN French Framework contribution/AFD France; High Seas support grant FFEM. Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner: Expert advice, travel support, policy analysis, and other preparation for the PICT participation in COP26 in Glasgow, Our Ocean Conference, BBNJ IGC4, and the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon with grants from Australia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, and Pacific Island Forum member contributions. PEMSEA: Enabling country partners to implement the shared regional strategy entitled Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) through knowledge management, capacity development, strategic partnerships and promotion of blue economy via the IMO-PEMSEA project on Blue Solutions for Reducing Maritime Transport GHG Emissions through Increased Energy Efficiency of ship and port activities in East Asia. Sasakawa Peace Foundation: Existing and ongoing initiatives of the Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) in the Asia and Pacific region (Research on Capacity for Sectoral and Cross-sectoral Cooperation and Coordination in ABNJ; Research on effective

information and knowledge exchange; mechanisms among stakeholders for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ; Research on governance mechanisms in regional seas). One Ocean Hub: Ongoing initiatives of the One Ocean Hub in the Southern Africa, Pacific Islands, West Africa and South Atlantic regions on ABNJ in the areas of capacity building; area-based management including MPAs; EIA/SEA in ABNJ; responsible research and innovation in ABNJ; ABNJ and blue economy; knowledge exchange on BBNJ-climate change-health-human rights nexus, among others; with support from the UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund. MarViva Foundation and University of Brest (UBO): Capacity building activities, integration mechanism, dissemination of knowledge and experience gained through the FFEM funded SARGADOM project related to the Thermal Dome and Sargasso Sea sites, including: Development of shared expertise on feedback exchange on ecosystem-based management, capacity building and governance mechanisms for high ecological value marine areas in the high seas; Ecosystem diagnostic analysis; Governance models for ecosystem based management; Capacity building and knowledge management. Duke University: Complementary initiatives of the Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab including: MiCO System Updates to Host and Deliver Network Connectivity Models for Migratory Species/UNEP- WCMC; Sweden MEES Phase 4 (2020): ?Building and broadening ambition for the high seas?/Swedish Government; Updates to the Biologically Important Areas for Cetaceans/NOAA; Improving the performance and sustainability of high seas fisheries management: Effective monitoring, transparency and dynamic ecosystem management/Packard Foundation; Spawning, Popping, and Nursery Areas for Marine Species Impacted by International Fisheries: A Mini Literature Review/Pew Charitable Trusts; Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), Phases I and II/IKI. University of Portsmouth: Complementary activities from ongoing initiatives including: Marine Coastal Ecosystems Biodiversity and Services in a changing world/European Commission; Integrating diverse values into sustainable management of marine resources/Natural Environment Research Council, UK; A global analysis of policy options to reduce marine plastic litter entering the ocean/Flotilla Foundation; Innovative Fishing Gear for the Ocean/European Commission; Tackling the microbial transformation of plastics in SE Asian seas/Natural Environment Research Council, UK. University of Queensland: Complementary activities from ongoing initiatives including: Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) Project/IKI; Modelling migratory connectivity to support management of protected areas/Global Fishing Watch; Delivering usable knowledge on migratory connectivity for sustainable development/Univ. of Queensland & UNEP-WCMC; Designing the observing system for the world?s ocean ? from microbes to whales/NCEAS PEGASuS; Migratory connectivity of marine megafauna in the Western Indian Ocean and Southeast Pacific/CSIRO; Bioregionalization of ocean ridges and data development in support of environmental management of deep-sea mining for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts/ Pew Charitable Trusts.

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNEP	GET	Global	International Waters	International Waters	2,500,000	225,000	2,725,000.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>2,500,000.00</b>	<b>225,000.00</b>	<b>2,725,000.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

100,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

9,000

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNEP	GET	Global	International Waters	International Waters	100,000	9,000	<b>109,000.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>109,000.00</b>

Please provide justification

This global project will enhance the capacity of relevant organizations and stakeholders to engage in collaboration regarding the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of ocean resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). At present, at the global level, there is no agency/body/forum responsible for addressing the mix of uses/issues in ABNJ on a multiple-use and cross-sectoral basis, and there are various governance arrangements in different regions for different resources and purposes. The major purposes of the project are to enhance the capacity of national governments, as well as that of relevant regional and global entities, to cooperate effectively in addressing issues of common concern in ABNJ, including in the use of cross-sectoral multiple-use approaches, area-based management tools, and in carrying out environmental impact/strategic environmental assessments. The project will specifically build the capacity of regional organizations (e.g., RFMOs, RSPs, LME programs) and their member countries (officials, managers, staff of government line agencies who represent their respective countries in the regional organizations) as well as of representatives of global sectoral organizations associated with various ocean uses such as shipping, submarine cables, etc. The project will focus on enhancement of sectoral as well as cross-sectoral capacity: Within sectors, new policy or management frameworks require regional and national entities to develop the capacity and know-how for their implementation. At the cross-sectoral level, the project will enhance capacity for cooperation among entities from various sectors. The project will achieve this by: i) building capacity within and among entities at national, regional, and

global levels; ii) improving information and knowledge exchange among sectors and entities; iii) working with stakeholders to assess cross-sectoral issues and opportunities for synergies. A PPG is required to support the design of the FSP in accordance with UNEP and GEF requirements and its socialization with key stakeholders. The project formulation will include inter alia definition of project activities both global and regional including selection of pilot regions and activities, systematic collection of information, mapping out of relevant stakeholders, definition of implementation arrangements, preparation of communications, monitoring and reporting and sustainability strategies, workplan and budgets.



## Core Indicators

**Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management**

	<b>Number (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at TE)</b>
<b>Shared water Ecosystem</b>		Area 81 (Pacific, Southwest), Area 87 (Pacific, Southeast)		
<b>Count</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)**

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>
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**Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)**

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>
Area 81 (Pacific, Southwest)		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				
Area 87 (Pacific, Southeast)		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				

**Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)**

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>
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Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Area 81 (Pacific, Southwest)		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				
Area 87 (Pacific, Southeast)		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Area 81 (Pacific, Southwest)		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				
Area 87 (Pacific, Southeast)		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>		1,750		
<b>Male</b>		1,750		
<b>Total</b>	0	3500	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Methodology for core indicator 11: The total number of 3,500 participants for Indicator 11 (Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment) comes from the following places in the results framework: Output 1.1.1: 40 individuals participated in the capacity needs assessment (33% of 120 individuals calculated as follows) 33% is the expected response rate to needs assessment survey 23 individuals from the Southeast Pacific (representing at least 5 sectoral agencies in each of 4 member countries + 3 regional organizations) 97 individuals from the Pacific Islands (representing at least 5 sectoral agencies in each of 18 member countries + 7 regional organizations) Output 1.1.2 ? 250 participants (50 for each of 5 training sessions) (50% women; 50% men) Output 1.1.3 ? 100 participants (50 for each of 2 training-workshops) (50% women; 50% men) Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 ? 200 participants (50% women; 50% men) Output 2.2.1 ? 460 participants (participation in IW conferences and BBNJ meetings in terms of gender cannot be predicted here) Output 2.2.2 ? 2000 MOOC participants and beneficiaries of the communications outreach via the Common Oceans Portal; however, a basis for gender disaggregation for public outreach may be difficult to establish. Total number of estimated direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF Investment: 1,750 women and 1,750 men = 3,500

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

The project has essentially stayed the same since the original PIF with only minor changes including merging of two very similar outcomes into one and merging of two outputs into one which have been revised and simplified which now provide further clarity. The table below summarizes the project presented in detail in the full ProDoc. A stand alone M&E component (Component 3) has also been added.

Original PIF outcomes and outputs	Changes to outcomes and outputs
Outcome 2.2 <b>Increased understanding by the International Waters community and high-level officials in the BBNJ process</b> regarding individual and institutional capacity needs and priorities related to sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ and corresponding actions/processes identified to address those needs.	Two outcomes have been condensed into one (for simpler project structure, increased transparency and ease of project management). Language has been simplified by removing phrases consisting of duplication information represented at the output level. Merged into Outcome 2.2 which now reads as:
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.</b>	<b>Increased understanding</b> a) by the International Waters community and high-level officials in the BBNJ process of individual and institutional capacity needs and priorities related to cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ; and b) by the media and the public of benefits derived from ABNJ and engagement in associated cross-sectoral issues and opportunities.
Outputs	
Output 1.1.1 and 1.1.2	Wording revised for clarity and brevity
Output 1.1.3	What was 1.1.3 is now redundant as it was duplicated in Outcome 1.1. Instead 1.1.4 has become 1.1.3
Output 1.1.4	
Output 2.1.1	Wording revised for clarity and brevity
Output 2.1.2	Wording revised for clarity and brevity

#### 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

The 'Cross-sectoral Project' is a global project as it sits within the GEF-7 ABNJ Common Oceans Program and will be undertaken in the context of existing regional conventions and policies in two pilot regions: the Pacific Islands region and the Southeast Pacific region together with the Commission Permanente del Pacifico Sur (CPPS) in the Southeast Pacific and the Pacific Islands Region in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIF).

#### Threats and problems in ABNJ

##### Overview

Due to their vast size and the wealth of species and resources they host, ABNJ and their associated ecosystems face a number of threats to their health and survival. Many threats are widespread and

transboundary in nature, creating challenges for the effective management and sustainable use of ABNJ and its associated resources.

Key threats include:

### **Overfishing, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries and bycatch**

ABNJ contains highly valued commercial fish species, some of which spend their entire lives in the high seas, and others which travel in between ABNJ and national jurisdictions as part of their annual migrations. Overfishing, IUU fishing and bycatch in ABNJ all contribute towards negative impacts on biodiversity, yet despite its remoteness from land, they also contribute towards negative societal and economic impacts.

34% of global marine fish stocks are exploited at unsustainable levels and 60% fully exploited, meaning that 94% of stocks have limited or no potential for increasing production<sup>[1]</sup>. IUU fishing contributes to the unsustainable exploitation of numerous fish stocks throughout ABNJ, undermining global and regional efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks and ABNJ ecosystems sustainably.

Overexploitation of species in recent decades beyond their ability to replenish their stocks, through a combination of both legal and illegal means, has resulted in significant population declines.

For instance, the Southern Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, commercially valuable pelagic species, have been overfished to the point that they are now listed by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Critically Endangered and Endangered, respectively.

Fishing and IUU fishing can also have impacts beyond the target species and on the ecosystem, causing food web alterations, removal of apex predators and pollution. They can also cause population declines in non-target species, or bycatch. In some instances, bycatch can include vulnerable or threatened species such as sharks, turtles, seabirds and cetaceans. Bycatch has been identified as the largest threat to these species<sup>[2]</sup>.

Beyond biodiversity impacts, overfishing, IUU fishing and bycatch has negative societal impacts. Instabilities to marine food webs and fisheries collapse threatens food security and the livelihoods of marine and coastal-dependent communities and also exacerbates poverty, particularly in the case of small-scale fisheries in developing countries. IUU fisheries have also been linked to slavery, human rights violations and transnational crime. Further still, bycatch undermines conservation and management efforts related to specific species.

There are also negative economic impacts that result from overfishing, IUU fishing and bycatch. Reduced catches are less profitable in themselves, but exacerbating the problem is the increased time and distance spent at sea to gain that catch, meaning higher overall costs. This can lead to reduced fishing fleets and loss of jobs. IUU fishing can reduce opportunities for legal fishers, whilst bycatch reduces opportunities for ecotourism.

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## **Seabed disturbance ? seabed mineral exploration, exploitation and submarine cables**

Rising demand and the relative rarity of some minerals (e.g., nickel, copper, manganese, and cobalt) have increased interest in the potential for deep-sea mining in ABNJ. At present, commercial seabed exploitation of minerals occurs to a limited extent within EEZs (e.g., Papua New Guinea) but does not yet occur in ABNJ. However, exploration of ABNJ for potentially suitable mining sites is well underway (e.g., in the Clarion Clipperton Zone in the North Pacific). To date, the International Seabed Authority has issued 29 Contractors with 15-year exploration licenses for spatially defined prospecting for specified resources in the Area.

Exploration of the seabed can impact deep-sea ecosystems (albeit to a lesser degree than exploitation), for instance via seabed disturbances, resuspension of sediments, introduction of light and sound, or via pollution by vessels. Extraction from the seabed will have more significant impacts, affecting the entire water column (i.e., from the seabed to surface waters) through resuspension and compaction of sediments, removal of seafloor sediments and habitats, discharge of debris and spillage, and noise and vibration. Further, many of the proposed mining sites contain habitats of high biodiversity importance, including hydrothermal vents, seamounts and cold-water seeps, which are likely to be highly degraded or destroyed. It is expected that the impacts will affect biodiversity over a much larger area than the designated mining sites and the allocated buffer zones. This will interrupt the delicate balance of deep-sea ecosystems and could affect additional resources and ecosystem services provided by ABNJ, including fisheries and food production, marine and coastal livelihoods, climate regulation and carbon capture. Research is ongoing to determine the extent of potential impacts of seabed mineral extraction, with many expectations pointing to long-lived impacts, from which seabed ecosystem recovery may occur over centuries to millennia, if at all.

## **Marine and land-based pollution**

There are multiple forms of land-based pollution which affect ABNJ, including, nutrients, hydrocarbons and plastic. For example, excess nutrient discharge promotes harmful algal blooms and hypoxia predominantly in waters over the continental shelf, however, a recent study estimated that 75% of nitrogen and 80% of phosphorus from rivers could eventually reach ABNJ[3]<sup>3</sup>.

Between 4.4 and 12.7 million metric tons of plastic make it into the ocean each year from land-based sources. Plastic pieces move via ocean currents into ABNJ, sometimes accumulating in large garbage patches in oceanic gyres - for example, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is estimated to contain 79,000 tons of floating plastic and is thought to be increasing in size[4]<sup>4</sup>. Further, marine plastics have already been found in the deepest parts of the ocean[5]<sup>5</sup>. Plastic pollution harms biodiversity in a range of ways, including entanglement and has been found to impact at

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least 914 marine species[6]<sup>6</sup>. Microplastics harm biodiversity through ingestion, having been found in a wide range of marine species, from the seabed to ocean-going predators. Ingested microplastics accumulate up the food web and even pose a threat to human health due to their presence in seafood and drinking water[7]<sup>7</sup>.

Pollution of ABNJ also occurs via maritime activities, including fishing, seabed exploration and extraction (as above), and shipping, as discarded fishing gear, oil spills and sediment plumes etc. Maritime shipping has a large spatial extent and extensive international shipping make its impacts far-reaching across the ocean. Annually, more than 50,000 seagoing ships carry between them more than 10 billion tons of vital and desired cargoes. It is a sector that is expected to continue to grow, particularly as ice in polar regions begins to retreat [8]<sup>8</sup>, meaning its impacts are expected to increase and be felt in new regions of the ocean. The impacts associated with shipping activities threaten biodiversity and ecosystems via underwater noise, physical strikes, pollution, transfer and introduction of invasive alien species and habitat disturbance and degradation.

### **Climate change**

ABNJ, alongside all areas of the ocean, including both pilot regions are threatened due to human-induced climate change, with impacts being observed throughout the deep-sea and open ocean in ABNJ. Climate change impacts, such as changes in ocean temperature, circulation patterns and acidity, drive ecosystem level changes and decreases in their productivity and resilience. Together, such impacts have widespread ramifications on multiple sectors, including fisheries and tourism. According to the 2019 IPCC report, climate change impacts are global, pervasive, and intensifying. Future marine ecosystems are likely to differ from today's, reshaped by ocean acidification and warming, decreased productivity and oxygen availability, ocean stratification and changes in ocean currents.

### **Cumulative impacts**

The impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems in ABNJ are often cumulative in nature[1]. The effects of one pressure reduces the ability of marine species and ecosystems to withstand the effects of subsequent threats, or multiple pressures may happen at once which drive the species and/or ecosystem past a tipping point or threshold. In other words, the overall impact is greater than the sum of its parts, for example, the fisheries activities could exacerbate the vulnerability of an ecosystem to climate change. It has been estimated that around 60% of the ocean is facing increasing cumulative impacts from human activities[2].

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[1] Halpern et al. (2015). Spatial and temporal changes in cumulative human impacts on the world's ocean. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms8615>

[2] Halpern et al. (2019). Recent pace of change in human impact on the world's ocean. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-47201-9>

It is important to note that human activities taking place in ABNJ do not always threaten marine ecosystems and biodiversity - if managed well, some types of impact can be mitigated or prevented altogether. However, the poor management of activities, for instance through inadequate consideration for marine biodiversity, a lack of resources or lack of coordination across different uses, will continue to drive and potentially exacerbate threats and impacts on the marine environment. Therefore, there is a need to identify, develop and coordinate appropriate measures across different ocean uses and sectoral management remits to minimize the risk of cumulative impacts and the benefits of management measures. The lack of coordination makes the risk of impacts occurring a key problem at present.

### **Problem analysis**

#### **Global and regional cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms are insufficient**

The section above highlights the cross-cutting nature of the threats to ABNJ from a variety of sectors and activities. These require cross-cutting, integrated and coordinated approaches between ABNJ users to address. However, the current global ocean governance framework is fragmented and incomplete, with no internationally agreed mechanism through which coordinated multi-sector governance measures for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in ABNJ can be agreed and implemented. As a result, measures are implemented in a fragmented manner by regional and sectoral organizations with varying competencies and mandates, operating in 'silos' relating to specific activities, with no legal requirement for cooperation. Consequently, cooperation and coordination across sectors at both global and regional scales often occurs on an ad-hoc basis or through participation in external projects or initiatives.

Limited coordination between sectoral entities also results in poor understanding and awareness of different global, regional, and national priorities (e.g., those under different legal frameworks and conventions or across different national ministries) and capacities to undertake activities in ABNJ. It is quite common for the one government to have different views/priorities in different international fora, depending on the purpose or orientation of such fora, for instance focusing on conservation or fisheries. Consequently, conflicting priorities can be observed, increasing the likelihood of activities that undermine each other's objectives. This is particularly problematic where the impacts of specific activities are poorly understood and as such precautionary approaches would be required. External drivers, including government reshuffles and institutional turnover, exacerbate this problem, as skilled workers with established networks and experience across other sectors and their priorities, move on and leave gaps in this type of capacity.

A dedicated coordination mechanism, coupled with widespread recognition of the need for- and willingness to partake in- cooperative and coordinated activities, are essential for cross-sectoral management in ABNJ.

#### **Technical capacity to fully consider or operate in ABNJ is insufficient in many regions.**



The technical capacity to understand the impacts of ongoing activities in EEZs and ABNJ, and their impacts on one another, is limited in many regions. This can influence the extent to which organizations at all scales recognize the need for- and consider how to undertake- cooperation and coordination. In some regions, cross-sectoral coordination in ABNJ is already occurring between regional and global entities. However, lessons learned and relevant information on cross-sectoral coordination from these regions are not always easily accessed and interpreted. Further, due to differences in regional circumstances, there is no 'one size fits all' approach to encouraging and successfully achieving cooperation and coordination across sectors in ABNJ.

Addressing this issue through technical capacity development is only available to regions with access to training, meaning there is an imbalance in technical capacity between regions, and local and traditional knowledge is often underused, meaning there are missed opportunities for vital contributions.

Moreover, there is limited capacity among these global and regional bodies and their respective member countries for cooperation and coordination. Consequently, resource governance and management in ABNJ is not integrated and tends to be ineffective with little, if any, multi-sectoral planning. For example, the lack of cross-sectoral coordination in the context of marine spatial planning (MSP) means there is limited bridging of biodiversity conservation, fisheries management and extractive industry (minerals, hydrocarbons) objectives and little, if any, consideration of cumulative impacts.

**Data and information are often difficult to access and translate into good decision-making.**

Poor knowledge of biodiversity and ecological processes in ABNJ, and limited understanding of how these systems respond to sectoral and cumulative impacts, is a barrier to cross-sectoral coordination and sustainable development in ABNJ.

Relative to coastal waters in national jurisdictions, ABNJ is poorly understood in terms of species, habitats, oceanography and natural capital potential. This is partly because the remoteness and size of ABNJ make it expensive and challenging to collect data, and inaccessible for countries lacking the required technology. Furthermore, when data is obtained it is often not made easily available to other sectors or has restrictions on its use, hindering science-based decision-making. Underlying this is a lack of an integrated cross-sectoral data sharing mechanism, meaning that even with data and willingness to share data, coordination between sectors remains challenging.

**Financial capacity for ABNJ remit is limited in many regions.**

Financial capacity to operate in such vast and distant areas is lacking in many regions. For instance, regional and global secretariats of multilateral agreements or conventions may already have limited resources to fully implement their existing obligations and not enough to participate in other cross-sectoral activities or discussions. Further, many States prioritize funding to the management of their EEZ, making it difficult for them to implement ambitious measures in ABNJ, for instance those set out under a new BBNJ Agreement. However, this project aims to improve awareness of ocean connectivity and enhance capacity for transboundary, integrated, or cross-

sectoral approaches in ABNJ to enable states to consider ABNJ in their EEZ planning and management activities, rather than as a completely separate issue.

Whilst the project will not focus on increasing financial capacity, it will seek to improve technical capacity to undertake cross-sectoral coordination, planning and management. This in turn may help regions to streamline and improve the cost efficiency of activities/processes and identify sustainable sources of funding to support not only these activities, but also priorities relating to livelihoods such as food security, disaster risk reduction, resilience, and adaption to climate change

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**Table 1** Summary analysis showing the interactions between the four key problems (orange) to addressing threats in ABNJ (as noted above), their causes and resulting impacts currently (or likely to be) experienced by the ocean (purple), that ultimately exacerbate unsustainable use of ABNJ. \*Note, that some root causes and impacts are applicable to multiple problems and are indicated by a break in the vertical orange borders.

Underlying issues	Remoteness of ABNJ means "out of sight out of mind".	National ministerial arrangements.	Technological inequalities across developed and developing countries.	Limited scientific information due to the remoteness and size of ABNJ mean it is very expensive and challenging to operate within these areas.	Difficulties accessing funding streams (complexity of applications, in-country limitations)
	Siloed governance frameworks and management remits.				Unequal access to financial resources and benefit sharing
Root Causes	No legal requirement for cooperation	Lack of awareness of regional, national and/or sectoral priorities and capacities.	Limited knowledge about other sectoral activities, priorities and mandates.	ABNJ poorly understood in terms of species, habitats, oceanography, natural capital potential etc.	Regional and National EEZ management a priority over management of shared ocean space.
	Poor integration of existing governance frameworks.	Limited intra-national communication and coordination (loss of knowledge if staff turnover or govt. reshuffle)	Technical capacity development available for those regions with access to training.	Capacity for data collection is limited.	Regional and Global secretariats often have limited funding.
	Limited communication and no clear engagement mechanism for sectoral organizations		Local and traditional knowledge underused.	Data collection via siloed approaches and some data unavailable under data access restrictions.	Uneven ABNJ project development and fundraising skills across regions and countries.
Problems	<b>Limited capacity within global and regional organizations for cross-sectoral management of ABNJ</b>				
	<b>Cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms</b>		<b>Technical capacity</b>	<b>Data and information exchange</b>	<b>Financial capacity for ABNJ remit</b>
	Inadequate resources (staffing, scientific, technology, legal etc.) to maintain communication	Incomplete governance framework.		Lack of an integrated cross-sectoral data sharing mechanism.	Regional inequalities in ABNJ resource access and use.
Impacts	Loss of biodiversity and habitat destruction.	Food chain disruption, threatening food insecurity (e.g., migratory tuna and other fish stocks).	Poor management, monitoring and enforcement	Science-based decision-making is limited.	Regional inequalities continue to grow (i.e., those with capacity continue to apply for research grants and funding grow their capacity, whilst those without cannot).
	Mismatched national and regional priorities across sectors in ABNJ (e.g., environment, fisheries, economic development)		Precautionary and ecosystem-based management approaches difficult.		Inequalities in access and benefit sharing
	Duplication of effort and inefficient use of resources		Poor management decisions (EBM, stock levels, MPAs, conservation measures etc.)		Understaffed management organizations
	Undermining of existing sectoral or regional efforts (including IUU fishing)				Loss of economic development gains from ABNJ resources.
	Climate change threats go unmitigated/unaddressed, or exacerbated via direct human pressures (incl. seabed mining and pollution)				Loss of economic development gains from ABNJ resources.
Effective cross-sectoral coordination and management very difficult in ABNJ.					
<b>Unsustainable resource use in ABNJ</b>					

## Problems that this project will seek to address

Addressing the aforementioned problems requires greater capacity, cooperation and coordination, and an improved understanding and awareness of the activities occurring in ABNJ, how they impact nature and how they interact with climatic and socioeconomic drivers of change.

As highlighted above, there are four key problems affecting how threats to ABNJ are addressed. Each of these problems is ultimately related to the available capacity within global and regional organizations for cross-sectoral management of ABNJ. As noted above, there is limited capacity (or capacity gaps) for global and regional organizations to coordinate actions across sectors to comprehensively address the cumulative threats impacting ABNJ. This includes a lack of resources to actively address threats, as well as a lack of awareness of the complex interactions between humans and nature in the deep ocean. This project will seek to address the following capacity issues within sectors across scales (national, regional, and global) in an effort to lessen the impact of the four key problems noted above.

**Formal/informal mechanism(s)** to encourage and facilitate cooperation and coordination across activities or sectors are not enshrined comprehensively in organizational operational procedures or convention texts (Outputs 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 2.1.2).

**A lack of political will, incentives or understanding** for the need for, or mechanisms to, undertake cooperation and coordination in ABNJ. In part, this arises due to the complex political landscape at national, regional and global scales, which is driven by different priorities across

sectors and different cultural norms within and across regions. A lack of understanding of how individual nations can effectively engage in ABNJ discussions and governance approaches exists. This situation often exacerbated by insufficient technical or financial capacity or resources to participate and engage[1] (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3).

**A complex landscape of mandates** in which there is currently no intergovernmental organization with a complete environment and biodiversity-focused mandate to operate in ABNJ. As such, environmental obligations are applied alongside a primary mandate and can potentially be secondary considerations. In addition, the different organizational interpretations of obligations towards the environment or ecosystem could hinder the development of complementary or coordinated approaches[2] (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 2.1.1).

**Lack of national level coordination:** Different ministries from the same government may attend the various intergovernmental processes, and a lack of a national level coordination mechanism may result in inconsistencies in the approaches proposed by the same government (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3).

**A limited evidence base relating to ocean environments,** the drivers of change and the threats they face. The remote nature of ABNJ and the resources required to undertake scientific research there

means that it is less well studied than national or coastal waters[3]. The presence of unique hydrothermal vent ecosystems was only recently discovered in 1977, illustrate the challenges of research in the deep ocean[4]. Therefore, the science needed to assess risk, undertake protection and mitigate impacts is still much more challenging to undertake than in the equivalent coastal or terrestrial realms (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2).

**An unequal playing field,** with access to, and capacity to use, data, information, equipment and infrastructure varying across states, regions, organizations and sectors.

This global project will be undertaken in the context of two pilot regions: the Southeast Pacific region together with the Comisi?n Permanente del Pac?fico Sur (CPPS) and the Pacific Islands Region in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). This section provides a brief description of the problem context specific to the two pilot regions, the geographic and institutional scope.

## **Pilot region ? Pacific Islands**

### **The problem context**

The Pacific Islands region includes 19 islands countries and territories. The Pacific Small Island Developing States include the countries of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The region also includes the territories of American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Guam, New Caledonia, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Niue. Pacific Island countries have a collective population of about 11.5 million people, spread across approximately 25,000 islands over an area of 40 million km<sup>2</sup> (which is equivalent to 15% of the globe?s surface).

The size of the islands and their populations vary considerably, from Papua New Guinea, which has the largest population of around 9 million to Tuvalu and Nauru, with estimated populations around 10,000 each. Kiribati is one of the most remote and geographically dispersed countries in the world, consisting of 33 coral atolls spread over 3.5 million km<sup>2</sup> of ocean, which is an area larger than the entire Caribbean. The relatively large size of Pacific Islands states ocean areas compared to their terrestrial area means they often referred to as 'big ocean states'.

Pacific Island countries share similar challenges and opportunities as small and remote islands. They are small in size with limited natural terrestrial resources, have narrowly based economies, are large distances away from major markets, are exposed to the impacts of IUU fishing, face maritime insecurity (territorial seas and EEZs) due to sea level rise and are vulnerable to external shocks (e.g., extreme weather events and more recently the COVID-19 crisis, all of which can affect economic growth and have often led to a high degree of economic volatility).

People in the Pacific have a strong cultural connection to the ocean, including through migratory species and the ancient tradition of voyaging canoes. In many Pacific Island countries, traditional ecological knowledge is the basis of marine management systems used by many communities and is an important part of management of Locally Managed Marine Areas. Pacific Island countries have championed inclusion of traditional knowledge, as well as traditional knowledge holders, in the BBNJ negotiations.

## **Geographical scope**

The Pacific Ocean is both the largest and the oldest ocean basin on Earth. The marine environment of the region has high biodiversity, with a variety of ecosystems from coral reefs and atolls to deep-sea habitats such as seamounts, hydrothermal vents, deep trenches and canyons. The total number of seamounts is unknown but is at least in the tens of thousands and likely in excess of 100,000. Economically and culturally important migratory species, such as tuna, humpback whales, sea turtles and seabirds migrate vast distances, connecting coastal areas with ABNJ. The region has a high degree of endemism as a consequence of remote and isolated environments. It is likely that many species, particularly in the deep sea, remain to be discovered.

## **Institutional scope**

The region has a strong system of creating policies, space for political discussions and agreements. It also demonstrates a significant amount of ocean policies, ocean initiatives and ocean actors at play. The project will support existing regional conventions and policies in the Pacific Islands region.

They have ratified multi-lateral environmental agreements and developed companion regional policy instruments for the sea, biological diversity, disaster risk reduction, climate change and pollution. Their support of more encompassing frameworks for sustainable development such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States is complemented by the development of regional instruments such as the Pacific Plan and Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP) as well as the promotion of national instruments such as National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDSs) or Planning instruments, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs).

The **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme** (SPREP) is a non-UNEP administered Regional Seas Program, consisting of 21 Pacific member countries and territories (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Niue, Northern Marianas, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna) and with five developed countries that have direct interests in the region (Australia, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America). SPREP's mandate is *to promote cooperation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations*[5]. SPREP is also Secretariat to the Noumea Convention, the Waigani Convention and the Apia Convention.

The Pacific islands region has a strong focus on *regionalism* and *embracing regional solidarity* as described in the Blue Pacific Ocean Report (2021)[6]. This is underpinned by the ownership and shared values of the Pacific Islands and the *political will* which unlocks potential for certainty in decision-making related to cooperation and coordination. In light of the critical importance of the ocean for the Pacific Islands and the many pressures it is facing, including

climate change, the **Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat** (PIFS) has committed to strong engagement in the BBNJ process [7].

Support for the BBNJ Agreement by the Pacific Island Countries was formalized in the Palau Declaration (2014)[8] and, for SIDS in general, in the High-Level Political Declaration of the Mid-Term Review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway, 2014). The PIF Leaders Declaration 2020/21 committed to strong regional action, harnessing shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean and acting as one 'Blue Pacific Continent'.

With regards to biodiversity in BBNJ, the PIFS expressed that they strive for 'expeditious finalization, adoption and entry into force' of the BBNJ Agreement that 'establishes a robust and ambitious framework to conserve and sustainably use our marine biodiversity.' In addition, they had the following specific call for the framework:

*'The framework must be based on the best available scientific information and relevant traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities; taking into account the precautionary approach; recognising the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States; recognising the special interests and roles of coastal states; and taking into account cumulative impacts of activities, as well as of climate change, without undermining existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies.'*

The Pacific Island countries recognize 'the need to strengthen the enabling environment at all levels, including achieving institutional and human capacity building at the national level, underpinned by relevant education programmes that are supported by the best data, information and knowledge especially scientific and technical information' (Blue Pacific Ocean Report, 2021).

In August 2019, the PIFS endorsed the development of a '2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent' to secure the future of the Pacific region[9]. The 2050 Strategy will set out a long-term vision for the region and outline the steps required to achieve this vision. It will be a regional strategy to protect and secure Pacific people, place and prospects, and will require a collective and coordinate commitment to achieve it.

## **Pilot region ' Southeast Pacific**

### **The problem context**

The Southeast Pacific region comprises of the entire Pacific coast of South America, from Panama to Cape Horn, with a coastline of 16,000 km. This coastline is comprised of four countries: Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, which have a total population of 117.45 million, although much of this population lives away from the coastal zone. Similar to the Pacific Islands region, the total ocean area of this region is larger than the terrestrial area. The region is impacted by the 'El Niño' Southern Oscillation, a climate phenomenon that occurs every 3-5 years, resulting in warmer waters in the Pacific Ocean. The counter condition is 'La Niña' which results in cooler waters and is associated with higher productivity.

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Most socioeconomic benefits from economic activities to countries in the Southeast Pacific are reliant on biodiversity in ABNJ and healthy ocean ecosystems[10]<sup>10</sup>. The high biological productivity of the Southeast Pacific lends itself to countries in this region becoming large fishing nations. For example, Chile increased its fish exports between 2008-2018 by 65% and is a net exporter of fish[11]<sup>11</sup>. The span of the coastline across latitudes means fisheries in this region vary from tropical species to sub-Antarctic species[12]<sup>12</sup>. As key fishing nations, Southeast Pacific countries have high socioeconomic importance due to providing food for human consumption and generating income for South America. This reflects a pattern of the continent as a whole, which has heavy reliance on exports of primary products and natural resources[13]<sup>13</sup>. Although this has led to relatively high economic growth in recent years, unsustainable resource use and environmental degradation is one of the largest threats to the region.

### **Geographical scope**

The Southeast Pacific has geographic, biological, oceanographic and ecological characteristics that make it a unique ocean area. Spanning the entire length of the Pacific coast of South America from Panama to Cape Horn, the region encompasses tropical, sub-tropical, temperate and sub-Antarctic systems. There is a diversity of ecosystems in this region, ranging from coral reefs, mangrove forests, kelp forests, wetlands, beaches and dunes to seamounts, submarine canyons, open ocean, and islands. The region is affected by warm currents from the equator (Panama Current) and cold currents (Humboldt Current System), which support high primary productivity and diverse species of high commercial and ecological value. The fishing grounds off the South American coast are some of the most productive in the world.

### **Institutional scope**

The project will be undertaken in the context of existing regional conventions and policies in the CPPS region, in particular the 1952 Santiago Declaration, 1981 Lima Convention, 1987 Quito Declaration and the 2012 Commitment of the Galapagos for the XXI Century.

The **Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)** is a non-UNEP administered Regional Seas Program for the Southeast Pacific region, consisting of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. The CPPS Secretariat hosts the Lima Convention. Member states of the Lima Convention are the same aforementioned countries, in addition to Panama.

The objective of the Lima Convention is to protect the marine environment and coastal zones of the South-East Pacific within the 200-mile area of maritime sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Parties, and beyond that area, the high seas up to a distance within which pollution of the high seas may affect that area. The Lima Convention has a number of protocols, out of which the Protocol for the Conservation and Administration of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas of the Southeast Pacific guides activities of relevance to marine and coastal protected areas.

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In 1992 the Regional network of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Southeast Pacific was established to implement the Protocol through the Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas.

The 1987 Quito Declaration reaffirmed the interests of the coastal States for the conservation and optimal use of marine resources beyond 200 nautical miles, as well as CPPS' role as the relevant regional organization to coordinate the common interest in preserving marine resources. The 2012 Galapagos Commitment confirms the interest of CPPS in ABNJ-related issues and reaffirms member States interests in living and non-living marine resources in ABNJ. Priority areas (such as climate change, sustainable development, food security and small-scale fishing) apply in both EEZs and in ABNJ.

In 1991, the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Southeast Pacific was adopted. The Action Plan has allowed the implementation of a number of activities relating to marine mammals, including those relating to fisheries interactions and population assessment.

The Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program is a legally binding, multilateral agreement that entered into force in February 1999. The **Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission's** main convention is the Antigua Convention and every year they adopt legally binding resolutions on tuna species and by-catch species, gear restrictions etc.

**South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation** (SPRFMO) established in 2010 has a Secretariat located in Wellington, New Zealand. It is an inter-governmental organization that is committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources of the South Pacific Ocean and in so doing safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which the resources occur. The SPRFMO Convention applies to the high seas of the South Pacific, covering about a fourth of the Earth's high seas areas. SPRFMO was constituted by the "Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean" on 14 November 2009.

With regard to the BBNJ process, the region aspires to actively contribute to reaching a global, integrative agreement and sees potential opportunities from the agreement, including improved governance of multiple activities; opportunities in technological development for remote areas; sharing of benefits from bioprospecting; sharing benefits of scientific research outcomes; further capacity development including professional training for personnel; economic benefits for lower-income countries; and increased regional cooperation for the purpose of conservation<sup>[14]</sup>.

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[1] Halpern et al. (2015). Spatial and temporal changes in cumulative human impacts on the world?s ocean. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms8615>

[2] Halpern et al. (2019). Recent pace of change in human impact on the world?s ocean. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-47201-9>

**Table 2 below summarizes the key regional-scale ocean policies and governance frameworks.**

	Treaty/Convention Title	Key information and provisions
<b>Region</b>		
<b>South East Pacific</b>	<b>Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zones of the South East Pacific (Lima Convention)</b>	Through the 1981 Lima convention, the CPPS member states and Panama work on the prevention, reduction and control of pollution and the protection of marine and coastal areas, including areas beyond the EEZs. Implementation of the Convention is coordinated by CPPS, which primarily focuses on jurisdictional waters. CPPS can implement measures in ABNJ adjacent to the EEZs of their Contracting Parties if there is pollution from activities in ABNJ affecting EEZs or coastal areas of the <a href="#">Contracting Parties</a> .
<b>Pacific</b>	<b>Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (Noumea Convention)</b>	This Convention is the legal instrument upheld by SPREP. It provides the overarching regional framework for the protection, development and management of the marine and coastal environment in the region including ABNJ.
	<b>Nauru Agreement</b>	This is a subregional agreement. Parties to the Nauru agreement are responsible for advancing tuna conservation and management in the Pacific
	<b>Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Surveillance &amp; Law Enforcement in the South Pacific</b>	The Niue Treaty is an agreement on cooperation between members about monitoring, control, and surveillance of fisheries. It includes provisions on exchange of information (about vessel position and speed of vessels at sea, which vessels are licensed) plus procedures for cooperation in monitoring, prosecuting, and penalizing illegal fishing vessels.
	<b>Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy (PRIOP) 2002 and its Framework for Integrated Strategic Action 2005</b>	The goal of this Policy is to ensure the future sustainable use of our ocean and its resources by Pacific Islands communities and external partners
	<b>Framework for Pacific Oceanscape (FPO)</b>	Outlines a vision secure for Pacific Island countries and territories based on sustainable development, management and conservation of the ocean
	<b>Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2021-2025</b>	Outlines a mission to protect and preserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific Islands forever for the benefit of the people of the Pacific and the World

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Building on the first GEF-5 Commons Ocean Program

The Program builds on the previous GEF-5 Common Oceans Program and the recommendations from its terminal evaluation (Box 1)

### **Box 1. Summary of terminal evaluation under the GEF-5 ABNJ Common Oceans Program**

In 2019, the terminal evaluation of the GEF-5 Common Oceans Program and its components put forward a number of recommendations to be taken into account in the second phase, including the following:

- Building on existing mechanisms and instruments sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination where those have been established.
- Involving a broad range of stakeholders, including through robust stakeholder mapping to understand and adapt to diverse positions and priorities, extensive consultations, and ensuring that adequate time and financial resources are allocated for these tasks.
- Further, the design of the GEF-7 Program should involve RFMOs, RSPs and their member countries at an early stage. Involving countries from the start increases ownership and will greatly facilitate implementation, as well as co-financing.
- The design should also include a partnership strategy from the beginning to make it easier for smaller organizations to fully participate.
- A communication strategy should be put in place, and include tailored communication of activities, results, knowledge and lessons learned to diverse stakeholders and audiences. Communication across all projects should also be undertaken more effectively. This requires financial and human resources.
- Cohesion, coordination and synthesis of lessons learned, as well as improved communication across all child projects under the GEF-7 Program should be ensured to maximize opportunities for synergistic gains, and to inform and influence important global and regional processes.
- A sustainability plan should be developed to secure upfront commitments of recurrent public

The GEF-5 Common Oceans Program included four inter-linked projects (of which the ABNJ Deep Seas Project and the Capacity Project are particularly relevant to this proposal):

1. [Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity](#);
2. [Sustainable use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity](#) (ABNJ Deep Seas Project);
3. [Strengthening global capacity to effectively manage ABNJ](#) (Capacity Project);
4. [Ocean partnerships for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation](#).

The [ABNJ Deep Seas Project](#) was a joint project from the FAO and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which worked with regional fisheries bodies, other multi-sectoral organizations, the fishing industry and governments to improve fisheries management and

strengthen the protection of related ecosystems, for example through mechanisms to implement and harmonize the Ecosystem-Based-Approach to Fisheries Management.

Notably, the project explored the potential for the application of an ecosystem approach via marine spatial planning (MSP) in ABNJ in the context of an evolving governance landscape. The resulting framework provides a basis upon which to initiate or inform cross-sectoral area-based planning in the pilot regions in this project. In addition, the ways in which regional, sectoral and global organizations operating in ABNJ interact and undertake area-based planning and management have been explored.

The ABNJ Deep Seas project has also initiated the first steps towards the establishment of an online prototype governance map and database of ABNJ actors in the pilot regions (including mandates, remits, agreements etc.) to help facilitate information access across sectoral management bodies which will serve to improve the basis for better decision-making. The project fostered good working relationships with regional and global stakeholders operating in ABNJ to catalyze interest in area-based planning ABNJ. These relationships will be built upon under the proposed GEF-7 Cross-Sectoral Project in order to increase stakeholder engagement, project impact and ensure that momentum in engaging with ABNJ issues is maintained.

The [Capacity Project](#) promoted global and regional coordination on ABNJ capacity building through regional cross-sectoral workshops and high-level events at the BBNJ process; capacity development through communities of practice and regional leaders training; and knowledge management and outreach through a high-level event and media workshop and development of a media guide on ABNJ.

At the time of the GEF-7 PPG phase, it was not clear as to who the exact co-financiers would be. Over time, there has been more clarity in identifying co-financiers with relevant experience in relation to capacity building and knowledge exchange. In order to build and strengthen the capacity of individuals as well as organizations in ABNJ to cooperate with one another and coordinate their actions across all ocean users, including sectoral organisations is needed. Past and current efforts underway to bridge gaps in ABNJ capacity and information exchange, as well as ongoing work under wider environmental and biodiversity-related agendas. For example, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development to enhance ocean science and capacity.

The project will also draw from the experiences of other regions, in particular where those regions have undertaken cross-sectoral activities towards the governance and management of areas both within and beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). The following sections will describe the global and regional initiatives, as well as the pilot region specific activities that will serve as a baseline for this project. In addition, since this project will take an ocean-basin approach, activities relating to collaboration between the pilot regions are also discussed.

**FAO are leading the Common Oceans Programme (2022-2027).** The project builds on the first phase of the GEF-funded Common Oceans ABNJ Program, which aimed to achieve efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through four inter-linked projects.

**The UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** launched a Regional Seas Programme in 1974, and is one of UNEP's most significant achievements in the past 35 years. It aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through sustainable management and use of resources and by engaging littoral countries in specific actions to protect shared marine environments. This project will work through the Regional Seas programmes to strengthen and enhance the capacities of individuals to engage in discussions on cross-sectoral governance of ABNJ and to engage in the BBNJ negotiations.

**United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)** manages several knowledge products including The Ocean+ Library provides access to 183 ocean-related resources available globally. The Protected Planet Initiative is also managed by

UNEP-WCMC and is underpinned by the World Database on Protected Areas. These resources are funded by the Proteus Partnership. UNEP-WCMC have been implementing The 'ABNJ Deep Seas Project' (full title: Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction) and will provide support across the entire project.

**The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity** coordinates the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) which is a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity. Outcomes from the SOI dialogue will be used to inform the Cross-Sectoral Project and vice versa. The ongoing CBD process to identify EBSAs is of particular relevance to the proposed project.

**The Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)** plays a key role in strengthening the dialogue and participation of its member countries in activities related to cooperation and coordination for sustainable management of living and non-living resources in waters within and outside national jurisdiction. The CPPS is also a pilot region for the activities that will be undertaken through this project.

**Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC)** is a mandate of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders. This role is held by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General. The commissioner is supported by OPOC which is housed at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. OPOC provides high-level representation, coordination and commitment needed to ensure dedicated attention and cohesion to ocean priorities, decision and processes in the Pacific. The Pacific Islands is a pilot region for the activities that will be undertaken through this project and will build on the outcomes of the Blue Pacific Ocean Report 2021 and goals envisaged under the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape and other regional initiatives.

**The University of the South Pacific (USP)** Marine Science Programme has seen 368 undergraduate students complete their studies in the last decade, 58% of which were women. At the postgraduate level we have seen 49 graduates, 55% of which were women. USP will engage directly with this project as an executing partner.

**The Universidad Católica del Norte (UCN)** in Chile will engage directly with this project as an executing partner. The institution has strong experience in exploring and evaluating marine ecosystems in ABNJ. Their work builds upon the STRONG High Seas Project.

**STRONG High Seas project (2017-2022)** - The aim of the project is to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction<sup>[1]</sup>. As part of the project, has a project component looking at inter-regional exchanges between the Southeast Pacific and Southwest Pacific regions. Furthermore, regional cooperation was discussed several times during the Dialogue Workshops organised by STRONG High Seas ? especially at the fourth one in May 2021. This project will learn lessons from, support, and build upon elements of the STRONG High Seas project, e.g. with respect to ongoing discussions on how regional cross-sectoral cooperation could be strengthened to ensure better conservation in ABNJ.

**IOC-UNESCO** has suggested that the Ocean InfoHub can be further built upon to take on the role of a clearing-house mechanism for the future BBNJ Agreement. Thus, it is important that this project consider linkages to the Ocean InfoHub both in terms of dissemination of information about the project, but also as a source of useful scientific information, data and expertise.

**The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)** marine and polar work is organised under eight broad themes. One relevant thematic area covers ocean governance. IUCN and its partners are currently implementing a project on Conservation and sustainable exploitation of seamount ecosystems of the South West Indian Ocean covering both science and governance angles. IUCN has produced many guidance documents and resources on marine biodiversity in ABNJ to help promote the need for better use of existing instruments as well as the need for the BBNJ Agreement.

**The University of Queensland** is one of Australia's leading research and teaching institutions. They are undertaking three relevant projects 1) develop a system to describe how migratory species use and connect the ocean. This system is known as the Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) 2) undertake a study to examine area-based management of deep-sea mining and 3) generate a framework for monitoring biodiversity in the ocean that can be applied regionally. This initiative will provide access to marine animal tracking data to broaden the understanding of the connectivity of the ocean. The data covers both pilot regions.

**One Ocean Hub** led from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK is an interdisciplinary, research for sustainable development programme aimed at fostering improved, integrated, and inclusive ocean governance. The One Ocean Hub brings together academic and research institutions, inter-governmental organisations, policy and decision makers and civil society partners, and aims to address 'disconnects' in ocean governance to ensure integrated and inclusive management, at different scales, to support multiple SDGs. The Hub co-develops context-specific approaches to inclusive and sustainable ocean management and explores their relevance and replicability in different regions and internationally.

**Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI)**, established in Xiamen University (XMU), is an internationally recognized Regional Center of Excellence (RCoE) focusing on multiple disciplinary ocean-related research and science-policy interaction of ocean and coastal sustainable development. The ocean-related research of XMU is its dominant of academic discipline. The university provides scholarships for future international postgraduates of the Program of Marine Affairs, introducing BBNJ content to the curriculum of the Program of Marine Affairs, and other activities such as organizing BBNJ related (training) workshops, exchanges etc.

**The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)** located in Barbados at the University of the West Indies (UWI) has a long history of engagement in applying science to the sustainability of transboundary living marine resources. Much of this effort has been associated with various GEF partnered projects in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and adjacent areas, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) in the Atlantic Ocean.

**The University of Portsmouth** is at the forefront of interdisciplinary marine research and innovation. The Centre for Blue Governance, founded in January 2020, brings together researchers in marine sciences, economics, policy and governance, psychology, performance, and plastics with a local-to-global network of practitioners and policymakers, to apply transdisciplinary approaches to tackling coastal and ocean problems. As a co-finance partner they will provide research insight into information exchange mechanisms to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.

**The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO (GFCM)** is the regional Fisheries Management Organization with the mandate to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture across the Mediterranean and Black Sea. As a co-finance partner, GFCM will provide in-kind support to the process of effective knowledge exchange and improved access to the best available governance information in the context of the GFCM-LEX IT infrastructure.



**Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)** is a regional coordinating mechanism aimed at fostering healthy and resilient coasts, ocean, people and economies in the EAST Asian Region through integrated management solutions and partnerships. This organization will contribute towards the child project through related activities on knowledge management, capacity development in implementing integrated coastal management and partnerships and the promotion of the blue economy as part of its program.

**MarViva Foundation** is a regional non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mission is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in the eastern tropical Pacific. MarViva's working model places strategic importance on marine spatial planning (MSP), promoting responsible markets for marine products and services, reducing marine litter and building local and institutional capacity for more effective conservation and sustainability initiatives. This initiative will provide technical and scientific support to the project to strengthen the participation of stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes and support the processes related to MPAs.

**The Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore** is a university-level research institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS) established in 2009 in response to a growing need for international law thought leadership and capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region. Under the framework of activities its robust research and training programme on ocean law and policy and its leadership in multidisciplinary research in marine environmental issues will play an important role in the Cross-sectoral project by providing new insights into capacity development and knowledge management in ABNJ.

**Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University (MGEL)** actively works at the interface between scientific analysis and applied science for management. Focusing on marine geospatial analysis, habitat distribution and density modelling, marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management, the lab has decades of experience producing modelled and empirical biogeographic data products used by decision makers.

**Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF)** is an independent think tank based in Tokyo, Japan. SPF was established in 1986, and it was approved as public interest incorporated foundation in 2011 by the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan. The Ocean Policy Research Institute carries out research and think tank activities from both policy and science perspectives, aiming at the comprehensive management and sustainable development of the ocean so as to address a wide range of ocean problems and issues in a comprehensive and cross-disciplinary manner.

**Universit? de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO)** is a multidisciplinary university provides continued education on ocean related issues, including a dedicated United Nations University OCEAN Institute dedicated to the theme of ocean and coastal science and governance. The cross-sectoral project will build upon this expertise to build capacity across the pilot regions.

**The French Biodiversity Agency (OFB)**

The French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), in the framework of its statutory missions, provides technical and scientific support to the implementation of international conventions, as well as cooperation actions. The OFB also contributes to France's participation in the constitution and management of marine protected areas decided at international level. OFB will support shaping activities to develop shared expertise to exchange feedback on ecosystem-based management, capacity building and governance mechanisms for high ecological value marine areas in the high seas.

### **UNEP-European Commission project on Integrated Management and Governance Strategies for Delivery of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals**

This UNEP-EC project aims to exchange practical experience and synthesize guidance on effective application of area-based management measures, and policy interactions and institutional arrangements to support the implementation of ocean-related SDGs in different regional and national contexts. This work has raised awareness of a regional approach and as such, provides a platform that the proposed project can use to evolve discussions on regional cross-sectoral approaches to fully consider ABNJ and identify what capacity is needed in order to make regional ocean governance in ABNJ a reality.

### **Pew Environment Fund**

Pew is in the process of planning a regional ABNJ project for the Caribbean region, to be undertaken in 2021-2022, which would develop a regional needs assessment for undertaking area-based management and environmental impact assessment in ABNJ. The project would also assess the benefits provided by ABNJ to governments and communities in the Caribbean. These capacity development projects have provided, and continue to provide, increased awareness about issues related to ABNJ as well as aspects of the ILBI. With regard to the Pew Caribbean project, the needs assessment undertaken may provide important lessons to the pilot regions in this project.

### **The Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI)**

GOBI is an international partnership of organizations committed to advancing the scientific basis for conserving biodiversity in the marine environment. To date, GOBI has worked to enhance information and awareness on the deep-sea to support policymakers at all scales, including at BBNJ negotiations. Further, GOBI has assisted the CBD EBSA process, providing scientific information, expertise and analysis to support the identification of areas. This project will build upon GOBI's work to date and will work with and utilize the expertise of GOBI to deliver positive outcomes for BBNJ.

### **Pilot region specific activities**

### **Pacific Islands Region**

The table below provides examples of regional initiatives that include a few examples of specific ongoing projects and programmes that are of relevance to this project.

Activity	Description and relevance to this project
SAMOA Pathway	The SAMOA Pathway provides a framework for sustainable development that this project is responsive to. The SAMOA Pathway is a dedicated, internationally agreed, programme of action for small island developing States (SIDS) for the decade 2014 ? 2024, and its priority areas include, among others, oceans and coasts, biodiversity and climate change, all of which are components of this project.
<a href="#">Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for International Waters of the Pacific Islands Region</a>	This project was initiated and developed by the thirteen Pacific Island States participating in the work of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project, which was completed in 1997, represents an early effort by the 13 Pacific SIDS to integrate national and regional sustainable development priorities with shared global environmental concerns for protecting International Waters
<a href="#">The Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project</a>	This current GEF-funded project is designed to achieve systematic, sustained changes in fishing patterns and on-the-water behaviour at regional, sub-regional and national levels. This project is strengthening the capacity of Pacific Island countries in managing fisheries and biodiversity.
<a href="#">Pacific Ridge to Reef programme</a>	This current GEF-funded programme is a GEF multi-focal area programme guiding coordinated investment of GEF grant funding across its focal areas of biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable land management, sustainable forest management, and international waters in Pacific SIDS. As above, this project is strengthening the capacity of Pacific Island countries in managing fisheries and biodiversity.
<a href="#">Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP)</a>	This non-GEF project is <a href="#">Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP)</a> , led by the Pacific Community (SPC) and supports ocean and coastal governance with a focus on biodiversity protection and sustainable use of fisheries and other marine resources. With European Union and Swedish funding, it was launched in October 2017 and focuses on gaps in fisheries science; fisheries development; coastal resources and livelihoods; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; ecosystem-based management; biodiversity conservation; and capacity building at national and community levels.

Activity	Description and relevance to this project
<a href="#">Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Project ? Phase 2 (2018-2023)</a>	This project is coordinated by SPREP and is a follow-up to phase 1 of BIOPAMA, which established regional observatories and provided tools to analyse information relating to biodiversity, natural resource use and protected area management. SPREP became BIOPAMA Pacific Observatory in 2014. Phase 2 aims to contribute to improving the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in the Pacific ACP region in protected areas and surrounding communities through better use and monitoring of information and capacity development on management and governance.
<a href="#">Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation</a>	This previous, non-GEF project was coordinated by SPREP and funded by the Government of Germany. The project promoted ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) to climate change, building capacity for robust EbA planning processes, implementing EbA demonstration activities, communications and policy integration. The project ran from 2017 to 2020.

### *Regional achievements to build upon in the Pacific Islands*

The Pacific Islands region has many achievements and have been recognized in the 2020 regional report on the [?State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands?](#). Pacific island countries and territories are well placed to lead in the protection of nature, with customary land tenure and vast expanses of ocean within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). Establishing protected areas has been used as a key mechanism in the Pacific island countries and territories to conserve their biodiversity around the world. The Pacific Islands region has many achievements in area-based management that could be built upon during this project. Regarding ABNJ, the mismanagement of commercially important tuna in ?the High Seas Pockets? in the region has resulted in a number of conservation and fishery management measures being adopted through the framework of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention and the work of the Commission. Particularly noteworthy is the explicit closure of High Seas Pockets to purse-seine fishing by under implementing arrangements of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)[1].

According the Protected Planet Initiative[2], 19.9% of the Pacific Islands EEZs are covered by marine protected areas. These include Island countries and territories have established numerous MPAs, some of which are very large. Examples include the Phoenix Islands Protected Area in Kiribati (408,250 km<sup>2</sup>); Marae Moana in the Cook Islands (1,976,000 km<sup>2</sup>); and Palau National Marine Sanctuary in Palau (475,077 km<sup>2</sup>). In addition, Pacific Island countries have designated eight shark sanctuaries that in total cover over 17.1 million km<sup>2</sup> (in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, and Samoa), as well as the first regional shark sanctuary[3]. The Pacific Island region also has a network of Locally Managed Marine Areas which are managed by communities, often relying on a combination of traditional ecological knowledge and science. This project provides an opportunity to further build upon a combination of traditional knowledge and science for the management of fisheries and migratory species straddling jurisdictions.

The Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community is a long-term capacity sharing program within the region. It includes site-based managers, non-governmental organizations, local communities, federal, state, and territorial agencies, and other stakeholders working together to collectively enhance the effective use and management of managed and protected areas in the Pacific Islands.

The sharing of information of relevance to the ocean is undertaken through the [Pacific Ocean Portal](#), the [Pacific Data Hub](#) and [SPREP's Pacific Environmental Portal](#), amongst others. The Pacific Ocean Portal is a central repository of data about the Pacific and from the Pacific. The platform serves as a gateway to the most comprehensive collection of data and information about the Pacific across key areas including population statistics, fisheries science, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience, public health surveillance, conservation of plant genetic resources for food security and human rights. The Pacific Data Hub is a central repository which provides ocean data to a range of sectors and applications including tourism, fishing, shipping/boating, coastal inundation, environmental management etc. SPREP's Pacific Environmental Portal provides access to national and regional environmental datasets and contains data of relevance to marine biodiversity, migratory species, fisheries, environmental assessments, environmental agreements and other relevant topics. Neither portal focus specifically on ABNJ, but could be built upon for an ABNJ component.

### **Southeast Pacific Region**

The table below provides examples of regional initiatives that include a few examples of specific ongoing projects and programmes that are of relevance to this project.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description and relevance to this project</b>
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<p>STRONG High Seas project (2017-2022)</p>	<p>The aim of the project is to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction[4]. The STRONG project has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Identified innovative tools and mechanisms for monitoring, control, and surveillance and facilitated their practical application.</li> <li>? Identified and regularly exchanged best practice for integrated ocean governance in ABNJ particular with the Southwest Pacific and Western Indian Ocean (through a joint workshop with the ABNJ Deep Seas Project).</li> <li>? Undertaken various capacity building workshops in the Southeast Pacific region on different topics related to BBNJ.</li> <li>? In the coming months, the STRONG will be publishing a capacity needs assessment for the region by the finalisation of the project. The assessment is not planned to be a ?full? assessment of the region, but provide some reflections on the capacity building work of the project and some of the key lessons learned from the project.</li> <li>? In the context of the STRONG High Seas, the work of the <a href="#">High Seas Coral Reef Coalition</a> aims to protect coral reefs in ABNJ.</li> </ul>
<p>Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) (2016-2021)</p>	<p>This project on the Costa Thermal Rica Dome is to develop and propose a marine governance scheme for the Dome, including its extent in the high seas.</p>
<p>The Humboldt Current LME project (2009-2018)</p>	<p>This LME project was to improve governance and the sustainable use of living marine resources and services in the LME through ecosystem-based management. This project alongside the other LMEW project provide a basis upon which to build further activities related to ecosystem-based management and cross-sectoral collaboration.</p>
<p>The Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem project (2018-2023)</p>	<p>This project aims to promote ecosystem-based management of the Pacific-Central American Large Marine Ecosystem through the strengthening of regional governance. This project alongside the other LMEW project provide a basis upon which to build further activities related to ecosystem-based management and cross-sectoral collaboration.</p>

<p>The Marine Corridor of the East Pacific</p>	<p>This is a regional initiative for conservation and sustainable use, which seeks the proper management of biodiversity and of the marine and coastal resources of the Eastern Tropical Pacific in four countries: Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Ecuador, through regional government strategies.</p>
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### *Regional achievements to build upon in the Southeast Pacific*

States within the Southeast Pacific region have established several initiatives which this project can build upon including:

- ? The region signed a historic agreement with the **Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP)**, to cooperate in the protection of a more extensive area of the Pacific.
- ? **A Regional Network of Coastal and Marine Protected areas** of the Southeast Pacific has established in the context of the Protocol for the Conservation and Administration of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas of the Southeast Pacific.
- ? **The Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas** in the Southeast Pacific to protect the marine environment and coastal areas.
- ? **Integrated Coastal Area Management Project (SPINCAM)**, which has helped to define national and regional indicators on the state of the coast, as a support tool for coastal management.
- ? The region has an established scientific research programme, supporting data sharing, particularly on fisheries[5]. Additional examples of scientific collaboration activities include:
- ? Global Ocean Observing System Regional Alliance for the South-East Pacific which models and shares oceanographic and climate data.
- ? A Scientific Technical Committee through the 2010 **Regional Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras**. The Committee undertakes research, fisheries management, species and ecosystems conservation, control and monitoring, as well as capacity building.
- ? **Centre for Climate Resilience Research** is a centre of excellence created in 2013 with funding from the Priority Areas Program (Fondap) of Chile's National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (Conicyt).
- ? The Marine ? Coastal Research Network, Network for the Conservation of Migratory Marine species in the Eastern Pacific, International Research Centre on El Ni?o, Centre for Environmental and Molecular Algal Research Latin?American Ocean Acidification Network.

? **The Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA-RTC-LAC) Regional Training Centre** in Marine Sciences for Latin America and the Caribbean undertakes capacity development in marine science.

? Chile is leading the establishment of the **Nasca Ridge MPA**, which is a high seas MPA.

### *Cross-regional activities between the Southeast Pacific and Pacific Islands regions*

Recognizing the importance of guaranteeing long term conservation and sustainable exploitation of fishing resources in world oceans, in particular the Pacific Ocean, various formalized cooperation agreements have been established. **In 2021 UNEP-WCMC** undertook a review of existing formalized cooperation between Regional Seas Organizations and other intergovernmental organizations. The key finding from this study highlight the growing interest in formalized cooperation. It draws upon the previously agreed recommendation on priority actions.[6]

**The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)** has also developed and tested a methodology for area-based planning and works on reducing impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems. The SPRFMO geographic area includes both of the pilot regions, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

Lessons can also be learned from the collaboration between **Large-Scale MPAs (LSMPAs) in the Pacific Ocean**. These LSMPAs share common natural history, threats, culture, as well as scientific and management needs. Several LSMPAs in the Pacific have collaborated to achieve their management and scientific goals, including documented collaborations among the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, the Motu Motiru Hiva Marine Park, the Natural Park of the Coral Sea and the Cook Islands Marine Park. Collaborative activities include bilateral agreements, learning exchanges, as well as research, monitoring and enforcement activities. These activities have allowed the LSMPAs to overcome some management and scientific challenges.

Basin-scale scientific information to support this project is primarily available from global sources, including in particular the **Ocean Biodiversity Information System and Ocean + Habitats**. Of particular relevance for basin-scale work are the OBIS Deep Sea, Ocean Tracking Network (for Marine Megavertebrates) and the International Seabed Authority nodes, though information from the CPPS and West-Pacific nodes is also relevant. In addition, marine animal tracking data is available from sources such as the Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean Project. It is likely that the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development will further enhance the available scientific information for this project.

Substantial efforts have been made in the pilot regions towards ecosystem-based management of marine resources in national EEZs. However, gaps still exist in several areas that relate to: mechanisms for effective cross-sectoral cooperation and capacity building; biodiversity-related data and information on the ABNJ of the Pacific region; the oceanographic, ecological, socio-economic, cultural and governance interconnections between ABNJ and coastal areas; and available socio-economic information relating to the ABNJ, including an improved understanding of human uses and governance aspects of the Pacific region as a whole.

### **Summary of the gaps related to the problem analysis**

Substantial efforts have been made globally and regionally and provides valuable contributions towards addressing challenges and issues faced in relation to ocean governance. This includes:



- ? Global and regional cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms are insufficient
- ? Technical capacity to fully consider or operate in ABNJ is insufficient in many regions
- ? Data and information are often difficult to access and translate into good decision-making
- ? Financial capacity for ABNJ remit is limited in many regions

While this project is not a panacea, it can provide steps towards addressing some of the challenges by building on existing and past efforts.

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[1] Govan, H. (2014) The Pacific Islands and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction. Briefing note to the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific members of the Marine Sector Working Group.

[2] UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2021) Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas, Aug 2021, Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN. Available at [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net).

[3] Pew Trusts: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/12/16/how-the-pacific-region-paved-the-path-to-successful-shark-conservation>

[4] <https://abnj-pacifico.org/>

[5] UNEP-WCMC (2017). Governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use: Institutional arrangements and cross-sectoral cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean and the South East Pacific. Cambridge (UK): UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre. 120 pp.

[6] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/soiom-2016-01/official/soiom-2016-01-outcome-en.pdf>

### **3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project;**

#### **The GEF-7 Common Oceans Program**

##### **About the Program**

This proposal is for a project that is part of the GEF- 7 Program ?Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction? (hereafter referred to as the Program). The Program aims to:

- ? Strengthen frameworks, processes and incentives for more effective governance and adaptive management, particularly of fisheries, in ABNJ;

? Improve the capacity for participating States to more effectively implement integrate management, based on the ecosystem approach in the ABNJ (and considering their connectivity to coastal waters), including addressing science-based decision-making compliance and enforcement issues, and mitigation of environmental impacts;

? Support better coordination, collaboration and partnerships between the fisheries sector and other stakeholders and relevant initiatives with interests in ABNJ to promote more coherent integrated multi-sectoral action on ABNJ issues;

? Improve awareness and understanding of the challenges and solutions to sustainable use of ABNJ and encourage wider support and increased investment to address threats to, and sustainable management of, the ABNJ.

In doing so, the Program will contribute towards global environmental and socio-economic benefits including improved livelihoods and food security. It will consider ongoing processes such as the new BBNJ Agreement and complement other initiatives, including the GEF multi-country LME approach and Regional Seas Programs.

The Program was developed through collaboration between three GEF Agencies ? FAO, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP ? and the GEF Secretariat. The three agencies will collaborate in the implementation of the Program. Other GEF Agencies such as World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US), Conservation International, and a wide array of interested stakeholders, including the private sector, will also take part in the Program's implementation. Examples include World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), GRID-Arendal, the Global Ocean Forum, the RFMOs, the RSCAPs, other multi-sectoral organizations, governments, and LMEs.

The development of the Program was initiated in a series of FAO led workshops in December 2018 and April 2019 and subsequent discussions with program partners and staff from the GEF Secretariat. This was followed by a baseline analysis, the development of a framework to address the identified issues affecting the sustainable use of ABNJ, and the development of a Theory of Change (ToC) for the Program (see Figure 3, in section 3.1). A series of potential child project concepts were then formulated, each focusing on its own set of challenges and actions within the Program. Five of these were developed into full proposals under the umbrella of the Program, allowing for cross-fertilization and collaboration so that Program outcomes will amplify the contributions of the individual projects, and each project will contribute towards the overall Program objective: ?promote sustainable use of ABNJ living natural resources and strengthened biodiversity conservation in the face of a changing environment?.

There are five child projects in the Program. Two global projects will promote more sustainable management of tuna and deep-sea fisheries (fisheries sector focus). A third (the Cross-Sectoral Project) seeks to enhance the cross-sectoral capacity of relevant actors to address issues of common concern in ABNJ through cooperation, coordination and effective knowledge exchange[1]. The fourth project examines multi-sectoral governance (stewardship) in a pilot area, the Sargasso Sea (geographical focus). Finally, the fifth child project, will ensure effective coordination, communication, partnerships, lesson learning and knowledge management between the other child projects and support innovative financing initiatives for sustainable use of ABNJ resources across the Program.

## About the Cross-sectoral project

### Goals and objectives

The project's goals and objectives at all levels (from specific outputs and targets to the overarching goal) are fully articulated in Figure 3 (the project's ToC), and in the project's Results Framework (Appendix 2). Figures 4 and 5 illustrate how the project's components link with the overarching goal of the Program. Figure 3 shows that there are two project components, each with specific outcomes, outputs and targets:

Component 1: Capacity Building. Building and strengthening capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to improve sustainable use and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ

Component 2: Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange. Improved sectoral and cross-sectoral knowledge management on and public awareness of sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ.

Basic Questions: the what, who, why, where, and how of the project

For the two project components to achieve the aim of the project, its stakeholders, partners and participants need to have a shared understanding of:

1. **what** is meant by 'capacity?', 'capacity building?', and 'cooperation and coordination?';
2. who is involved in this project, and forms part of the networks across which coordination and cooperation needs to be improved for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable resource use in ABNJ;
3. **why** (as already explained in Section 3.1) there is a *need for and relevance of* improved cooperation and coordination **between** actors that manage human activities in ABNJ; and why this project is necessary;
4. **how** this project will improve cooperation and coordination across actor networks through supporting the development of a cooperation and coordination mechanism, and associated knowledge exchange mechanism.
5. **where** this project is being implemented (which regions)

### The 'What'

In general terms,

' **Capacity** is defined as the ability of **1. individuals**, **2. organizations** and **3. networks** to perform their functions effectively and sustainably, where 'ability' can be broken down into

a. **Competencies/Internal Attributes:** Personal or internal abilities, characteristics and properties which are necessary for 1. individuals, 2. organizations and 3. networks to perform functions and achieve objectives. This includes knowledge and awareness, skills, attitudes, values, and cultural norms

held by individuals or lived / promoted by the organizations and actor networks that they form part of, the goals pursued by organizations and networks, as well as the structures and procedures that shape organizations and networks.

b. **Resources:** Materials, services, or other assets that must be accessed, used and consumed by 1. individuals, 2. organizations and 3. networks in order to perform functions and achieve objectives. This includes data and information, including local and indigenous knowledge and information, finance, tools/technology, and infrastructure.

c. **Enabling Environment:** The attributes of the context in which 1. individuals, 2. organizations and 3. networks operate, i.e., the external social or working environment that either supports or constrains their ability to perform functions and achieve objectives. This includes the values and cultural norms that permeate that wider context, as well as the distribution of power and authority, the existence of incentives, the shape of legal and policy frameworks, as well as any external demands relating to organizational structures and procedures and the knowledge and methodology base that can be drawn from.

? **Capacity building** is defined as activities through which 1. individuals, 2. organizations and 3. networks develop and enhance their a. competencies / internal attributes, b. resources and c. enabling environment to individually and collectively perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives.

This project focuses on the capacity of actors with a management remit in ABNJ in the pilot regions to effectively and sustainably cooperate and coordinate their activities and knowledge exchange in support of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable resource use. The entire project can be seen as a capacity building project, whose main objective is focused on building network-level capacity (i.e., level 3 in the general definitions above), by developing and improving mechanisms, processes, and resources for:

? **cooperation**, whereby organizations with independent mandates and interests in ABNJ exchange relevant information and knowledge with each other, and align their independent actions to achieve common goals relating to the protection of biodiversity and sustainable resource use in ABNJ, and

? **coordination**, whereby organizations create overarching structures or mechanisms that integrate and harmonize actions across multiple mandates, to achieve common goals relating to the protection of biodiversity and sustainable resource use in ABNJ.

1. Component 1 of the project will focus on **competencies / internal attributes** (category a. in the general definitions above) of actor networks within the pilot regions, with particular emphasis on mechanisms (structures and processes) for improved cooperation and coordination at the network. Component 2 of the project, on the other hand, centers on the development of **resources** (category b. in the general definitions above) that actor networks within and beyond the pilot can draw upon to improve their cooperation and coordination.

Specifically, component 2 centers on *knowledge* resources, some of which will flow out of the activities in component 1 ? i.e., the activities through which competencies and internal attributes will be built and enhanced during the capacity building program will generate knowledge resources (lessons

learnt, training materials, etc.) that will be disseminated beyond the pilot regions in component 2. In turn, component 2 will generate knowledge resources (output 2.1.1, in particular) that the actor networks within the pilot regions can draw upon to improve their cooperation and coordination mechanisms. In other words, while each project component places emphasis on a different category of capacity, the two project components are designed to form a coherent flow of activities that will draw from and support each other.

### **?The Who?**

To achieve the aim of the project, the project stakeholders, partners and participants need to build a shared understanding of **who**

? is involved in this project (e.g., co-financiers and partners and baseline initiatives, listed in Section 2.3 and Appendix 11), and

? forms part of the networks across which coordination and cooperation will be improved (for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable resource use).

2. 1. Some project partners fall into both these categories (e.g., the CPPS). The actors that fall into the second category are the intended targets for the capacity building outlined above. They aren't comprehensively listed here, because in fact the project itself aims to develop a comprehensive database of these actors for the two pilot regions and create an accessible and user-friendly searchable interface for it (output 2.1.1). However, the following basic definitions apply:

? **?Actor?** refers to individuals as well as organizations, while **?actor networks?** refers to multiple actors (from across multiple organizations) and the structures, mechanisms and processes to facilitate cooperation and coordination between them.

The networks of actors relevant for the aim of this project will include:

? multiple actors engaged in managing specific activities within the same sector (requiring *sectoral* cooperation and coordination),

? multiple actors who each have a different sector-specific remit (requiring *cross-sectoral* cooperation and coordination);

? national and international organizations, e.g.

- o different ministries that act as national focal points for regional or global treaties and agreements that regulate human activities in ABNJ (who may or may not communicate well with each other on ABNJ related matters at a national level); and

- o international bodies that act as a coordinator across the national focal points for a given regional or global treaty or agreement (e.g., secretariats of regional seas organizations or regional fisheries management organizations)

o knowledge holders who have no formal management remit, e.g non-state actors including indigenous peoples and local communities (requiring effective knowledge exchange mechanisms with the national, regional and global bodies that have management powers and responsibilities).

The project mainly centers on improving capacity for cooperation and coordination between these actors within the two pilot regions, but through the activities component 2 it will also create and disseminate knowledge resources that will support actor networks in other regions of the globe (see the public awareness, communications and mainstream strategy in section 3.10 for more detail).

### **The ?How?**

As stated in Section 3.2, the focus of the capacity building activities of the project will be on developing and improving *network-level* capacity (level 3) between actors in the pilot regions. However, in order to develop network level capacity (both the coordination and cooperation mechanisms in component 1, and the knowledge resources in component 2) the project requires engagement with individuals and organizations. This means that the project will also build capacities at level 1 (individual) and level 2 (organization), but with the focus being on enhancing capacities that will support cooperation and coordination at level 3 (network).

The capacity building program (component 1) will engage with individuals and organizations. The project will combine the building of soft skills relevant for networking and creating effective networks (e.g., stakeholder engagement, communication, leadership) with relevant technical skills and approaches (e.g., stakeholder mapping, integrated ocean management, etc.). The project partners have a wide range of relevant expertise and capacity building experience that can be included in the project's capacity building program, e.g., the detailed planning of capacity building events, including content, curriculums, learning objectives etc. will be taken forward following a detailed capacity needs assessment (output 1.1.1.).

The ?how? can be visualized as a stepwise process, as per Figure, which summarizes:

- ? levels and types of capacity that the project will build;
- ? which outputs contribute to what levels/types of capacity building;
- ? how outputs build on each other to lead to network-level capacity
- ? how the two components link together and support each other, and
- ? what is meant by ?sectoral and cross-sectoral?.

3. More detail on each of the project components, activities, outcomes and outputs is provided in subsequent sections, and in the project results framework (Appendix A).

### **The "Where?**

As previously mentioned, the geographical focus of the project, the pilot regions, are the Pacific Islands region and the Southeast Pacific. However, Component 2, especially 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) and 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) have a wider geographic focus.

### *Selection of Pilot Regions*

A systematic process of pilot region selection was undertaken involving the assessment of a number of regions initially identified during the PIF stage (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 Caribbean region (CARICOM, other regional organizations) using a set of criteria that includes:

1. Nature and complexity of the region?e.g., area covered; number of countries; economic/social value; resource utilization issues; climate change issues.
2. Nature of and issues in the adjoining ABNJ areas?e.g., major resources and issues in the ABNJ areas; participation in BBNJ negotiations and other ABNJ projects and initiatives; patterns of resource utilization; economic/social value; interaction between resources and issues in the ABNJ and in EEZ areas; climate change issues.
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-?-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).
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. Value-added for the region ? how would the region benefit from this project and what would be the value added.
6. Other relevant factors, such as perspectives of key partners, sponsors and lead agencies (FAO, UNEP), UNDP), project partners (partners participating in the process, including leaders in the BBNJ process)

A matrix of information for the candidate regions was prepared as well as summaries of each criterion for the candidate regions (see Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix 13) as the primary basis for selection.

Additional issues considered in the selection process were: 1. Whether there is an existing champion for the project in the region; 2) How the regions could be combined; 3) Experience in area-based management in ABNJ that could be built upon; and 4) Whether active in ABNJ issues or still learning. It was considered useful to select a region that is well advanced and combine it with a region that is still learning about the importance of ABNJ. This kind of combination would allow for learning between regions, and might allow one region to undertake more advanced work relating to area-based management, while the other region could be lifted to a better understanding and readiness relating to ABNJ management. The Pacific Islands region ranked the highest in regional readiness, and could be considered as a leading candidate for the more advanced region. To maximize the area of ABNJ included in the project and undertake cross-basin coordination, planning and management, the apparent choice for the second pilot region was the Southeast Pacific. Based on the selection criteria and additional issues considered, the Pacific Islands and Southeast Pacific regions, where a collaborative structure in the form of a cooperation agreement between SPREP and CPPS is already in place and could be built upon, became the final choice for the project.

### **Project components and expected results**

Component 1 (Building and strengthening capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to improve sustainable use and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ in two pilot regions) will deliver one overarching **outcome** through **three outputs**.

? **Outcome 1.1** Officials, managers and technical staff in national, regional, and global organizations that have an ABNJ-related management remit are applying their enhanced functional capacity (planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluating) in sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination initiatives in ABNJ management, including through the use of area-based management tools (ABMTs), environmental impact assessments (EIAs), and marine spatial planning to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.

i. **Output 1.1.1 Needs Assessment.** 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.

ii. **Output 1.1.2 Capacity Building Program.** A capacity-building program to address the needs and priorities in Output 1.1.1.

iii. **Output 1.1.3 Integration Mechanism Options.** Options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination identified in the pilot regions.

#### **Output 1.1.1. Needs Assessment**

The full title of Output 1.1.1 is as follows: ?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.?



For ABNJ management, in particular, cooperation and coordination across sectors. While there are similarities between regions with regards to expressed capacity development needs, building of capacity must be tailored to the unique characteristics of each region, and utilize home-grown approaches.

These regional assessments will also assess and identify financing requirements for the institutionalization of capacity within the region, including possible sources of financing such as from multilateral agencies, philanthropic sector, public/private partnerships as well as possible partner academic institutions and/or centres of excellence that could host/implement the capacity building program in the longer term. (See, e.g., two multi-author policy briefs on capacity development prepared by the ABNJ Capacity Project in Common Oceans Phase 1: 2018; 2019).

Output 1.1.1 will produce a Capacity Needs Assessment Report that summarizes individual and institutional capacity needs and priorities related to addressing multiple use issues and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ, through sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination among management bodies with a remit related to ABNJ.

The Capacity Needs Assessment Report will report on the following targets and indicators (these are also listed in the results framework in Appendix A)

Indicators	Targets
% of targeted stakeholder organizations (as identified in the stakeholder mapping exercise) who participated in the capacity needs assessment	At least 50% of targeted stakeholder organizations (as identified in the stakeholder mapping exercise) who participated in the capacity needs assessment
% of stakeholder organizations that participated in the capacity needs assessment who validated the outcomes and recommendations of the capacity needs assessment in terms of accuracy, reasonableness, and practicality in the pilot regions	75% of stakeholder organizations that participated in the capacity needs assessment who validated the outcomes and recommendations of the capacity needs assessment in terms of accuracy, reasonableness and practicality in the pilot regions

These targets and indicators provide a measurable quality benchmark for the capacity needs assessment and are designed to ensure the output provides a thorough, comprehensive, and reliable foundation for the capacity building program (Output 1.1.2).

Output 1.1.1 - the needs assessment - will include the following activities:

- ? **Activity 1.1.1.1:** Preliminary identification and analysis of capacity building issues and constraints in each of the pilot regions
- ? **Activity 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)
- ? **Activity 1.1.1.3:** Population analysis to provide an estimate of the number/overview of personnel that need to be trained
- ? **Activity 1.1.1.4:** Validation workshop in the two pilot regions

4. The 'identification' step of the first activity on this list will rely on data gathering that will include:

? Input from interactions of individuals and stakeholder organizations in the stakeholder engagement portal

? Semi-structured interviews

? Surveys

? Literature reviews.

### **Output 1.1.2 Capacity Building Program**

The full title of Output 1.1.2 is as follows: 'A capacity-building program to address the needs and priorities identified in Output 1.1.1.'

Pathways to capacity development, include, developing individual and organizational capacity, fostering national and regional centers of excellence and cross-national networks of universities focusing on ocean governance. Options will be identified for institutionalizing mechanisms for the sustained implementation of capacity building on cross-sectoral aspects related to ABNJ in the pilot regions, including through the development of strategic partnerships, networking, and financing among regional organizations, national governments, educational institutions. This may also involve others, for example, through collaboration among centers of excellence. Institutionalization of courses and curricula, implementation of training could also be made sustainable through a consortium, formalized through MOUs, with the leadership of the executing partners, the University of the South Pacific for the Pacific Islands region and the Universidad Católica del Norte in the Southeast Pacific.

The capacity building program will address identified individual and institutional capacity gaps, focusing on a strengthening cooperation and coordination at the actor network level. It will be designed to meet the following targets and indicators (these are also listed in the results framework in Appendix 2).

Indicators	Targets
Number of training packages to build/enhance the capacity of individuals (staff) in relevant regional and national organizations to develop/enhance and implement cooperation and coordination mechanisms in ABNJ hosted by UCN in the Southeast Pacific and by the USP in the Pacific islands developed	One training package to build/enhance the function of individuals (staff) in relevant regional and national organizations to develop and implement cooperation and coordination mechanisms in ABNJ in the pilot areas developed by the end of Y2 of project implementation
% of trainees who rate the training program (training techniques, media, materials, etc.) as effective, appropriate/relevant, etc.	75% of trainees who rate the training program (training techniques, media, materials, etc.) as effective, appropriate/relevant, etc.
Number of male and female participants trained  Number of government and non-state participants trained	At least 125 male and 125 female participants trained  75% government and 25% non-state representation among the training participants
% of trainees who average 75% or higher in competence on the subject matter (functional capacities – knowledge, skills, and attitude - necessary for creating and managing options in cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination (policies, legislations, strategies, and programs)), based on a post-test, graded discussion board, graded group project, other assessment methods	75% of trainees who average 75% or higher in competence on the subject matter (functional capacities – knowledge, skills, and attitude - necessary for creating and managing options in cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination (policies, strategies and programs)), based on a post-test, discussion board, graded group project, other assessment methods

Based on the results under 1.1.1, capacity building objectives addressing identified issues will be formulated, including training objectives for individuals upon completion of the training session as well as post-training objectives. For example, if the issue identified relates to non-performance or poor performance of an ABNJ-related task, e.g., preparation of a position statement on a particular ABNJ issue such as the establishment of high seas MPAs that requires a cross-sectoral perspective, training solutions may include provision of guides or manuals that would help training participants perform their ABNJ related tasks effectively or arrange formal training. Capacity building and training objectives and training solutions corresponding to identified issues could be manifold. Prioritization of training solutions will be done by examining the training solutions, their cost-effectiveness and possible modes of implementation.

These targets and indicators provide a measurable quality benchmark for the capacity building program, and are designed to ensure that it targets the right audience, delivers on the needs identified in Output 1.1.1, achieves a fair gender representation (Gender Action Plan outlined in 5.2) and provides a sound basis for achieving Output 1.1.3.

The project follows a co-design and co-implementation approach. Input of various stakeholders, including indigenous peoples with traditional knowledge and customary practices, as well as local communities will be sought during each phase in the development of the capacity building program. Although the focus of the training program will be officers and staff of national ministries who have a

mandate on ABNJ, leaders of indigenous peoples and local communities will be allotted space in the training sessions.

This output be achieved through the following activities:

- ? **Activity 1.1.2.1:** Curriculum design and module development (development of an online individual capacity-building program, including curriculum design and module development)
- ? **Activity 1.1.2.2:** Training program implementation (4 sessions: three regional sessions and one global session)
- ? **Activity 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

Examples of the modules that could be developed include:

- ? The general principles of ABNJ governance/management approaches;
- ? Multiple uses of the ABNJ: Explaining patterns of use in ABNJ and their governance;
- ? Management approaches for operationalizing integrated, cross-sectoral, and ecosystem management approaches;
- ? Introduction to area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (MPAs);
- ? Introduction to environmental impact assessments

The design of the online individual training package would aim to train a critical mass of people at the national and regional levels. The training program will be based in a degree-granting academic institution for possible adoption of the ABNJ training courses as part of a marine policy program. The capacity building program will be hosted by the the University of the South Pacific for the Pacific Islands region and the Universidad Cat?lica del Norte in the Southeast Pacific. The project will explore the possible development of agreements (e.g. MoUs) to institutionalize any newly created materials or curriculums within each of these institutions.

The course design and development will take into consideration all information on capacity needs and priorities derived from Output 1.1.1. The training courses will be materials-based, will require minimum supervision but will be taught by a member of the faculty of the hosting university, self-paced, with sufficient interactive features, self-assessment, and feedback system.

The individual capacity-building program will be implemented through three regional sessions, one with participants coming from the Southeast Pacific, one with participants from the Pacific Islands, one that includes participants from the two pilot regions, and one that includes participants from various regions of the world.

The development and application of acquired knowledge and skills (functional capacity) by the training participants will be assessed 4 times: after the completion of the training session (YR2 of project implementation) then 1, 2, and 3 years after training completion (YR3, YR4, and YR5 of project implementation).

A practical session will be an important feature of the training course, which may involve any of the following activities: 1) participation in national or regional training workshops in the development of options for cross-sectoral ABNJ management; 2) participation in annual meetings of RFMOs/other regional bodies; 3) participation in sessions of the intergovernmental conference on BBNJ or post-IGC sessions as a member of a national delegation or as an observer; 4) others TBD.

Training materials developed for the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program and for the Deep Sea Project capacity-building activities from Common Oceans Program Phase I as well as other existing training resources developed by project partners will be used in the design and development of the training program.

The follow-up assessments of all trained participants may be done during the series of training workshops on cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination (Output 1.1.3) which the training participants will be required to attend.

The individual training package and resources developed under this project may be adapted to other regional settings and will be part of the resources to be made available in the information exchange mechanism to be developed under Output 2.1.2.

### **Output 1.1.3 Options for cross-sectoral cooperation identified in the two pilot regions**

The full title of Output 1.1.3 is as follows: ?Options for cross-sectoral cooperation identified in the pilot regions.?

The capacity building program (output 1.1.2) will be designed to include a series of dedicated events to co-develop options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in each of the pilot regions. Specifically, up to 3 feasible mechanisms for improved cooperation and coordination among key ABNJ actors will be identified and described for each pilot region by end of year 3, with one preferred option chosen and fully developed by the end of the project. ?Fully developed? means that the option will be described, documented and prepared to the point at which it is ready for adoption and implementation by the actors involved (who have the mandate to do so).

The full set of targets and indicators (which serve as a benchmark for measuring the quality and successful achievement of this output) are shown below (these are also listed in the results framework in Appendix A).

Indicators	Targets
% of trainees participating actively in the development of options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ (performance on return to the job - in the training-workshops and in the working group process)	50 % of trainees participating actively in the development of options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ (in the training-workshops and in the working group process)
Number of male and female workshop and working group participants	At least 50 male and 50 female workshop and working group participants
Number of government and non-State workshop and working group participants	75% government and at least 25% non-State representatives, among the workshop and working group participants
% of national and regional organizations who have a mandate related to ABNJ management/governance demonstrate improvement in organizational culture, internal policies, arrangements, procedures, and/or frameworks on cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation in ABNJ	% of national and regional organizations who have a mandate related to ABNJ management/governance demonstrate improvement at least 1 step up from its baseline rating on the ladder of cooperation depending on the organization. (Note: Organizations might have different starting points) <sup>1</sup>
Options for improved cooperation and coordination mechanisms identified and described	Up to 3 feasible mechanisms for improved cooperation and coordination among key ABNJ actors identified and described for each pilot region by end of Y3 (These mechanisms can include, e.g., MOUs, joint projects and proposals, communication mechanisms, joint working groups, and others)
Options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination fully developed	One preferred option (among the three identified in each pilot region) for a mechanism for improved cooperation and coordination among key ABNJ sectors) chosen and fully developed in each of the pilot region.

Output 1.1.3 will be achieved through the following activities:

? **Activity 1.1.3.1** Development and implementation of a regional training workshop program on cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination, with the following scope: Output 1.1.3 will be achieved through the following activities:

- o Identifying the institutional capacity for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination (workshop sessions);
- o Consideration of the existing and required organizational structure for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination, including what policies and procedures would be needed;
- o Developing understanding of knowledge/information held as well as of knowledge/information needs (following the steps outlined in the Knowledge Management framework for the project, outlined in Section 3.9);
- o Assessing the current and potential cross-sectoral interactions;

- o Identifying goals and possible modalities for addressing cross-sectoral issues and opportunities in ABNJ according to their own priorities, capabilities, and responsibilities in ABNJ (for countries, these may form the initial basis for nationally determined goals on BBNJ);
  - o Developing partnerships/alternative mechanisms for strategic implementation of cross-sectoral ABNJ policies that include sustainable technical collaboration and support;
  - o Developing sustainable financing mechanisms for ABNJ strategies/activities.
- ? **Activity 1.1.3.2** Working group process on the development of options for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in preparation for adoption/institutionalization.
- ? **Activity 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

These activities will be led by regional entities in collaboration with national, global and other key stakeholders in the pilot regions. The target participants of these workshops will be those who participated in the ABNJ cross-sectoral training program; other national officials and regional staff who are currently or will be potentially involved in ABNJ decision-making in different sectors/activities in ABNJ; and staff of relevant global bodies.

One training workshop in the Southeast Pacific will be co-organized and hosted by CPPS. Another workshop will be held in the Pacific Islands to be hosted and co-organized by the OPOC.

The Working Group process will allow the continuation of the work between workshops in the development of options for cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination but in smaller groups that could lead to building closer relationships among participants contributing to the growth of a community of practice on ABNJ in the regions and contribute to the expansion of a global network of ABNJ practitioners.

One preferred option for a mechanism for improved cooperation and collaboration will be fully developed in each of the pilot regions including an implementation plan and next steps with the expectation that it will be officially adopted by a governmental institution(s) for future implementation although its adoption is not within the purview of the project.

Component 2 (Improving sectoral and cross-sectoral knowledge management on and public awareness of ABNJ in the pilot regions) will deliver two outcomes through four outputs:

- ? **Outcome 2.1: Knowledge Exchange** - More **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) with a focus on sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.
- o **Output 2.1.1: Governance Map** - A governance map and database of ABNJ actors in the pilot regions (including mandates, remits, agreements, information needs to make decisions) underpinning an online ABNJ governance platform.

o **Output 2.1.2: Information Exchange Mechanism** - A model information exchange mechanism between governance bodies in at least one of the pilot regions.

? **Outcome 2.2: Dissemination** ? **Increased understanding** by the International Waters Community and **high-level officials in the BBNJ process** regarding individual and institutional capacity needs and priorities related to sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ and corresponding actions/processes identified to address those needs.

o **Output 2.2.1: Dissemination to International Waters Community** - 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.

o **Output 2.2.2: Dissemination to wider public** - 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 for the public.

## **Outcome 2.1**

Outcome 2.1 is the core of component 2. It will focus on improving governance knowledge access and information exchange between actors in the pilot regions and beyond. This means ensuring that all actors have access to information resources that provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of existing governance bodies and their remits, and of existing governance mechanisms, as well as any new bodies or mechanisms that emerge during the project period (e.g. as a result of the ongoing BBNJ negotiations). It will support coordinated management in ABNJ by working with different ABNJ actors to develop a mechanism for improved information exchange, facilitated by a freely accessible, comprehensive, visually engaging, and easily understandable platform that will provide an overview of the institutional framework for governance in ABNJ. This outcome aims to complement existing technical data exchange platforms by identifying key communication needs and pathways and supporting regional actors to develop improved information exchange mechanisms to support well-informed decision-making and improved cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination.

### **Output 2.1.1 Governance Map**

The full title of Output 1.1.2 is as follows: ?A governance map and database of ABNJ actors in the pilot regions (including mandates, remits, agreements, information needs) underpinning an online ABNJ governance platform.?

The online ABNJ governance map aims to centralize the most current information and knowledge on ABNJ governance for the pilot regions, with respect to the institutional arrangements of the future ILBI, including vis-?-vis relevant instruments, frameworks, and bodies. The aim is to complement options and negotiations positions expressed under the future BBNJ Agreement. It is expected that such a visualization would support common understanding of the different arrangements in place and the relationship to other instruments/frameworks/bodies.



The online governance map will be a user-friendly interface for a database that will bring together and organize publicly available information on relevant management bodies for both pilot regions in a single place (their geographical and thematic remits, contact information, members, underpinning treaties etc.), building on the governance database delivered during the ABNJ Deep Seas project of the previous Common Oceans program. The online interface will allow users to search, visualize and extract relevant information from the database, and will contain additional text and graphics to add context and make the experience intuitive and accessible.

The platform and database will include information on management bodies with a global remit, and as such, will be built in a way that will make it expandable (in future, beyond the life of this project) to cover other ABNJ regions. It will also be developed with broader potential audiences in mind (e.g., students, NGOs, or anyone with an interest in how ABNJ are governed), to broaden its impact.

At present, there are a number of different ideas and options for the content and structure of the database and interface, *inter alia*:

? A visualization of the ABNJ governance landscape of the region, to facilitate a visual representation of relevant institutional remits and mandates, as well as their underpinning treaties, and any existing links, working groups, MOUs etc. between them.

? A possible geospatial element that shows location of HQ and the geographical extent of the mandates / remits of different bodies and multilateral agreements;

? Search functions so users can search for bodies by theme, geographic location;

? A standardized, downloadable factsheet of basic written information on each body, including links to websites;

? Information on area-based management roles, EIA procedures and conservation management measures that each body is responsible for; and/or

? Information of data providers other than management bodies (e.g., academic institutions, existing technical portals / webGIS portals) that hold information likely to be of interest to the key actors in the region.

These ideas ? based on work carried out in the previous ABNJ Deep Seas project, and using the governance database and prototype web interface developed at the time as a starting point for further development into a tool serving the needs of its target audience - will be consolidated and further developed in consultation with key stakeholders/targeted users in the region during the inception phase of the project. Key stakeholders will, in this instance, include representatives of national focal points in the pilot regions. These national ministries will be one of the most important targeted future userbases. This is because they often have relatively high turnover of staff, with ?newcomers? to the ABNJ scene. Therefore, one could particularly benefit from the existence of an easily accessible and understandable platform presenting the governance landscape that they will need to engage with.

The inception phase will be followed by research, user research, development, and stakeholder QA / feedback on both the database and platform. This will be done iteratively, with continued input and

feedback from stakeholders (covering the targeted user base) to ensure that the products align with user needs.

Stakeholder input and feedback will be generated through activities carried out during the capacity building program (component1), to maximize efficiency in stakeholder outreach. The platform will also serve as an access point for the body of knowledge and the educational resources developed by the project as a whole, including the capacity building component.

As described above, the existing platforms mentioned in the Results Framework in Appendix 2 on ABNJ do not present a comprehensive governance picture, as envisaged for Output 2.1.1. Thus, our output will complement and fill a gap in existing online resources available for ABNJ practitioners. Where appropriate, links will be established between the governance platform and the above resources and platforms. The format of these links will be discussed and developed together with the owners of these platforms (outreach to IOC-UNESCO and OBIS has already begun to discuss possible synergies).

The project results -based framework in Appendix 2 provides details on the specific indicators and targets that will be used as measurable benchmark to ensure the quality and timely delivery of output 2.1.1. They are:

Indicators	Targets
Staging site (prototype of the online interface) available for user testing and feedback	Staging site online by Q2 Y2
Governance platform (designed in line with user feedback from test) online and functional	Platform online and functional at the end of the project

Output 2.1.1 will be delivered through the following activities:

? **Activity 2.1.1.1** Develop, consolidate and decide on options for database structure/ content, functionality and design of interface, building on the governance database (and prototype web interface) delivered during the ABNJ Deep Seas project of the previous Common Oceans program. This will include the creation of a user requirements document / design specification The User specification will identify the basic features including what users will want, and the content that the site should contain.

? **Activity 2.1.1.2** Collaborate with stakeholders in the pilot regions (the targeted user base), and in discussion with other data providers / data platforms, to QA the data collated within the database underpinning the platform, and to develop the design of its interface. This collaboration will feed into the design specification and the articulation of exit criteria for user acceptance testing.

? **Activity 2.1.1.3** User research to further inform database structure and content, functionality and design. This will include the development of a staging site for user testing and feedback, which ? depending on the design specification - may mean creating a ?sandbox? environment for user testing

that will be separate from the development environment. The database content will be completed for the pilot regions by project mid-point.

? **Activity 2.1.1.4** Adjustments to the design of the platform (within the development environment), based on user feedback, and finalization of the platform based on achievement of exit criteria for user acceptance testing.

? **Activity 2.1.1.5** Collaboration with project partners and stakeholders to explore possible options for long-term custodianship and maintenance of online governance map and database.

### **Output 2.1.2 Information exchange mechanism**

The full title of Output 1.1.2 is as follows: ?A model information exchange mechanism between governance bodies in at least one of the pilot regions?

Under Component 1 various options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination mechanisms will be identified and assessed, and one of these will be fully developed (Output 1.1.3). Output 2.1.2 will develop an information and knowledge exchange mechanism to support the implementation of the fully developed cooperation and coordination exchange mechanism to support Output 1.1.3 to maximize the chances of it being successfully adopted and put into practice. Output 2.1.2 is referred to as a *model* information exchange mechanism because putting it into practice will require the adoption and implementation of Output 1.1.3 by the actors with the mandate to do so.

The final output will be a model information exchange mechanism that is fit for purpose, workable / pragmatic, documented and ready for the management bodies in the region to adopt and implement if they wish. At present, there is no predefined concept or idea of what this model information exchange mechanism will consist of. As an example, an information exchange mechanism may entail information on impacts from other sectors, mitigation measures and management options to improve resilience. Species lifecycle data may be required that could improve management decisions. The project will work with the same actors involved in Output 1.1.3 to identify and prioritize information sharing needs, existing capacity and willingness to share information, and if information sharing needs are supported by external data and information flows. During the project's inception phase, these ideas will be consolidated and further developed in collaboration with regional actors for more focused work during the subsequent research and development phase. It is envisaged that the documented process will outline: 1) the proposed mechanism or mechanisms of information exchange between actors in the pilot region 2) the potential ways in which Output 2.1.1 (the governance map) might support it, and 3) its alignment with Output 1.1.3.

The project results-based framework in Appendix 2 provides details on the specific indicators and targets that will be used as measurable benchmark to ensure the quality and timely delivery of output 2.1.2. They are:

Indicators	Targets
Information needs for chosen option from output 1.1.3. articulated by the relevant stakeholders and documented by the project	Document outlining the information needs for the chosen option from output 1.1.3. co-developed with relevant stakeholders by Y3
Mechanism for addressing those information needs developed	Information exchange mechanism documented in appropriate format, co-designed with relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the chosen coordination and cooperation option from output 1.1.3 (by end of project)

Output 2.1.2 will be delivered through the same set of workshops used to deliver Output 1.1.3. Additional activities that will be carried out specifically related to Output 2.1.2 will include:

? **Activity 2.1.2.1:** Survey and documentation of information exchange needs, capacities and priorities of regional actors (national and international management bodies) in both pilot regions, for chosen option from output 1.1.3.

? **Activity 2.1.2.2:** Development of an information exchange mechanism for addressing those needs in both pilot regions. This will require iterative feedback from regional actors to finalize a model mechanism to be presented to stakeholders for agreement and potential uptake/implementation

Outcome 2.2 will ensure that the lessons learnt, and the knowledge resources created through the project activities are disseminated beyond the pilot regions and made available to ABNJ actors and interested members of the public globally, and beyond the lifetime of the project. This aligns with the Knowledge Management framework.

### **Output 2.2.1 Dissemination to IW Community**

The full title of Output 1.1.2 is as follows: ?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.?

This output will involve activities aimed at promoting the effective management of ABNJ among members of the GEF International Waters community. This would facilitate, among others, the consideration of the impacts of EEZ management on adjacent ABNJ and vice versa in the planning and development of interventions. An example is the possible incorporation of ABNJ in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis-Strategic Action Programme approach, which is a major strategic planning tool for GEF International Waters Projects.

This output will also involve the dissemination of the knowledge and experiences gained from the project?s sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity building activities to decision makers in the BBNJ and other UN-led processes. It will achieve the following measurable targets (see project results-based framework in Appendix A):

1\*

Indicators	Key Targets
Project updates posted on Common Oceans website	Y1-Y4: At least 8 regular update reports (2-per year – by mid-term) posted on the Common Oceans Website
GEF IW Experience Notes published	Y4-Q3: At least 3 IW:LEARN Experience Notes prepared (in Spanish and English)
Participation of project staff at international events	Y2-Q4: Participation at IWC (at least 2 project representatives participated in at least 1 GEF Biennial IW Conference)
	Y2-Y4: Participation in 4 side events (1 per year) at high-level meetings e.g., CBD post-2020 and SOI meetings, Regional Seas meetings, COFI, UNEA, FAO and BBNJ etc.

Output 2.2.1 will be delivered through the following activities:

? **Activity 2.2.1.1:** Dissemination to the GEF International Waters community of the knowledge and experiences gained from the project's sectoral and cross-sectoral capacity building activities through GEF IW platforms

? **Activity 2.2.1.2:** 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 including post-IGC sessions to contribute to informed decision making in the BBNJ process

### **Output 2.2.2. Dissemination to wider public**

The full title of Output 1.1.2 is as follows: ?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.?

This output will involve activities that would: 1) emphasize the economic and human benefits surrounding ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ; and 2) increase awareness and coverage of ABNJ issues. The aim is to engage key stakeholders and the public in ABNJ-related issues, at a time when the development of a legal regime for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction is about to conclude. Since the management of coastal areas and resources remains the main focus of interventions by governments and their partners, activities under this output will present potential solutions to address business as usual as it relates to a viable and more promising future in the management and governance of ABNJ.

This output aims to create awareness among the public regarding ABNJ; raise the public profile of ABNJ; and motivate the public to develop and sustain an active interest in ABNJ.

Output 2.2.2 will achieve the following measurable targets (see project results-based framework, in Appendix A):

Indicators	Key Project Targets
Communications documents and resources targeting the media and the public on the knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-Sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II produced	Communications and awareness building materials designed and published (e.g., 1 brochure, 1 infographic, 1 video and 1 poster) targeting the media and the public on the knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-Sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II produced
High-level, media, and public event to showcase and disseminate knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-Sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II conducted	<p>1 high-level, media, and public event e.g. Nausicaa event in France to showcase and disseminate knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-Sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II conducted</p> <p>At least 15 high-level and 10 media representatives participated in the high-level media event</p>
Open self-paced online introductory course prepared and made publicly available for national representatives, NGOs, academics, and other stakeholders	<p>Y1: One 45-minute open self-paced online introductory course on ABNJ, including associated sectoral and cross-sectoral issues and opportunities, produced</p> <p>Y2 &amp; Y4: One hundred and fifty (150) course takers documented each year</p>

Output 2.2.1 will be delivered through the following activities:

? **Activity 2.2.2.1:** Development of communications products on ABNJ and cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ

? **Activity 2.2.2.2:** Outreach to the media and the public on the knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-Sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II through a high-level media event

? **Activity 2.2.2.3:** Development and implementation of an on-demand online introductory course on ABNJ for the public. This will be offered via the Common Oceans Portal. The course will target interested members of the public, as well as students and professionals new to the area of ocean management and governance.

At the time of preparing this proposal, communication is underway between the child projects and the Program to establish coordination mechanisms for the program as a whole. These mechanisms will continue to operate between submission of the proposal and the end of the Program period, ensuring

that resources developed through the above activities will be effectively communicated via the Common Oceans Portal.

**Component 3 (Monitoring & Evaluation)** will deliver one overarching **outcome** through **two outputs**.

**Outcome 3.1** covers close observation of project implementation, evaluation of progress in carrying out Components 1 and 2 activities, and corresponding improvement of project processes.

**Output 3.1.1 Project Monitoring and Reporting** - Documented process and results of keeping a close eye on the entire project execution life cycle and ensuring project activities under Components 1 and 2 are on the right track.

**Activity 3.1.1.1** Includes the following:

- ? A virtual inception workshop and preparation of the Project Execution Plan and Annual Operations Plan
- ? Preparation of Progress Reports (PPRs) and Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs)
- ? Preparation of Expenditure Statements (including co-financing)
- ? On-site supervision of Project Activities and Supervision Missions
- ? Meetings of the PSC

**Output 3.1.2 Independent evaluations** ? Documented process of collecting and analyzing information in order to understand the progress, success, and effectiveness of project activities under Components 1 and 2. Independent consultants will be hired to carry out midterm and terminal project evaluations.

**Activity 3.1.2.1** A mid-term evaluation will be conducted to determine if the project design effectively addresses the problems, issues and needs that were identified and to assess how well the project and its activities under Components 1 and 2 are being implemented to meet these problems, issues and needs.

**Activity 3.1.2.2** A terminal evaluation will be conducted during the final phase of the project as an overall assessment to see how best the project has served the objectives for which it was initiated.

Section 9 (page 97 of this document), and Section 6 and Appendix 4 of the project document provide details on the Monitoring & Evaluation Plan for the project including specific indicators and targets that will be used as measurable benchmark to ensure the quality and timely delivery of outputs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. They are:

Indicators	Key Targets
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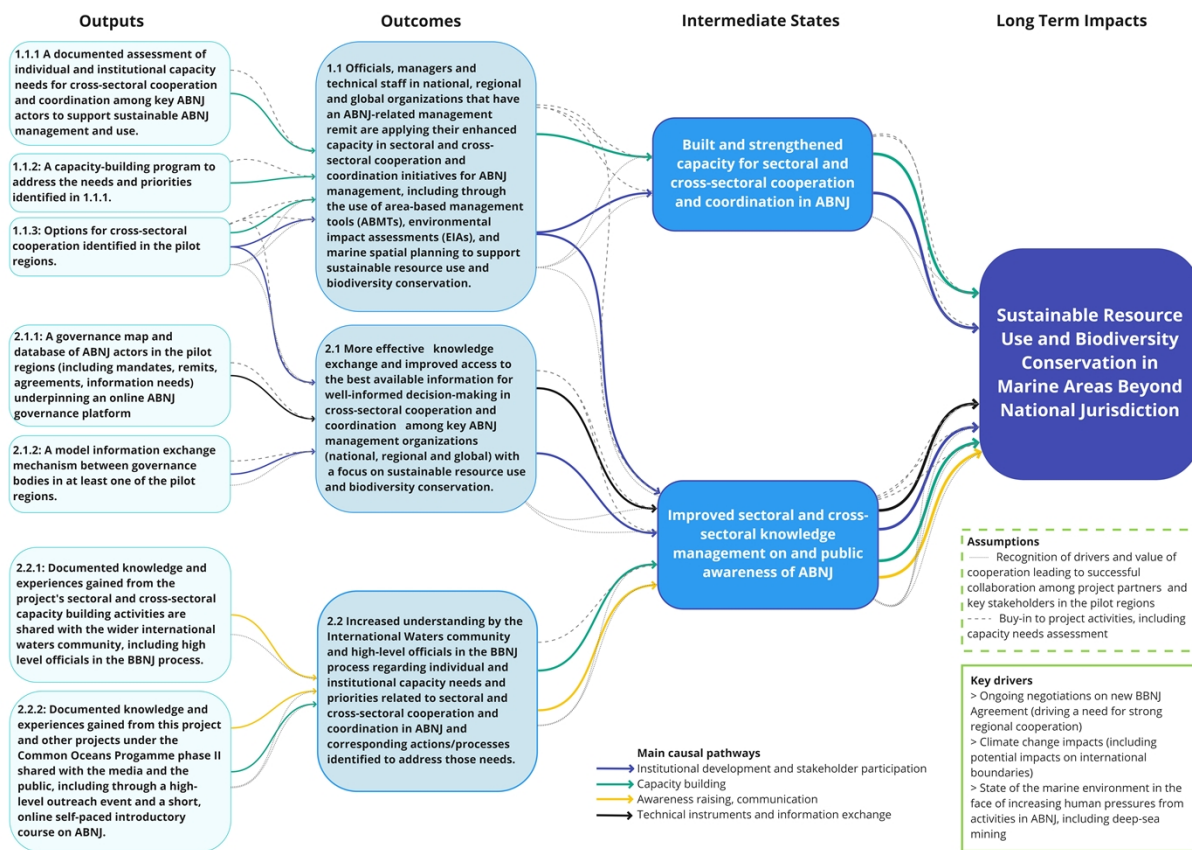
Number of progress reports submitted in a timely manner	20 Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) 20 Quarterly Financial Reports (QER) 5 PIRs 5 Co-financing reports 5 Annual Project Execution Plan and Operational Plans 1 Midterm report 1 Terminal Evaluation
Number of operational meetings	1 inception meeting 5 PSC 1 Closing event (High level event)
Number of supervision meetings	1 On-site visit and other visits combined with PSC meetings and other project events

[1] The Cross-Sectoral Project will be undertaken in the context of existing regional conventions and policies in two pilot regions: the Pacific Islands region and the Southeast Pacific region together with the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS) in the Southeast Pacific and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS) in the Pacific region.

[1] <https://abnj-pacifico.org/>

**Figure 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 in order 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).





#### 4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies;

This child project is aligned with Objective 2 'Improving Management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction?' of the GEF International Waters Focal Area. This objective is concerned with the sustainable management of fisheries and resources and biodiversity conservation. This child project aligns with this objective as its purpose is to increase sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination for the purposes of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ.

This child project aligns with the priorities outlined in paragraphs 194 and 195 of the GEF-7 Programming Directions, as it will foster information sharing to promote sustainable practices and inform decision-making by key ABNJ stakeholders in the pilot regions, including regional organisations such as LME commissions, RFMOs and Regional Seas programs. The child project will support investments that will strengthen support to RFMO activities and foster collaboration among relevant international, regional and domestic bodies on issues related to improved sustainability and biodiversity protection, including through area-based management in ABNJ, and reduced overexploitation of natural resources.

#### 5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

Current governance of marine ABNJ is sectoral and fragmented, lacking a comprehensive and cross-sectoral framework for addressing cumulative impacts on biodiversity in a dynamic and changing ocean environment. This largely sectoral global framework is also reflected at the national and regional levels, presenting a substantial barrier to the effective conservation of marine biodiversity and the

sustainable use of marine resources. The proposed BBNJ agreement, once adopted, will provide a mechanism for countries to enhance cooperation and coordination between global, regional and sectoral organizations in order to improve the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. Implementation of the BBNJ agreement will require practical approaches at different scales and dedicated capacity for transformative governance change. For instance, modern conservation principles (including ecosystem-based management and the precautionary principle) and tools (such as, marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and environmental impact assessments) can be used to address the specific elements of the BBNJ agreement identified in 2011[1]. Successful application of these principles and tools under the agreement will require greater participation of? and coordination between? all sectors operating in ABNJ, including fisheries, shipping, marine scientific research and any emerging sectors, such as geoengineering. Further, these sectors will require the capacity to engage with and implement tools and principles to improve ocean governance, including the provisions under the new BBNJ agreement. Given the complexity of ABNJ uses, the Agreement can only be implemented through cross-sectoral approaches at national, regional and global scales. This project will be undertaken in the context of existing regional conventions and policies in two pilot regions, namely, the Pacific Islands region and the South East Pacific region.

Despite widespread and repeated calls for enhanced cooperation and coordination in ocean governance in ABNJ over the last decade[2], cross-sectoral coordination between regional and global organizations, and between regional organizations remains limited. This is in part, due to a lack of capacity to identify and engage with other organizations operating in ABNJ at different scales. In the context of this project, both pilot regions have made limited and variable progress towards enhancing cross-sectoral coordination between the sectors operating in each region of ABNJ. Progress is hindered by a lack of awareness about the BBNJ Agreement itself and what it will mean for each pilot region in the long term and limited scientific knowledge about deep sea ecosystems and species in ABNJ and their relevance to jurisdictional waters. Under a business-as-usual scenario, neither pilot region would be prepared to implement the provisions set out in the BBNJ Agreement, including participatory and cross-sectoral area-based management approaches and evaluation of environmental impact assessments. Without capacity for cross-sectoral coordination, the BBNJ Agreement cannot be effectively implemented. This project seeks to build capacity of Member States in each pilot region to identify, evaluate and respond to the different demands of the BBNJ agreement, and wider global sustainable development commitments, in particular cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination.

With the GEF grant, this project provides opportunities to build capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination across sectors and countries in each pilot region, and to establish and nurture multi-sectoral relationships. Capacity building such as this needs to be developed systematically, by strengthening the ability of individuals, organizations and networks (as defined in Section 3.2) to effectively and sustainably cooperate and coordinate their activities and exchange knowledge in support of conservation and sustainable use goals. As such, this project focuses on developing and improving mechanisms, processes and resources for cooperation and coordination to build up **from the status-quo where there is limited network-level capacity in each pilot region**. The lessons learned from this project will be valuable in supporting similar capacity development in other regions of ABNJ in response to global ABNJ management issues and the BBNJ Agreement, helping to address the global issue of unsustainable ocean use and biodiversity loss.

**Specifically, the GEF Grant** will enable this project will help build capacity for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in each of the two pilot regions, responding directly to regional stakeholder needs and drawing from international experiences and best practice, including from co-financiers. Through the GEF grant of 2,500,000 USD the project will leverage co-financing of 22.1 M USD to work in partnership with regional organizations in both pilot regions in order to co-develop approaches for cross-sectoral coordination tailored to meet their needs. Towards this end, the project will initially undertake a needs assessment of individual and institutional capacity needs for ABNJ

management, in particular, cooperation and coordination among sectors that will help direct project activities towards addressing barriers and needs in each pilot region. Through the activities described in Section 3 and in the Results Framework (Appendix 02), the project will facilitate linkages between the two pilot regions to start building the basis for basin-scale collaboration and coordination to meet the needs of the future BBNJ Agreement.

The project aims to support the management and exchange of knowledge, information and capacity in ABNJ to facilitate enhanced engagement across sectors operating in ABNJ at all scales. Improved availability of and access to ABNJ-related information, including economic and governance information, will enable Member States and regional and global organizations and authorities to identify issues in a timely manner, and develop and implement policies that are supportive of biodiversity management, both within and beyond national jurisdiction. In line with capacity needs identified in each pilot region, the project will provide training and tools to help ABNJ stakeholders utilize this information, while seeking to create an information-sharing network and linkages between regional and global bodies and processes relevant to ABNJ. Strong linkages with the other components of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program led by the FAO will also be established to facilitate integrated information sharing, provide opportunities to capitalise on synergies and reduce duplication. Ultimately, enhanced knowledge management, sharing and availability will help the project to strengthen regional capacity for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination by raising awareness and understanding of issues, ecosystems, governance, capacity needs and sectoral activities and priorities in ABNJ. This will also support the sharing of information and awareness across jurisdictional boundaries, benefiting the management of national EEZs and extended continental shelves. Information availability and sharing is critical not only for designing project activities, including capacity building programmes, but for securing stakeholder buy-in that will enable project activities to be implemented effectively, adapted or replicated as required and sustained into the future, i.e. beyond the life of the project.

#### **6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);**

This project will contribute to the global environmental benefits targeted by GEF International Waters. The project will contribute towards increased sustainable resource use in ABNJ and specifically will contribute to Global Environmental Benefits targeted by GEF International Waters, including: in the following global environmental benefits: Specifically, the ABNJ project will contribute to Global Environmental Benefits targeted by GEF International Waters, including:

- ? **Halting biodiversity loss.** This project will build and strengthen capacity of actors with a management remit in ABNJ in the pilot regions to effectively and sustainably cooperate and coordinate their activities and knowledge exchange in support of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable resource use. The project mainly centres on improving capacity for cooperation and coordination between these actors within the two pilot regions, but through the activities it will also create and disseminate knowledge resources that will support actor networks in other regions of the globe.
- ? **Maintenance of ecosystem function and services.** This project will generate knowledge resources that actors at both individual and network levels can draw upon to improve their cooperation and coordination mechanisms. This will help preserve ecosystem structure and function and result in more productive systems that deliver greater ecosystem services.
- ? **Maintain, restore and enhance ecological connectivity.** The ocean and the species it contains is highly connected and does not recognise jurisdictional boundaries. In contrast, the majority of society's attempt to manage are single sector oriented with delineated jurisdictional boundaries that exist on maps but not in reality. From a management perspective, species which cross

boundaries or are highly migratory pose a challenge. If management approaches are not connected across jurisdictions, there could be a mismatch in action or mitigation activity which could affect ecological connectivity and natural processes and in turn limits progress towards sustainability. This project will address the issue of fragmented governance by supporting the development of options on mechanisms for cross-sectoral ocean management. In doing so help sectors transition to an approach which better reflects the ocean's natural processes by taking into account connectivity.

- ? **Increased ecosystem resilience** (for climate change and other global challenges). The project will enhance the capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in order to increase sustainable resource use in ABNJ. If sectors achieve sustainable resource use, and manage to reduce impacts on marine biodiversity, ecosystems in ABNJ will be more resilient to threats such as climate change.

## 7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

In recognition of some of the challenges of working in ABNJ innovative approaches have been threaded throughout the project design and incorporated into each project activity to facilitate improved working in ABNJ. Further, these innovations will help to sustain project actions beyond the life of the project and facilitate scaling up to deliver long-lasting, global impact.

### **Innovation**

The project will promote innovative and participatory approaches to capacity building and knowledge sharing across its portfolio of activities, seeking to build upon new and existing scientific analyses and technologies, and emerging global and regional policy discussions and processes, to transform the culture of cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination across different scales in ABNJ.

**Project design.** The project has been designed with adaptability and innovation in mind. Designed as a **?gateway?** for capacity-building, the project will collect stakeholder insights, needs and priorities to develop a framework for capacity building in relation to cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ. This framework will consist of novel stakeholder partnerships, innovative capacity building programmes that utilise the latest virtual technologies and in-person teaching tools/approaches to deliver bespoke training from a wide range of expert organisations, and other cooperation mechanisms not previously tried in the regions, developed specifically to respond to stakeholder needs within the pilot regions, and across the Pacific basin.

**Method of financing.** The project has secured co-financing from a wide range of organisations, each with specific expertise and skills in different areas of ocean management. These co-financiers have committed to supporting regional stakeholders in developing their capacity to undertake cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination across various elements of sustainable use of ABNJ, enabling a truly cross-sectoral approach to capacity building.

Depending on the results of the capacity development needs assessment, the project will work with collaborators and regional stakeholders, including national governments, to identify and explore **innovative financing mechanisms**<sup>[1]</sup> that have not yet been widely explored for ABNJ (including, Blue Bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services and financing relating to benefit-sharing from the exploration of marine genetic resources) to enable capacity building and sustain cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination for the purposes of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources in ABNJ.

**Scale.** The project focuses on two pilot regions that fall under the geographical mandates of the CPPS and SPREP Regional Seas Conventions, as well as those of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), the

International Maritime Organization (IMO), Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA). As both pilot regions are located within the Pacific Ocean basin, the project will capitalise on **opportunities to encourage ocean basin-wide cooperation and coordination**. The project will implement a novel basin-wide approach to facilitate and strengthen inter-regional dialogue and information sharing, including in the identification of transboundary issues, mindful of the different cultural norms, ocean priorities and capacity needs in each region.

**Transformational change.** The project aims to catalyse fundamental changes in how organisations operating in? or with and interest in? ABNJ build and maintain the necessary capacity to effectively and comprehensively undertake cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to support sustainable use of ABNJ. It will do this by responding directly to stakeholder needs and working to establish processes and tools to enable the maintenance and further development of capacity for cooperation and coordination. One such example is the challenging issue of staff turnover and institutional changes, which the project seeks to overcome by working with organisations to develop a process and specific materials that ensure that capacity is not lost and can continue to be built in-house.

**Component 1** in particular will develop innovative and bespoke capacity building programmes to address stakeholder needs in each of the pilot regions, including considerations for basin-wide activities. Building upon stakeholder needs and insights, as well as experiences from elsewhere, component 1 will also develop a series of options for how cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination can occur in each of the pilot regions (and across the Pacific basin) which will explore innovative or novel planning tools, information sharing tools and techniques as well as management structures or agreements.

**Component 2** will introduce a knowledge management and sharing platform that will provide novel and easy access to ABNJ governance information. This type of mechanism does not currently exist for ABNJ and is needed to ensure cross-sectoral awareness. The platform will utilise innovative technologies and ideas to showcase governance information in an accessible way, linking directly with the GEF IW:LEARN platform, UN Decade on Ocean Science and IOC-UNESCO BBNJ-related clearing house mechanism discussions. Innovative automatic update processes will also be utilised to ensure consistency across sources.

Component 2 will catalyse discussions on **novel approaches to sharing information** across stakeholder networks both within and between the pilot regions, to enable and strengthen comprehensive, regular and timely **basin-wide information exchange**. For instance, the establishment of a regular formal process or informal discussion forum or network for participants from both pilot regions to come together to share experiences on cross-sectoral approaches.

Dedicated **capacity building training materials and detailed regional experiences** are key outputs under Component 2. The materials will be developed and tested in collaboration with regional stakeholders and innovative digital tools and techniques will be used to ensure their accessibility and easy use by a wide range of audiences. The ultimate aim of these is to strengthen science- and knowledge-based decision-making in ABNJ.

Component 3 will document and reflect on **what worked and didn't work as expected and lessons learned** in the project's pursuit of transformational change. Component 3 activities will trace how the project operationalizes its Theory of Change (Figure 3 in section 3.1) and how it links to the achievement of Program goals (see Figure 4 *Connections of project with Program level Theory of Change*).

### **Sustainability**

**Project design.** A fundamental principle of the project is that activities will be **tailored and cost effective** specifically to meet the needs of the pilot regions in relation to conservation and sustainable use of ABNJ. Sustainability considerations have been mainstreamed in the project design to enable the development of bespoke, cost-effective and appropriate capacity building activities.

A **sustainability plan** will be developed in consultation with stakeholders in the pilot regions to guide the development of project outputs. A key element of the sustainability plan will be a transition strategy to guide the transition of responsibilities for maintaining capacity building and knowledge exchange activities (such as Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1 and 2.2.2) to stakeholders in each pilot region at the end of the project. This includes the development of updateable and accessible training materials or 'induction packs' as part of the capacity building programme (Output 1.1.2) to enable in-organization capacity building to overcome the challenges of organizational reshuffles or staff turnover. Further, the capacity building programme will be developed in such a way that it can be easily integrated into relevant academic and university curricula or modules, where appropriate, thus helping to ensure that capacity building can be continued via academic avenues beyond the life of the project.

**Financial sustainability.** Regarding financial sustainability, as part of the capacity needs assessment, the project will explore innovative finance mechanisms (as outlined above) to enable capacity building and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to continue beyond the life of the project. Sustainable financing will be essential for supporting the transition of cooperation and coordination activities from project-term to long-term across actors in the pilot regions without the direct involvement of the project executing agency and project team.

**Stakeholder commitments.** Regarding stakeholder commitments, efforts will be made to identify and agree roles and responsibilities, and secure commitments from stakeholders to maintain and enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to achieve positive outcomes in the conservation and sustainable use of ABNJ, including beyond the life of the project. A key element of this is securing stakeholder buy-in.

**Trust building and stakeholder buy-in.** The bottom-up design of the framework seeks to secure stakeholder buy-in? willingness to engage with? and sustainability of? the capacity building framework beyond the life of the project. The project will ensure a stepwise, participatory process to achieve a common vision for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination that will be essential for building trust and relationships between governments and sectoral bodies. This process will also enable the identification of lead stakeholders or actors in the pilot regions to continue to lead or guide capacity building and information exchange activities beyond the life of the project and when project interventions cease.

Given the vast size and the different challenges that states and stakeholders face in managing ABNJ, it is essential that the outcomes and outputs of this project reflect a long-term vision and can be applied to support progress in other regions of ABNJ. To ensure the sustainability of project outputs, existing platforms and processes will be considered and used where possible, for example the GEF IW:Learn platform, FAO Common Oceans site, Informea website and others. For instance, Output 2.1.1, the governance map, will be developed in such a way that it can be integrated into an existing platform where possible. Output 2.1.2 seeks to establish a knowledge exchange mechanism that encourages the continued sharing of up-to-date knowledge across actors in the region that can be used to share lessons learned and inform decision-making across stakeholders. The format of this mechanism will be determined based on stakeholder discussions and will be selected based on the potential for continued use beyond the life of the project.

Further, knowledge products will be hosted across a range of existing information platforms to ensure maximum accessibility across sectors and actors, for example on the GEF IW:Learn platform (potentially as a dedicated module), as intended under Output 2.2.1. This will be critical in ensuring that project materials can be accessed, adapted and upscaled in other regions where relevant.

### **Scaling up**

A key outcome of this global-scale project is the development of a **robust capacity needs assessment and development process**, as well as a **series of key lessons learned** for organisations working? or with an interest? in ABNJ. As part of the overarching Common Oceans Program, the project will capitalize on opportunities for wider impact across different sectors and scales in ABNJ - a key part of which is ensuring replicability and upscaling. As such, it is envisioned that the capacity development

process designed under the project can be easily tailored and replicated in other regions, and can be adapted to different scales as necessary (e.g. other ocean basins, regions in ABNJ or between national governments).

Success in this project in the Pacific basin has the potential to highlight the importance of? and inspire? cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination for effective ABNJ management in other regions and for different purposes. In particular, for supporting national, regional and global obligations under the new BBNJ ILBI, global targets such as the SDGs and a new global biodiversity framework.

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[1] Defined as *“a set of financial solutions that create scalable and effective ways of channelling private money, in particular from global financial markets towards solving pressing global problems?”* (Madsbjerg, S. (2016).

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[1] United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292, Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly. Development 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. 69<sup>th</sup> Sess, Agenda Item 74 (a). UN doc A/RES/69/292, 2015

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[1] <https://abnj-pacifico.org/>

## **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.**

This project combines a global scope with activities centered on two specific regions. These have been identified through a selection process (see initial selection process of the project’s focus regions in Appendix 13).

*Figure 2: Pacific Islands region with Exclusive Economic Zones of countries in light blue. (From: Tilot et al. (2021). Traditional dimensions of seabed resource management in the context of Deep Sea Mining in the Pacific: Learning from the socio-ecological interconnectivity between island communities and the ocean realm. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8, 257)*

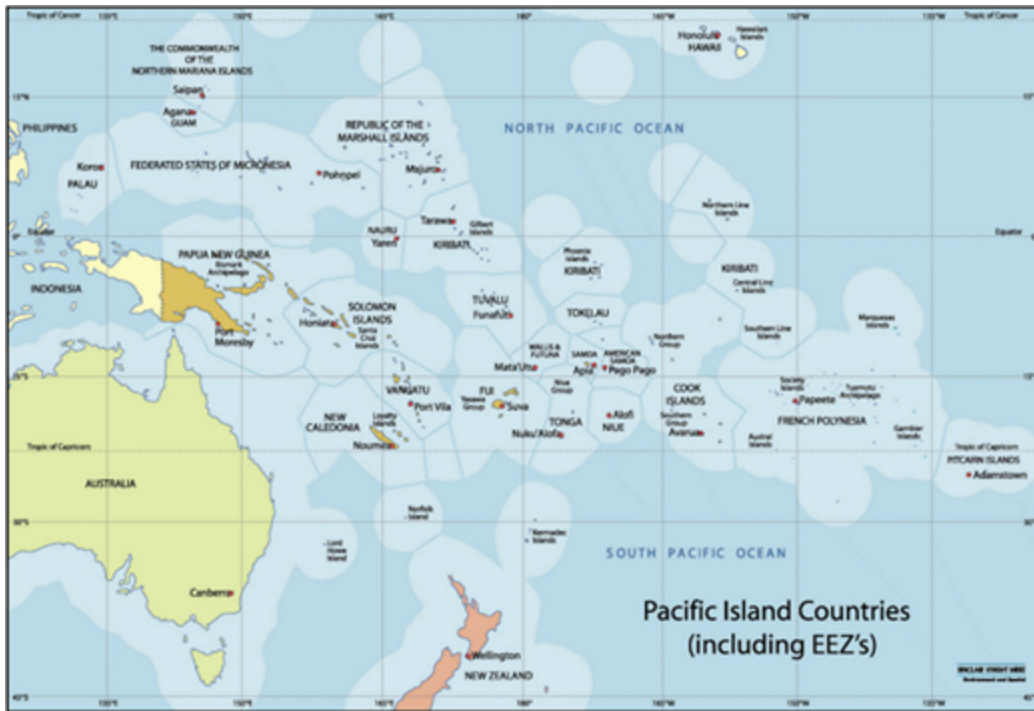
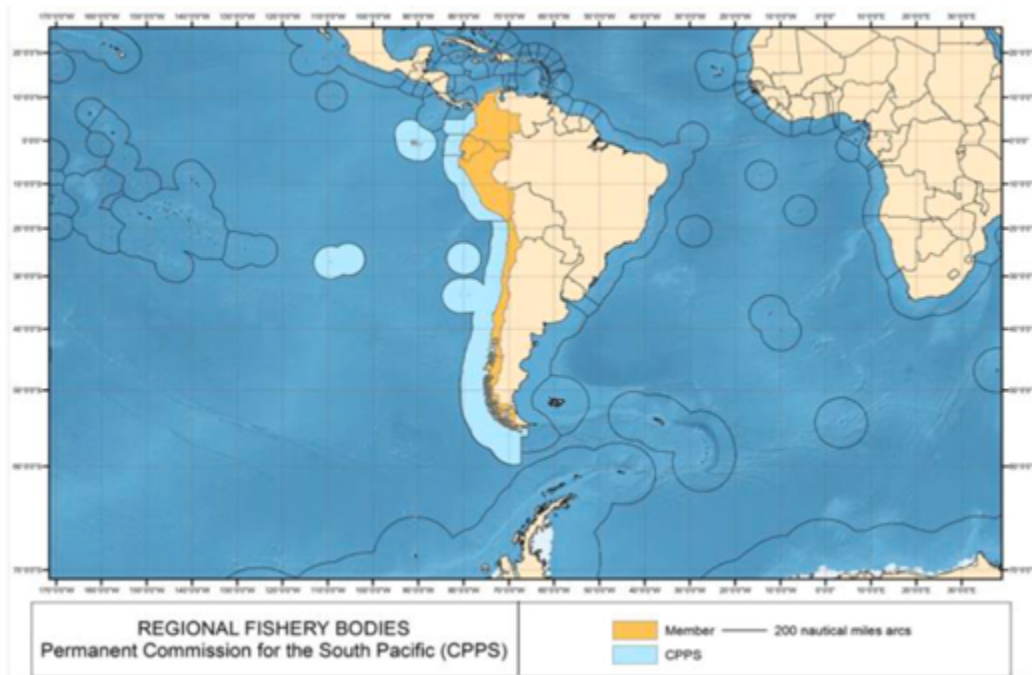


Figure 3: CPPS region countries EEZs. (Source: CPPS)





## 1c. Child Project?

**If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.**

The GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program framework and key areas for action are set out in a Theory of Change (Figure 3). The Program consists **4 Components** that all build upon the achievements of the previous project under the GEF-5 Common Oceans Program entitled *'Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program'* (2014-2019) and complement the efforts of various partners and parallel initiatives undertaken, including the progress and mandates of the existing governance structures.

The Program has been developed through collaboration between three GEF Agencies that will jointly implement the Program (FAO, UNDP and). This multi-partner program aims to work with a wide range of partners, including UNEP-WCMC, GRID Arendal, the Global Ocean Forum and others including the RFMOs, the RSCAPs, other multi-sectoral organizations, governments and LMEs.

The outcomes of the Cross-sectoral Child Project as illustrated in Figure 1 above will have a flow-on, or 'domino', effect whereby they contribute towards the GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program's Theory of Change. The connections between the **project** and outputs in the **program** level Theory of Change presented in Figure 2 below includes symbols to represent the points of interconnection towards the long-term impact of the Common Oceans Program.

Contributions to the GEF-7 Common Oceans Program are anticipated as follows:

- ? *Programme medium-term outcome 3* - The formation of comprehensive, well-informed processes that achieve ecosystem goals in ABNJ which have coordinating mechanisms between relevant actors;
- ? *Programme medium-term outcome 5* ? Increase public and private sector awareness, understanding, support and investment for sustainable management of ABNJ;
- ? *Programme medium-term outcome 7* ? Effective and sustainable cross-sectoral governance of natural resources in ABNJ;
- ? *Programme medium-term outcome 8* - Adaptive, coordinated, sustainable management of ABNJ resources following an Ecosystem Approach;

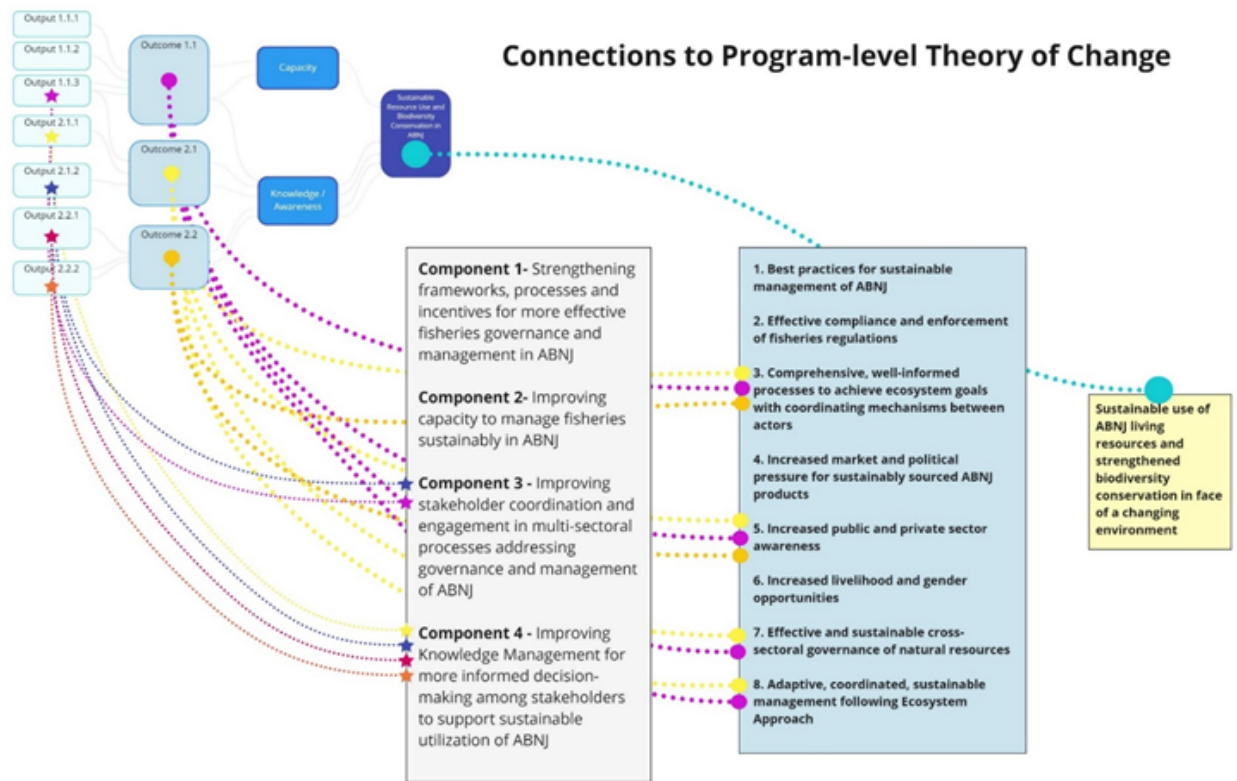
Together, the *Project's* components (1) building and strengthening capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ, and; (2) improving sectoral and cross-sectoral knowledge management on and public awareness of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, are intended to initiate the transformational changes that will lead to the *Program's* long-term impacts of: healthy ecosystem structure, function and processes in ABNJ improved and maintained, and; contribution to achievement of SDGs (especially SDG targets 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.C), BBNJ Agreement, and post-2020 biodiversity framework (Programme long-term impacts).

### ***Link to Other Child Projects***

The primary way by which the Cross-sectoral Project's components are be linked to the other child projects is through the Global Coordination Project, mainly through the implementation of the Common Ocean Program's knowledge management and communication strategy. The KM strategy will facilitate a two-way interaction between program and project levels and among the child projects

primarily through their respective knowledge platforms and networks. Dedicated Program and child project websites presenting results (reports, newsletter, videos), and lessons learned will keep child project implementers updated on the status and progress of the Program as a whole and of the other projects. The child projects will also link with IW:LEARN as a route for dissemination of project results, experiences, lessons learned and good practices among each other. This is particularly important given that all the child projects address multi-sectoral ocean governance that relies on improved understanding, management and mitigation of the impacts of each sector on other sectors. Information shared among all the child projects relevant to cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration in ABNJ, among other information, would be useful in adapting their respective activities accordingly, e.g., information from the other child projects relevant to Component 1 of the Cross-sectoral Project in the assessment of capacity needs, the development of a capacity building program and options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination as well as to Component 2 on the development of mechanisms for data-sharing and information. On the other hand, information from Components 1 and 2 of the Cross-sectoral Project could help the Deep Seas Project in increasing the capacity of the fisheries sector to work together, and with other sectors, to share experiences and cooperatively develop new and efficient tools, that will allow for improved monitoring and management of the fish stocks and impacts on biodiversity.

Figure 4. Connections of project with Program level Theory of Change



## 2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder mapping and analysis of strategies for stakeholder participation are available in Section 2.4 and 5 of the Prodoc. A stakeholder engagement plan for the project is available in the road map as Appendix 10 to the Prodoc.

Please note the following project stakeholders and their engagement with the project.

Stakeholder	Role in the Project	Means of engagement and dissemination of information
UNEP	Implementing Agency	Provide relevant insights and information from UNEP portfolio of work. Receive information via regular project progress updates to be used in direct communications with external partners and use in the wider UNEP portfolio of work.
FAO	Lead Organization coordinating the GEF-7 Common Oceans Program	Ensure coordination across all child projects. Receive and share progress updates and relevant information from other child projects.
GOF	Lead Executing Agency; Lead Executing Partner for Component 1; Executing Partner for Component 2	Manage and coordinate project execution and lead delivery of project activities. Provide technical information and expertise on capacity building, cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination, BBNJ and ABNJ, among others. Lead capacity building activities and also build knowledge of regional priorities and capacity needs in each pilot region, and lessons learned from experience to support replication elsewhere as required.

Stakeholder	Role in the Project	Means of engagement and dissemination of information
UNEP-WCMC and GRID-Arendal	Lead Executing Partners for Component 2 activities; Executing partners for Component 1	Lead activities on building and sharing knowledge/data/other information relevant to cross-sectoral ABNJ in each pilot region, and lessons learned from experience to support replication elsewhere as required. Provide technical information and expertise on capacity building, cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination, BBNJ and ABNJ, among others.
PIFS and CPPS	Lead Regional Executing Partners in the Pacific Islands and Southeast Pacific	Lead activities on building and sharing knowledge/data/other information relevant to cross-sectoral ABNJ in the pilot regions, and lessons learned from experience to support replication elsewhere as required. Provide technical information and expertise in the development and implementation of a capacity building program on cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ, among others, in their respective pilot regions. Share and receive information from project.
USP and UCN	Regional Executing Partners in the Pacific Islands and Southeast Pacific for Component 1 (capacity building)	Provide technical information and expertise in the development and implementation of a capacity building program on cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ, among others, in their respective pilot regions. Share and receive information from project.
IOC-UNESCO, IMO, ICPC, IWC, RMFOs, CBD	Wider substantive input into Components 1 and 2 activities	Provide environmental and governance expertise and information at the global level to inform the development of project outputs and activities. Share and receive information from project.
SPC, FFA, SPREP, PNA, WCPFC, IATTC, SPRFMO	Regional substantive input into and participation in Components 1 and 2 activities in the Pacific Islands and the Southeast Pacific Project beneficiaries	Provide environmental and governance expertise and information at the regional level to inform the development of project outputs and activities. Participate in project activities. Build knowledge relating to ABNJ and national/regional priorities and needs and how to support states in ABNJ issues in the future based on recurrent activities. Share and receive information from project.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Natural Resources/Fisheries; Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Transportation; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Communications	National collaborating partners in Component 1 and 2 activities on their respective sectors Project beneficiaries	Provide environmental and governance expertise and information at the national level to inform the development of project outputs and activities. Participate in project activities. Build knowledge relating to ABNJ and national/regional priorities and needs and how to support states in ABNJ issues in the future based on recurrent activities. Share and receive information from project.
National University of Singapore; University of Portsmouth, Queensland; Duke University; Coastal and Ocean Management Institute, Xiamen University; University of the West Indies Barbados; University of Strathclyde, Glasgow; Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation; French Biodiversity Agency; PEMSEA; IUCN; MarViva Foundation; OFB; General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; STRONG High Seas Project	Co-financing partners	Provide expertise to support the design and delivery of project activities and outputs. Build knowledge relating to ABNJ and national/regional priorities and needs and how to support states in ABNJ issues in the future based on ongoing parallel activities.
Other Environmental NGOs (to be identified)	Project collaborators and beneficiaries	Provide expertise to support the design and delivery of project activities and outputs. Share and receive information from project.
Indigenous peoples (to be identified)	Project collaborators and beneficiaries	Provide local knowledge to support the design and delivery of project activities and outputs., including from customary management practices. Share and receive information from project.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The project includes a number of mechanisms to ensure effective multi-stakeholder engagement and contributions to the project (as described in Section 5 of the UNEP ProDoc). These mechanisms will build on the extensive stakeholder engagement carried out during the PPG Phase (described in Appendix 10 and above summary table 1) and the results of a stakeholder mapping and analysis (Section 2.4).

Stakeholder participation is critical to the objectives of this project, which seek to build capacity of individuals, groups and networks in relation to cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ.

The participation strategy seeks to reach individuals, representatives and groups from global, regional and national organizations and management institutions, including national governments, as well as those from local communities, indigenous peoples, academia, the private sector and environmental non-governmental organizations, each with an interest in ABNJ.

The main stakeholder participatory mechanisms include:

- Engagement in project capacity building activities and activity implementation via a project stakeholder engagement portal.
- Stakeholder capacity and information sharing needs identification and assessment via national and regional consultations, surveys, semi-structured interviews, literature reviews, workshops and engagement via a project stakeholder engagement portal.
- Capacity building activities and programmes designed to respond directly to stakeholder needs identified (output 1.1.1) and will cater to different stakeholder groups, including local communities, private sector and national governments. These will include training materials and packages, practical sessions, including participation in workshops, meetings of regional bodies and ongoing international negotiations (e.g. BBNJ) and follow-up assessments.
- Establishment of stakeholder working groups to continue capacity building, discussion and information sharing in between training workshops.
- Provision of ad-hoc advice and technical input from external stakeholders to the Project Steering Committee and Project Management Unit, upon request.
- Donor and co-financier expert and technical input to support project activities and the functioning of the Project Management Unit, upon request.
- Participation of stakeholders in Project Steering Committee meetings whereby they may present key findings, provide input into wider project management discussions, and keep track of project progress. Participation such as this may also help to secure long-term stakeholder buy-in to the objectives of the project.

Based on the work carried out in the PPG phase (stakeholder mapping, baseline studies, stakeholder engagement etc.) different options for? and extent of? participation in the project have been identified. These can be summarised as participation via:

- **Engagement in project design:** stakeholders have actively engaged with and provided input into the design of the project, including its institutional structure, objectives, activities, and indicators for tracking progress.

- **Collaborative implementation:** stakeholders work collaboratively with project Executing Partners to provide expertise and support the delivery of activities in relation to intended project outputs and outcomes, for example the delivery of dedicated training sessions in that stakeholder's area of expertise.
- **Provision of information to project:** stakeholders provide information and insights to the project via technical workshops, direct communication with executing partners, completion of surveys etc. The information provided can be separated into two categories: information that highlights capacity needs in relation to cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination (e.g. from national ministries); and information that relates to capacity building in response to these needs (e.g. from sectoral organizations with technical expertise, including academia).
- **Receive information and capacity building from project:** stakeholders that receive information from the project and through what means, including via project outputs and the GEF's IW:Learn platform. This also details stakeholders that participate in capacity building activities to enhance their cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination capacity and how this may occur, including via workshops, webinars and training programmes.

Further details on the potential types and extent of participation in the project by specific stakeholders is provided in Section 5 of the UNEP ProDoc.

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;** Yes

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;** Yes

**Co-financier;** Yes

**Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;** Yes

**Executor or co-executor;**

**Other (Please explain)** Yes

The project includes a number of mechanisms to ensure effective multi-stakeholder engagement and contributions to the project (as described in Section 5 of the UNEP ProDoc). These mechanisms will build on the extensive stakeholder engagement carried out during the PPG Phase (described in Appendix 10) and the results of a stakeholder mapping and analysis (Section 2.4).

Stakeholder participation is critical to the objectives of this project, which seek to build capacity of individuals, groups and networks in relation to cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ.

The participation strategy seeks to reach individuals, representatives and groups from global, regional and national organizations and management institutions, including national governments, as well as those from local communities, indigenous peoples, academia, the private sector and environmental non-governmental organizations, each with an interest in ABNJ.

The main stakeholder participatory mechanisms include:

- Engagement in project capacity building activities and activity implementation via a project stakeholder engagement portal.
- Stakeholder capacity and information sharing needs identification and assessment via national and regional consultations, surveys, semi-structured interviews, literature reviews, workshops and engagement via a project stakeholder engagement portal.
- Capacity building activities and programmes designed to respond directly to stakeholder needs identified (output 1.1.1) and will cater to different stakeholder groups, including local communities, private sector and national governments. These will include training materials and packages, practical sessions, including participation in workshops, meetings of regional bodies and ongoing international negotiations (e.g. BBNJ) and follow-up assessments.
- Establishment of stakeholder working groups to continue capacity building, discussion and information sharing in between training workshops.
- Provision of ad-hoc advice and technical input from external stakeholders to the Project Steering Committee and Project Management Unit, upon request.
- Donor and co-financier expert and technical input to support project activities and the functioning of the Project Management Unit, upon request.
- Participation of stakeholders in Project Steering Committee meetings whereby they may present key findings, provide input into wider project management discussions, and keep track of project progress. Participation such as this may also help to secure long-term stakeholder buy-in to the objectives of the project.

Based on the work carried out in the PPG phase (stakeholder mapping, baseline studies, stakeholder engagement etc.) different options for? and extent of? participation in the project have been identified. These can be summarised as participation via:

- **Engagement in project design:** stakeholders have actively engaged with and provided input into the design of the project, including its institutional structure, objectives, activities, and indicators for tracking progress.
- **Collaborative implementation:** stakeholders work collaboratively with project Executing Partners to provide expertise and support the delivery of activities in relation to intended project outputs and outcomes, for example the delivery of dedicated training sessions in that stakeholder's area of expertise.
- **Provision of information to project:** stakeholders provide information and insights to the project via technical workshops, direct communication with executing partners, completion of surveys etc. The information provided can be separated into two categories: information that highlights capacity needs in relation to cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination (e.g. from



national ministries); and information that relates to capacity building in response to these needs (e.g. from sectoral organizations with technical expertise, including academia).

- **Receive information and capacity building from project:** stakeholders that receive information from the project and through what means, including via project outputs and the GEF's IW:Learn platform. This also details stakeholders that participate in capacity building activities to enhance their cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination capacity and how this may occur, including via workshops, webinars and training programmes.

Further details on the potential types and extent of participation in the project by specific stakeholders is provided in Section 5 of the UNEP ProDoc.

### **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

#### **Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment.**

A **gender analysis** of the project context and planned project activities is the first step in the preparation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP). Due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the gender analysis was preliminary and desk-based and relied on:

- GEF guidance and policies on gender equality and stakeholders engagement;
- ABNJ Capacity Project and Deep-Sea Project TE reports, final reports and other documentation relevant to gender equality;
- Reports of relevant ABNJ activities in the two pilot regions from which can be gathered information on gender representation in the list of participants, e.g., reports of workshops conducted by the STRONG High Seas Project in the Southeast Pacific and reports of workshops conducted by the Pacific Islands Forum Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner in preparation for their participation in the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ;
- Academic and grey literatures to establish the situation of women in the management of ABNJ in general.

The assessment aimed to gather information that could serve as a basis for: 1) including gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment; 2) indicating in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality, i.e., closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; improving women's participation and decision making; and generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

The results of this analysis are reflected in the draft gender action plan (GAP) (see description below) and applied in the methodology for setting gender-sensitive indicators in the results framework.

#### **Summary of the situation**

It is widely recognized that women are disproportionately affected by impacts of water scarcity, climate change, and natural disasters. Nevertheless, gender perspective is often missing from integrated water management policies and absent or insufficiently incorporated in the decision-making process (GWP, 2017).

In the marine realm, many developing countries, especially Small Island Developing States and Least Developing Countries do not have adequate scientific capability to benefit from the sustainable development of the ocean or to implement their international legal obligations under the UNCLOS and related instruments. The situation is compounded by the barriers that constrain women scientists from participating in marine scientific research and from equal representation at all levels in public and private spheres concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity both within and beyond national jurisdiction. This may be attributed to the absence of express normative obligations on gender balance and the empowerment of women in those instruments.

#### **From the Deep Seas Project:**

The Project's terminal evaluation report indicated that?

? *A gender analysis was undertaken on the deep-sea fishing industry (2016) ? and a further gender assessment was planned as part of Activity 2.1.1.2 (PPR July-December 2016). However, the reach of the analysis was limited given the poor response from survey participants.*

? *Women often play a large role in the landing, processing and marketing of fish in developing countries. However, for deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ, a preliminary survey of the role of women in deep-sea fishing in the ABNJ confirmed that it is male dominated.*

? *Environmental concerns were key consideration in the design and implementation of the project. Social concerns were not directly addressed, nor were gender considerations. The project was implemented in a manner that ensures gender equitable participation and benefits.*

#### **From the Capacity Project:**

The project's terminal evaluation report included a finding that the project ensured a good gender balance in its activities, tracked through systematic documentation. *According to the project synopsis, 1,005 participants attended the project's cross-sectoral workshops, policy dialogues, media forum and other venues of interaction. With several participants attending multiple events, the project had net 538 participants, from over 90 countries. A good gender balance ranging from 40 percent to 55 percent was observed in activities.* It appears that gender was included among the criteria used in the participant selection process, especially in the training activities.

#### **From reports of relevant ABNJ activities in the two pilot regions:**

The results of the review of these documents were inconclusive since there was no data that can be gleaned in terms of deliberate efforts to achieve gender equality among participants of ABNJ activities covered by the reports reviewed.

Overall, the assessment pointed to gaps in information regarding possible gender inequalities in terms of access to ABNJ resources, employment, or ABNJ-related socio-economic benefits, which are expected to be fully considered in the gender analysis involving stakeholders during project inception phase.

Gender mainstreaming is however a cross-cutting goal of the project and its activities have been designed to ensure that the dimension of gender is duly considered in all project components. A gender-responsive approach has been used to ensure that each project activity and associated monitoring indicator promotes gender equality. As such, gender-related indicators at the outcome and output levels have also been included in the project Results Framework which will be monitored to track progress and improve the mainstreaming strategy along execution. The project will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women (adopting experiences and lessons available from GEF IW:LEARN and WWAP) throughout implementation and will monitor progress using a gender-responsive results framework based on the GEF-6 Core indicators in the GEF Gender Action Plan.

Specific activities under each project component will ensure the participation of women throughout, including:

1. Component 1 will assess current gender roles in relation to ABNJ in each of the pilot regions and develop gender-responsive activities to encourage continued and improve participation of women, local communities and other groups. This will include the development of gender sensitive capacity building programs to support enhanced cooperation across all actors.
2. Component 2 will develop activities relating to knowledge management and information sharing that are inclusive and based on the needs of all stakeholders, including women, girls and local communities to improve decision making.

A detailed gender action plan will be elaborated during the project inception phase, based on the results of the following activities summarized below. This is presented in **Appendix 09**. Project outputs and activities with gender-specific elements will be guided by this action plan, namely Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, and 2.2.2. Specifically, output 1.1.3 (options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ) will integrate gender empowerment and equality principles in the regional and national organizations that will be involved. Where available, good practices and successful experiences led by women will be incorporated into outputs to inform and catalyse their systematization and replication into future activities within the wider ABNJ region.

Further, the project will ensure that all meetings, workshops and other cooperation or knowledge exchange activities will be designed and conducted based on gender-balanced and gender-sensitive policies with a view to equal participation across all groups and will record sex-disaggregated data of participants. In this context, the project will complete:

1. Comprehensive stakeholder mapping to identify main actor and stakeholders in the pilot regions.
2. A gender assessment to collect gender-differentiated information on the different roles of men and women and girls in addressing ABNJ issues and their participation in the ABNJ economy.

3. Identification of gender gaps and inequalities.
4. Gender mainstreaming strategy to guide activities and address risks, opportunities, overcome gaps and empower women and girls.
5. Development of gender-sensitive targets and indicators under a monitoring framework to track progress.
6. Gender-sensitive engagement strategies for adoption during project implementation
7. Development of bespoke gender-responsive capacity building programs designed to meet stakeholder needs.
8. Feasibility assessments of strategic project actions to determine potential positive or adverse impacts on men, women, local communities, and other groups.
9. Preliminary analysis indicates the potential to contribute to:
10. Strengthening of women's associations in the pilot regions.
11. Increase of women's participation in decision-making processes relating to ABNJ
12. Increase employment opportunities through regional and national solutions
13. Development of transboundary environment and social assessment guidelines which when applied, will help (project) developers in the pilot regions to identify various entry points for gender mainstreaming/women's empowerment activities.

The project will also support and promote the incorporation of gender dimensions into new and existing national and regional cooperation mechanisms or frameworks between ABNJ stakeholders in the pilot regions, helping to support the achievement of wider global goals, including SDG 5. To ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all project components, dedicated measures within the Project Coordination Unit (PCU), and at a project management level, will be employed to support equal participation of women and the elimination of gender-based stereotypes. Gender-related indicators at the outcome and output levels have also been included in the project Results Framework which will be monitored to track progress and improve the mainstreaming strategy along execution.

The project communication plan will apply a gender perspective that tracks progress and informs on the strategic actions being carried out to contribute to the reduction of gaps between men and women. The communication plan will highlight the importance of the role of women within the project and invite women to participate in the activities being carried out within the framework of the project. By adopting and implementing a gender equality framework throughout, the project will meet both the GEF and UN Environment gender mainstreaming targets, helping to facilitate the long-term sustainability of the project.

The project draft Gender Action Plan aims to support the inclusion and consideration of all needs, roles and priorities of all ABNJ stakeholders and groups and to promote women's empowerment and equality in ABNJ resource use, by mainstreaming gender equality perspectives into understanding, building capacity and responding to ABNJ-related issues. The draft Gender Action Plan will support full achievement of the main project outcomes in terms of strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination across all relevant ABNJ stakeholders to support sustainable and equitable resource use and the conservation of biodiversity and other marine resources.

The primary objectives of the plan are to: 1) provide equal opportunities for women, girls, and local communities to participate and input into project activities; 2) provide equitable access to capacity

building, knowledge sharing and benefit sharing across all stakeholder groups; and 3) promote women's empowerment in national and regional efforts to identify, understand and respond to ABNJ-related issues. The draft Gender Action Plan will be reviewed during project inception and revised as required for adoption by the Inception Meeting/first Project Steering Committee Meeting.

For further information, please refer to **Appendix 09 to the Prodoc** available in the road map.

**Main documents reviewed:**

GEF Secretariat. 2018. Guidance to Advance Gender Equality in GEF Projects and Programs. [www.thegef.org/publications/gef-guidance-gender-equality](http://www.thegef.org/publications/gef-guidance-gender-equality)

Long, R. Chapter 13. Beholding the Emerging Biodiversity Agreement through a Looking-Glass

What Capacity-Building and Gender Equality Norms Should Be Found There? 2021. In Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. Series: Center for Oceans Law and Policy, Volume: 24. <https://brill.com/view/title/56859>

Terminal evaluation of the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Sea project, part of the Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in ABNJ?

Terminal evaluation of the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) Capacity Project Strengthening global capacity to effectively manage areas beyond national jurisdiction?

TRAINING REPORT ABNJ Regional Leaders Program - First Session 15-21 January 2015 United Nations, New York

TRAINING REPORT ABNJ Regional Leaders Program - Second Session 21 March - 2 April 2016 United Nations, New York

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (BBNJ) PACIFIC WORKSHOP Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Main Conference Centre, Suva, Fiji 30 January - 1 February 2019 High hopes for High Seas?

STRONG High Seas. (2020). STRONG High Seas Dialogue Workshop 3: Enhancing the Knowledge Base for Cross-Sectoral Management and Ocean Governance in ABNJ of the Southeast Pacific, Lima, Peru, 26-27 February 2020. Lima. [https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Summary-Dialogue-WS-Peru\\_EN.pdf](https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Summary-Dialogue-WS-Peru_EN.pdf)

STRONG High Seas. (2021). STRONG High Seas Online Seminar Part I: Sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in ABNJ in the South-East Pacific, 26-27 January 2021. Zoom. [https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Summary-seminar-STRONG-HS-January-2021-\\_EN.pdf](https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Summary-seminar-STRONG-HS-January-2021-_EN.pdf)

STRONG High Seas. (2021). STRONG High Seas Online Seminar Part II: Sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in ABNJ in the South-East Pacific, 4-5 March 2021. Zoom.

[https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Summary-seminar-STRONG-HS-March-2021-\\_EN.pdf](https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Summary-seminar-STRONG-HS-March-2021-_EN.pdf)

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[1] Global Water Partnership (GWP). *Gender equality and inclusion in water resources management*. Action piece, 2017.

[2] Long, R. Chapter 13. Beholding the Emerging Biodiversity Agreement through a Looking?Glass

What Capacity-Building and Gender Equality Norms Should Be Found?There? 2021. In *Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction*. Series: Center for Oceans Law and Policy, Volume: 24. <https://brill.com/view/title/56859>

[3] Long, R. (unpublished paper), ?Gender and the Law of the Sea Convention: Is it All about Buoys?? delivered at an international conference, Exploring the human element of the oceans: the gender implications of the law of the sea, School of Law, University of MilanoBicocca, 25 May?2017 (as quoted in Long 2021).

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

Yes

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes**

**Improving women's participation and decision making Yes**

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes**

**Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

**4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

GEF (2017) defines a stakeholder as an individual or group that has an interest in the outcome of a GEF-financed activity or is likely to be affected by it, such as Indigenous Peoples? and local communities (IPLCs), the academic community, the private sector and civil society organizations.

There are several external organizations who provide capacity building and could be considered stakeholders in capacity building in the two pilot regions, including the private sector such as:

- ? The International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC),
- ? Shipping companies,
- ? Cruise ship and Hotel operators with a focus on tourism,
- ? Fisheries associations (e.g. International Coalition of Fisheries Associations),
- ? Mining industries
- ? Pharmaceutical companies involved in marine scientific research and prospecting for marine genetic resources.

Furthermore, private sector operating in ABNJ will be engaged during the project to showcase and disseminate knowledge and experiences of the project through Component 2 in collaboration with French National Sea Center in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.

The private sector can significantly contribute to cross-sector collaboration through: 1) the provision of technologies that are more accessible and affordable to all by companies that operate across multiple business sectors and industries; and 2) by boosting public awareness and engagement through their communications expertise, specifically in running campaigns and outreach projects.<sup>[1]</sup> Through Output 1.1.3 (Options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination identified in the pilot regions), the project will work with the private sector in the identification of technologies and other solutions that could form part of the mechanisms for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ. Through Output 2.2.1 (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), the project will engage private sector companies that could support the development of relevant public awareness materials and activities on ABNJ. The above will be undertaken in parallel with the Global Coordination Project component on Innovative private sector engagement in the ABNJ through consultation with GCP implementers and sharing of developments achieved through the Program-wide KM and communications strategy and through the progress and PIR reports.

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[1] Dong-Kwan Kim (2020) How cross-sector collaboration is driving the global climate agenda. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/how-cross-sector-collaboration-is-driving-the-global-climate-agenda/>

## 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

**Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):**

By strengthening the capacity of different ABNJ stakeholders to work together in matters relating to sustainable resource management and biodiversity protection, this child project will contribute to the GEF Response to Covid-19 (supporting transformational change to restore a balance between human and natural systems). As such, the project can be seen as a contribution to global risk management and risk reduction,

building resilience against ongoing and possible future crises. In this section, however, the focus is on risks *to* the project, and on the strategies and planning in place to address those risks. For the evaluation of identified risks, two criteria were considered: probability and impact. For each criterion, five levels were identified from very low (1) to very high (5) with associated descriptions (Table 9). The risk level was determined by the score obtained from the product of the probability and impact levels and its placement on the risk level matrix used in the UNEP ESES Implementation Guidelines. The results of the risk analysis are set forth in Table 10.

**Table 9:** Definition of risk level or significance (Source: UNEP ESES: Implementation Guidelines)

Risk level / significance (probability x impact)		Probability					
		Very unlikely	Unlikely	About even	Likely	Very likely	
Low (1-5)	Moderate (6-15)	High (16-20)	1	2	3	4	5
Impact	1	Routine procedures sufficient to deal with consequences	1	2	3	4	5
	2	Could threaten results, and thus, may require monitoring	2	4	6	8	10
	3	May threaten results, and thus, may require monitoring	3	6	9	12	15
	4	Would threaten results, and thus may require review	4	8	12	16	20
	5	Would prevent achievement of results, and would require close management	5	10	15	20	25

**Table 10:** Identification of project risk, associated scores and mitigation actions.

Internal/ External	Risk	P	I	Risk level	Mitigation action



Internal/ External	Risk	P	I	Risk level	Mitigation action
External	<p><b>Appendix 12</b> specifically outlines some of the risks and mitigation analysis arising from the uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p><b>Appendix 8</b> specifically outlines some of the climate risks which is linked to the SRIF matrix.</p> <p>Uncertainty over the future outcome of the BBNJ negotiations (ongoing at the time of preparing this proposal), which may create new international legislation &amp; governance institutions for the protection of biodiversity in ABNJ. The ABNJ governance landscape is therefore certain to change during the lifetime of the project. This could undermine efforts by the project if key stakeholders perceive the project to be either duplicating efforts that will happen under the BBNJ umbrella in future, or if there is a perception that the project's efforts are infringing on the remit of a future BBNJ management body.</p>	5	2	10	<p>The project's overarching aim includes the improvement of biodiversity protection in ABNJ, which aligns with the overarching aim of the BBNJ process. The project will keep abreast of developments in the global negotiations, adjust project activities in line with emerging new governance mechanisms (especially regarding output 1.1.3), and communicate project activities to parties involved in the negotiations (output 2.2.1). With these safeguards in place, the project will minimize the risk indicated at the same time as maximizing its potential for creating positive groundwork that a future BBNJ governance process can build on, because strengthened cooperation and collaboration between key stakeholders in the pilot region will serve as an improved foundation for it to build on, irrespective of the form it might take. The alignment with the BBNJ process has already started during the PPG phase through engagement with stakeholders involved in the development of the global BBNJ Clearinghouse Mechanism, ensuring that outputs 2.1.1. and 2.1.2 have been designed to be compatible with and complementary to this ongoing process from the beginning.</p>

Internal/ External	Risk	P	I	Risk level	Mitigation action
External	The achievement of the project objective is contingent on successful collaboration among project partners and key stakeholders, most notably the different international ABNJ management bodies with a remit in the pilot regions, and their national focal points. There may be external circumstances or events that the project has no control over that will impact negatively on the willingness or ability of these actors to engage with each other constructively.	3	3	9	The entire design of the project, especially in component 1, centers on facilitating and improving information exchange, cooperation, and collaboration between these different actors. The capacity building program can, for example, be seen as a mitigation strategy against this risk in its own right. The stakeholder engagement plan is another mitigation strategy.
Internal	There is a risk that no consensus will be gained among member countries of relevant regional organizations regarding the full development of a model mechanism for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination (output 1.1.3) or for knowledge exchange (output 2.1.2)	3	4	12	Buy-in for the project design (including the outputs indicated) has already started being built through stakeholder outreach during the PPG phase and will continue through the stakeholder engagement plan of the project. The capacity building component will also serve as a mitigation process that will facilitate cooperation and collaboration. There will be a series of tailor-made workshops focused on building / facilitating buy-in and consensus for outputs 1.1.3 and 2.1.2 through a stepwise process, starting with the discussion and identification of possible options before selecting one for full development. If it is impossible to find a mechanism that all actors can support, the project will explore the creation of ?coalitions of the willing?, or mechanisms that allow for different levels of cooperation, coordination, and information exchange to accommodate different needs.

Internal/ External	Risk	P	I	Risk level	Mitigation action
Internal	There is a risk that when the project ends, nobody will have the capacity, or mandate, to update and maintain the interface and database for active use in the long term. (Long-term funding for existing information portals, e.g., for scientific and geospatial data, such as OBIS, is already a challenge.)	3	4	12	Sustainability is a key consideration in the project. It is hoped that the information produced would be relevant to a future BBNJ clearing house mechanism and therefore would be possible for that mechanism to use it as a foundation. Discussions are already underway with IOC UNESCO about their potential role in long term support for the BBNJ process. The project we will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to maximize the chance of any mechanism created to be sustainable in the long term and, for example, be integrated into existing portals/platforms to ensure long term use.
External	A new COVID Variant evolves that evades existing vaccines and causes higher rates or mortality and morbidity, placing unprecedented levels of strain on economies and governments around the world, including in pilot regions, thereby limiting the capacity of key stakeholders to engage in the project activities	2*	5	10*	(* the probability of this risk is impossible to determine reliably for the purposes of this risk assessment, given the scientific uncertainty regarding the future of the epidemic)  Most of the project's engagement with key stakeholders will be carried out online, and a stakeholder strategy is in place to design an engagement process that places minimum strain on participants.
Internal	Lack of coordination among project officers and stakeholders due to the restriction of trips and face-to-face interaction modality.	2	4	8	There are now well-established virtual tools that will support the PMU in project coordination tasks, and these will continue to be used in the same way that they have been used successfully during the PPG phase of this project proposal development.

Internal/ External	Risk	P	I	Risk level	Mitigation action
External	Ongoing travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic may cancel relevant face to face meetings and conferences, especially in the earlier years of project implementation	5	1	5	Participation at such events by project representatives is assumed to be virtual unless otherwise indicated, and the capacity building program will be designed for remote participation (unless otherwise indicated) to maximize its reach and impact, minimize carbon emissions, and create built-in resilience of the project against any ongoing global travel disruptions
Internal	The long timeframe from project inception and development to project completion entails a high likelihood of staff turnover within project partners and stakeholder institutions, which may pose a risk to continuity.	4	1	4	This risk will be mitigated by good record keeping (through project progress reports) and built-in knowledge management processes within the project. Any outgoing staff would be expected to produce handover notes for use by incoming staff. Three core organizations are part of the project design (GOF, GRID-Arendal and UNEP-WCMC) and it would be expected that any new staff in one of these organizations could be supported by the experience and knowledge from the other, minimizing the risk of lost information due to turnover.

Internal/ External	Risk	P	I	Risk level	Mitigation action
Internal	<p>The capacity assessment (output 1.1.1) depends on buy-in from actors in the pilot regions. If buy-in is not secured, a comprehensive capacity needs assessment will not be possible and will not be reflective of all actors in the regions. Civil servants and ministers (key target audiences) may not engage with the process consistently or governments may have high staff turnover rates, meaning that capacity may be lost. Although their mandate on ABNJ management/governance is recognized, organizations may be unwilling or unable to prioritize this remit over competing functions resulting in non-participation in the capacity needs assessment.</p>	1	4	4	<p>The project's stakeholder engagement plan is a key mitigation strategy against this risk. Stakeholder engagement has already started during the PPG phase, preparing key actors for the needs assessment, and getting their buy-in in advance of the project implementation phase. Finance will be available to the participating partners in the pilot regions to support their outreach within the region. The project is, in addition, part of the Common Oceans Program and there is potential for the other projects to support outreach to relevant participants.</p>
External	<p>The long-term success and impact of the project will depend on capacities being retained among the actors in the pilot regions. There is a risk that trained participants who attended events in project component 1 will move to different positions with responsibilities unrelated to ABNJ management/governance.</p>	3	1	3	<p>The project is designed to build capacity not just at individual level, but also at organizational and network levels within the pilot regions (see Figure 5). The project is designed to specifically mitigate this risk as it is recognized as a challenge for many regional organizations. This means that the capacity building and knowledge exchange mechanism will be designed to support retention of capacity at the organizational level even if individual people move on to different areas of work. Therefore, newcomers will be able to learn from others still active on ABNJ matters at the organizational and network levels.</p>

Internal/ External	Risk	P	I	Risk level	Mitigation action
Internal	There will be sensitivities and constraints relating to the sharing of some forms of information, which may affect output 2.1.1 and output 2.1.2	5	1	5	Regarding output 2.1.1, there is sufficient information in the public domain to create a functional and informative database, even if no additional information is added by any actors in the pilot regions (beyond quality assurance / updates from the baseline created in the GEF 5 Deep Seas project and STRONG High Seas). For geospatial data (e.g., boundaries of the spatial extent of the remit of governance bodies) there is a risk of political sensitivities, where such boundaries are not firmly defined in multilateral agreements or policy. We will mitigate this risk by populating the database and interface with publicly available data in the first instance, and working with relevant stakeholders to ensure that any additional information they provide to the project is shared / presented in a way that they can support. Furthermore, the governance platform (output 2.1.1) and information exchange mechanism (output 2.1.2) will be designed around the needs of the stakeholders in the pilot region, and both will be co-designed by them, which means that data sharing constraints and sensitivities can be discussed, and mechanisms established that allow actors to retain control over sensitive information (or define the conditions under which information is shared).

### COVID-19 Opportunity Analysis

The COVID-19 Pandemic has also opened up opportunities for this project. Two key opportunities are:

1. The normalization of online conferencing and communication platforms since early 2020 means that online interaction, online teaching, online capacity building, online meetings and online conferences have become much more commonplace and accepted by a broad range of global stakeholders. This has paved the way for this project to reach a much wider range and bigger number of participants through its capacity building and network building activities that might otherwise have been possible. The two pilot regions combined cover a very large area, and traveling in the Pacific region is expensive (both in terms of monetary and carbon costs), which would have put automatic constraints on face-to-face engagement and capacity building events. Planning most of the project's activities as online activities from the outset means reduced costs and greater accessibility for stakeholders across the region, and thanks to the pandemic, all prospective participants are in a much better and more experienced position to conduct successful online engagement than they would have been prior to the pandemic.
2. The economic impacts of the pandemic are a driver for expansion of human activities and interests beyond EEZs, which means that there is a greater likelihood of recognition by governments that engagement in ABNJ governance matters and should be given weight and priority.

## **6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination**

### **Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

To ensure that the ABNJ Project reaches its main objective as set out in the Project Document, along with delivery of the necessary Outputs and Outcomes in pursuit of that Objective, a project governance and communication structure has been agreed with the partners. This structure will ensure good communication flow between all partners directly involved in the project including the Secretariats of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and Pacific Island Forum (PIF), University of South Pacific (USP), the Northern Catholic University (NCU), GRID-Arendal, Global Ocean Forum (GOF) and UNEP-WCMC and other global organizations as members of the Project Steering Committee, who will provide general project oversight.

### **Overall Project Governance and Internal Communication**

The overall project governance and internal communication flows within the Cross-Sectoral Project are detailed in Figure 4. The general oversight of project activities will be undertaken by the Project Steering Committee (PSC), with project-level communication among the Project Management Unit (PMU), the Executing Agency (EA) and the Implementing Agency (IA). The Project Management Unit will undertake the day-to-day functions of the project, including maintaining communication among all partners in the project and with other child projects under the Common Oceans Program, including the Global Coordination Project. The PMU will be supported by Executing Partners (WCMC, GRID-Arendal, CPPS, PIF, USP and UCN) who will carry out specific aspects of the project activities as well as technical coordination.

This work of this project will be reviewed and informed by the **FAO-led Common Oceans Program Steering Committee**, external input and advice on project activities and outputs. This includes input from external organizations, co-financiers and Member States on an ad-hoc basis as required, for instance, via invitation to participate at Project Steering Committee meetings advice to the project and support wider dissemination.

The fifth project under the ABNJ Common Oceans Program, namely the Global Coordination Program (GCP) will ensure effective coordination between the other child projects, including through knowledge management and communication. The Cross-sectoral project will adhere to the GCP coordinating principles as follows:

1. The Project will participate in coordination meetings, at a frequency and times to be determined in consultation with the GCP Program Coordination Unit (PCU), to discuss topics of relevance to the

implementation of the GCP (10626). In addition, the Project will participate in the meetings of the programmatic Global Steering Committee to discuss strategic and implementation issues related to the Program.

2. The Project will participate in efforts coordinated by the PCU to identify and implement opportunities for conducting shared activities when there is full complementarity between already planned activities between two or more child projects. This could allow for a more efficient and effective use of resources, including sharing relevant capacity building material and exercises.

3. The Project will share all reports, knowledge management and communication products produced during implementation, and will participate in the development of programmatic synthesis products by the GCP (10626) that are based on those inputs.

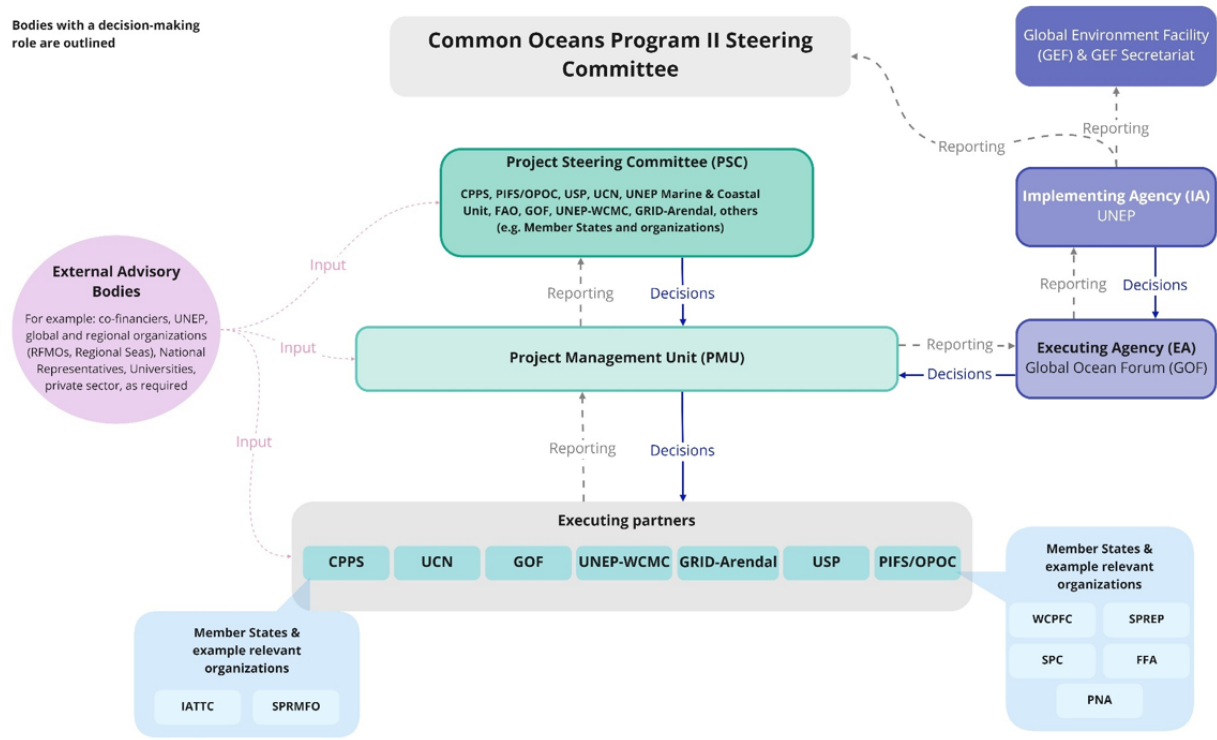
4. The GCP KM&C team will provide guidance to the child projects according to a programmatic KM&C strategy to be developed at the beginning of the implementation phase in consultation with all child projects. This KM&C strategy will provide recommendations on common issues such as Program branding, visibility, common boilerplates, etc.

5. The GCP M&E team will assist and guide the child projects, if requested, to provide information according to a programmatic M&E strategy, agreed by all child projects, including program level indicators, to allow a proper monitoring of the programmatic progress and an adaptive management of the Program.

6. The Project will maintain its independence as to the conduct of the technical activities described in this project document.

*Figure 5. Project governance structure showing reporting, decision-making and advisory role*





**Responsibilities within the project**

The **Common Oceans Program II Steering Committee** will be established by FAO under the Common Oceans Program to ensure efficient communication, collaboration, and coordination between child projects and also with the program level. The Implementing and/or Executing Agencies will report to the Program Steering Committee and provide regular update on progress and outputs to facilitate project communications across and beyond projects and to support the work of the Global Coordination Project.

**UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**, as the GEF Agency, will act as Implementing Agency (IA) for the project and will be responsible for overall project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF strategies and UNEP policies and procedures, providing guidance on linkages with related UNEP- and GEF-funded activities. The UNEP Ecosystem Division (i.e., GEF-Task Manager and Marine and Coastal Unit) will monitor implementation of the activities agreed by the executing partners undertaken during the execution of the project and will provide technical and administrative oversight. It will be responsible for clearance and transmission of financial and progress reports to the GEF (through PIR/PPRs). UNEP retains responsibility for review and approval of the substantive and technical reports produced in accordance with the schedule of work.

**The Global Ocean Forum (GOF)**, the organization which co-executed the Capacity Project in the Common Oceans Program Phase I together with FAO, will serve as Executing Agency (EA) for the project. In accordance with UNEP guidelines, GOF will coordinate the execution of the project and management of funds provided to the project by UNEP on behalf of the GEF, in a manner consistent with UNEP financial reporting requirements. As part of this, GOF will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) (described below) to guide project activities. In addition, GOF will be responsible for coordinating the participation of regional and national stakeholders involved in the project in the two pilot regions and co-financing partners supporting the project as well carry out some project activities. UNEP-WCMC and

GRID will provide support as executing partners as necessary. Executing agency responsibilities include all financial and narrative reporting to UNEP. Reports may be submitted to FAO as required.

A **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will act as a main governing body of the project to guide the overall execution. The PSC will be composed of: the Executing Partners (GOF, UNEP-WCMC, GRID-Arendal, CPPS, UCN, PIFS, and USP); Representatives of other regional organizations, country members of CPPS and PIFS, Implementing and Executing Agencies, co-financing partners; and, invited observers (e.g. NGOs, Regional Seas, RFMOs, Private Sector, etc.).

Acting in the role as the main project authority, the PSC will provide strategic guidelines and decision making for overall execution. The PSC will establish the execution baselines, consider and approve annual work plans, budgets, technical and financial reports, as well as final reports.

The PSC meetings will be organized virtually in some years and be subject to budget availability and Covid restrictions and will consider face-face whenever deemed necessary.

A **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be established by the Executing Agency. The PMU will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day execution of the project, monitoring, and reporting of activities for approval to the PSC. The PMU will be responsible for identifying opportunities for synergy with the other child projects under Common Ocean Program Phase II (with support from Executing Partners and in coordination with the Global Coordination Project) and the transmittal of project products to the Global Coordination Project.

### **Executing Partners**

Technical delivery and coordination of project activities will be executed by the following organizations. Further details are provided in Appendix 5.

? **GOF:** will lead the delivery of project Component 1. They will provide the required progress and financial reports to the Project Manager.

? **UNEP-WCMC and GRID-Arendal** will be responsible for the delivery of project Component 2. WCMC will provide the required progress and financial reports to the Project Manager.

? **University of South Pacific:** will provide regional expertise, technical support, and coordination of activities under outputs 1.1 and 1.2, working in close partnership with component coordinators and other executing partners. They will utilize their existing expertise and role in capacity building to integrate project capacity building outputs into their respective marine affairs teaching programs in the pilot regions. USP will provide wider support to other project outputs, identified as required during project inception and/or implementation. They will also provide the required progress and financial reports to the PMU.

? **Northern Catholic University in Chile:** will provide regional expertise, technical support, and coordination of activities under outputs 1.1 and 1.2, working in close partnership with component coordinators and other executing partners. They will utilize their existing expertise and role in capacity building to integrate project capacity building outputs into their respective marine affairs teaching programs in the pilot regions. UCN will provide wider support to other project outputs (e.g., outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2), identified as required during project inception and/or implementation. They will also provide the required progress and financial reports to the PMU.

? **Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC/PIFSS):** will engage with other executing partners, Member States, other regional organizations such as SPREP, SPC, FFA, WCPFC and PNA to

collect input and encourage regional and national-level cooperation and coordination across all project outputs. PIFS will coordinate the participation of respective Member States in the project and ensure that their respective regional [sectoral] interests (and priorities) are represented and considered in the development of project outputs (e.g., options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination).

? **Permanent Commission for the South Pacific:** will engage with other executing partners, Member States, other regional organizations such as IATTC and SPRFMO to collect input and encourage regional and national-level cooperation and coordination across all project outputs. Will lead the Southeast Pacific Regional Coordination Unit (described in Section 3.6) and provide the required progress and financial reporting to the PMU. CPPS will coordinate the participation of respective Member States in the project and ensure that their respective regional [sectoral] interests (and priorities) are represented and considered in the development of project outputs (e.g., options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination).

### **Member States and other organizations**

1. Representatives from Pilot Region Member States will be involved throughout each project activity and will participate in regional-level coordination across their relevant ministries, engaging with executing partners via CPPS and PIFS.
2. Throughout project activities under Component 1, member countries will be involved in the full development of one preferred option for a mechanism for improved cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination (Output 1.1.3) level. In this case, national focal points will be identified to lead in coordination at the national level. Moreover, national focal points, together with regional bodies, will be involved in the development and implementation of Output 2.1.1 (governance map and database of ABNJ) and Output 2.1.2 (model information exchange mechanism) and in carrying out Output 1.1.1 (capacity needs assessment) and Output 1.1.2 (capacity building program). They will also be involved in the nomination and selection of participants to the training sessions.

### **External Advisory bodies**

3. Global organizations, country representatives from the pilot region, Regional Seas, RFMOs, co-financing partners, the private sector, and Civil Society Organizations (e.g., academia and NGOs) with a remit/interest in ABNJ will be invited to participate in the project in an advisory capacity, providing input to executing partners across project activities, providing technical expertise and knowledge sharing as required. They may also be invited to observe and participate in PSC meetings as required, and at the discretion of PSC members.

### **Coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives in the pilot regions**

The project will coordinate with existing and ongoing initiatives in the two pilot regions (see examples of regional initiatives in the Pacific Islands (p.32-33) and the Southeast Pacific (p. 35-36) that are of relevance to this project) which have some outcomes and outputs that are in common with those of the project, in the areas of governance, ecosystem approach, impacts on biodiversity and the environment, cross-sectoral arrangements, climate, knowledge-sharing and communication, capacity-building, and private sector investments through its stakeholder engagement plan and KM strategy.

## **7. Consistency with National Priorities**

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

This project will help countries to better fulfil their obligations under various global and regional agreements.

### **Relevance to UNEP and other multi-environmental Agreements**

The project is closely aligned with the broader principles outlined in the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2025), particularly 'Nature Action', which expects that 'by 2025, biodiversity is mainstreamed for sustainable development and across key themes and sectors to realize multiple benefits and avoid negative impacts on nature'. Through a joint effort, this project seeks to address capacity building needs across multiple sectors, with a clear focus on improving coordination and cooperation towards the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

The project will respond to a global policy context, primarily the ongoing negotiations of the BBNJ Agreement, the final stages of negotiation for which have been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic until 2022. With the BBNJ Agreement unfinished, the exact wording of the provisions related to area-based management tools including marine protected areas, capacity building and the transfer of marine technology are still to be finalized, adding some degree of uncertainty to what obligations countries will have to meet, and what their rights will be under the treaty. In this context, the project will be proactive and responsive in preparing countries and regions with the cross-sectoral cooperation and information exchange capacity needed to implement the upcoming BBNJ Agreement. The project will also aim to future-proof the regions by building the cooperation and coordination needed to manage new ocean uses through integrated and cross-sectoral management, both beyond and within national jurisdiction, including the cumulative impacts resulting from all ocean uses and climate change.

The project will be cognizant of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) that reaffirms Commitments made by International Leaders in recognition of the various international principles including UNCLOS.

This project will highlight the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) and will build on regional experiences and approaches to enhance collective efforts thereby strengthening institutions and their capacity for cross-sectoral collaboration, contributing to SDG 16. Furthermore, increased cross-sectoral coordination, capacity, and information exchange across all actors in ABNJ, will support countries to better manage their Exclusive Economic Zones and, as a result, to reach their commitments under SDG 14, as well as related SDGs including those on hunger (SDG 2), good health and well-being (SDG 3), decent work and economic

growth (SDG 8) and climate action (SDG 13), as well as supporting progress towards SDG 5 on gender equality through an inclusive and participatory process and knowledge outputs.

The project will also draw upon prior experience from the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including processes developed for describing ecologically or biologically significant areas, and the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, as well as new initiatives that may be established as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that is also under negotiation.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) provides unparalleled opportunities to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems. Specifically, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development recognizes science as a prerequisite for managing the ocean in a sustainable manner and, therefore, as a pillar for the implementation of all the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 14 related to the Ocean. This will result in increased scientific knowledge of the, including ABNJ and provides an opportunity to advance capacity development and the transfer of marine technology.

Relevance to Regional Priorities

**OVERVIEW FOR BOTH PILOT REGIONS**

With the important legal and policy frameworks mentioned above, the project will help to accelerate implementation of the commitments aligning with - and seeking to build upon - existing regional policies and processes. Table 5 below presents a few key regional ocean priorities for both regions within the context of their regional policy frameworks.

Table 5 List of key regional ocean priorities

<b>Pacific Islands regional priorities and actions</b>	<b>South East Pacific regional priorities and actions</b>
<b>Ocean priorities:</b> Framework for Pacific Oceanscape (FPO); Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy (PRIOP)	<b>Sea Mammals:</b> Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Southeast Pacific (1991).
<b>Marine Protected Areas &amp; Conservation:</b> Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region (2021-2025)	<b>Marine Protected Areas:</b> Protocol for the Conservation and Administration of the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Southeast Pacific (1989)
<b>SDGS:</b> The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development	<b>Sea Turtles:</b> Regional Program for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Southeast Pacific in 2007
<b>Climate Change and disaster risk management:</b> Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2016	<b>Mangroves:</b> Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Mangroves in the Southeast Pacific (PAR-Mangroves)

<p><b>Marine pollution:</b> Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2018-2025; Cleaner Pacific 2025 -Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy</p> <p>2016-2025</p>	<p><b>Marine contamination:</b> Complementary Protocol to the Agreement on Regional Cooperation to Combat Pollution of the Southeast Pacific by Hydrocarbons and other Harmful Substances (1983)</p>
<p><b>Maritime transport:</b> Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime (2020-2024)</p>	<p><b>Fisheries development and management, Maritime transport, energy, and mining:</b> Various national Ministries in place with competencies and mandates to work on ocean governance issues</p>
<p><b>Fisheries development and management:</b> Regional Roadmap for sustainable Fisheries</p> <p>2015</p>	
<p><b>Deep-sea mining:</b> Regional Environmental Management Framework for Deep Sea Minerals (DSM) Exploration and Exploitation 2016</p>	

#### Pilot Region - Pacific Islands

This project will support the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific by building or enhancing the capacity of sectoral organizations to better coordinate and work together, as well as exchange information, to advance the priority areas that have been highlighted in the draft strategy. The priority areas include, but are not limited to, increased political attention to the oceans and their role in development; increased attention to the climate change crisis; as well as attention paid to the agreed-upon cultural values that underpin Pacific Island countries and help guide the region. With oceans and climate strongly interlinked with each other and with Pacific cultures, the project can help build capacity for coordination and information exchange to help sectoral agencies to respond to these and other priority areas.

#### Pilot Region ? South East Pacific

Specifically, the project will help identify priorities of the countries of the Southeast Pacific in terms of capacity for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation and information and knowledge exchange. Such priorities include partnerships, aligning with ongoing projects and programs, supporting the long-term Strategic Action Plan for CPPS. As part of the Strategic Action Plan for the South East Pacific, seas mammals, marine protected areas, seas turtles, mangroves marine litter and contamination are recognized as key priorities. The project will explore ways in which it can work in collaboration with the other sectors to enhance information exchange between the two pilot regions on a cross-basin scale in relation to living and non-living resources in marine ABNJ. The project is also consistent with the goals of protecting the marine environment and conserving biodiversity expressed both in the Lima Convention and in the Galapagos Commitment, by further building capacity towards cross-sectoral coordination and information

exchange that can help address cumulative impacts and pressures facing biodiversity both within and beyond national jurisdiction.

The CPPS member states have established a BBNJ Working Group to discuss and enhance their knowledge on the key 'package' elements of the BBNJ negotiations. The working group also supports CPPS countries to develop national positions and coordinated regional positions on different aspects of the agreement text to ensure a strong regional voice at the BBNJ negotiations.

## **8. Knowledge Management**

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

Knowledge Management (KM) encompasses two critical activities: 1) the capture and documentation of explicit and tacit knowledge; and 2) the dissemination and use of that knowledge amongst the intended audiences and stakeholders. The project is committed to developing a comprehensive knowledge base, building upon and aligning with ongoing KM efforts of relevant global and regional entities, such as the GEF, UNEP, IOC-UNESCO, Regional Seas and Large Marine Ecosystem Projects.

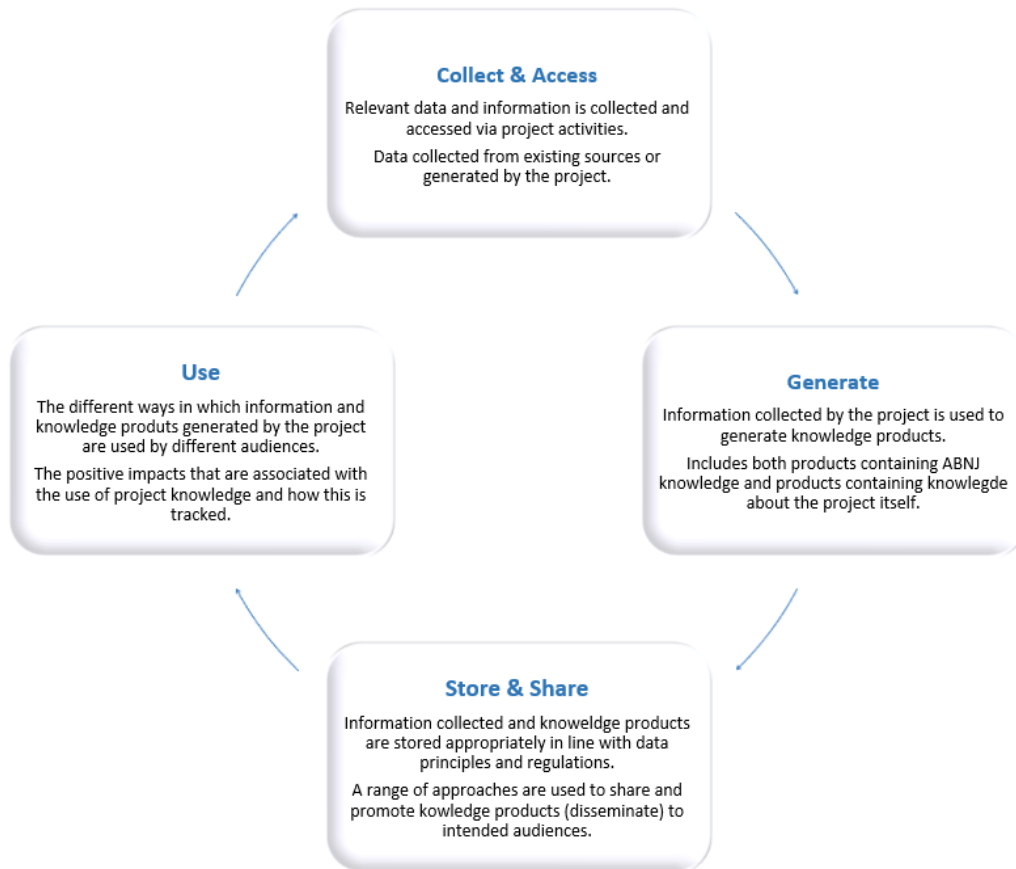
### **The Project KM approach and information flows**

A fundamental role and principle threaded throughout this project is that of KM. In other words, the essence of each of the proposed activities and outputs is strongly linked to the collection and dissemination of information and knowledge to build capacity. The **project KM Approach** will follow a structured framework to leverage and share baseline information and project findings with relevant stakeholders within and beyond the project pilot regions. It will provide the foundation for all activities under the project.

The KM approach is grounded in the Theory of Change of the Project, which articulates the need for clear and comprehensive management and dissemination of project knowledge and experiences to achieve positive outcomes. It further aligns with the KM approaches of the other Common Oceans child projects, including the Global Coordination project, ensuring complementarity and maximising impact across the Program. The project will collaborate with the GCP component on KM by sharing lessons learned and other project results through its progress and PIR reports that the GCP will disseminate regionally and globally, including through links to national, regional and global knowledge hubs such as the Ocean Action Hub, Oceanhub.org and RevOcean. It will also contribute to sustained uptake and scaling out of impacts, through its reporting of results that the GCP will be processing and disseminating into national, regional and global knowledge hubs with a focus on target stakeholders.

The KM approach seeks to be robust, sustainable and flexible enough to allow for the evolution of new linkages and knowledge partnerships with ongoing international processes (including the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, BBNJ Clearinghouse mechanism, development of the World Environment Situation Room, etc.), new partner organisations and to leverage innovative knowledge and knowledge management tools and techniques as they emerge throughout the project lifecycle.

The flow of knowledge through the project can be described as a knowledge management system, consisting of four steps through which knowledge will pass, and each of which will comply with the project's ethical and personal data requirements. These are: a) Collect & Access; 2) Generate; 3) Store & Share; and 4) Use. Figure 6 below provides further details on these steps.



**Figure 6:** Knowledge management (KM) cycle for the project.

The KM approach will facilitate and support the delivery of project outputs and outcomes, including:

- ? capacity building within the pilot regions, including a capacity building programme and associated training materials (outputs of Component 1);
- ? Cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination mechanisms within the pilot regions (Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2);
- ? Dissemination of project results within and beyond the pilot regions (Output 2.2.1); and
- ? Raising of awareness of ABNJ governance, biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use (Output 2.2.2).

Information and knowledge collected via the project will be processed through the four steps outlined above, recognising the different regional contexts, priorities and cultural norms in each pilot region. The outputs of the project can, largely, be defined as newly created knowledge assets in their own right, so as well as drawing from existing knowledge, the project will also produce new knowledge.

In Table 6, all outputs are color-coded and listed in the 'Output' column. The 'Info source' and 'info needed' columns describe the information required to undertake the activity and where it comes from (e.g.,



outputs or external sources). Where the outputs are providing information into other outputs they are underlined (e.g., [1.1.1](#), [1.1.2](#)). The activities of some outputs will also be undertaken in parallel and the relevance of the outputs to each other is demonstrated through their presence in the 'info collected' column under Collect & Access. Here the outputs are not underlined to show they are 'relevant to' the output (e.g., [1.1.1](#), [1.1.2](#)). Blue text is used to indicate information that is relevant to project operations (i.e., it is used to report against project operational targets and indicators (e.g., gender balance) and is also relevant to the development of some knowledge products that utilize project experiences (e.g., IW:Learn experience notes or communications materials). This information is managed in compliance with global data regulations and principles (e.g., EU GDPR).

**Table 6:** Detailed information and knowledge flows for each project output, including suggested timeframes for the delivery of outputs.

Project Data Management		Output	Collect & Access			Generate (purpose)			Store & Share	Use
Info source	Info needed		Activities	Info collected	Data principles / regulations	Proposed Knowledge /products	Delivery timeframe	Audiences	Dissemination	Use and impacts of KPs
<b>External sources:</b> Common Ocean 1, IOC-UNESCO, STRONG High Seas project ; UN DOALOS website; Sectoral organization websites; Literature;	Key stakeholders; relevant authorities; ABNJ uses info	<b>1.1.1:</b> Needs assessment	Surveys; Interviews; Literature review; SH engagement Population analyses	Capacity development needs ( <a href="#">1.1.2</a> , <a href="#">1.1.3</a> , <a href="#">2.1.1</a> , <a href="#">2.1.2</a> ); Information needs ( <a href="#">2.1.1</a> , <a href="#">2.1.2</a> ); Stakeholder priorities ( <a href="#">1.1.3</a> ); <b>Participant details;</b> <b>Stakeholder info</b>	GDP R; Intellectual Property Rights (IPR);	Stakeholder map; Capacity needs report; Survey results; <b>Workshop reports;</b> <b>Project reports</b>  (3.1.1, 3.1.2)	Y1 Q1 ? Y1 Q4	Relevant national and international organizations;  Project stakeholders; Partners; Participants	Common Oceans Knowledge Portal; IW:LEARN Experience notes ( <a href="#">2.2.1</a> );	Support prioritization and decision-making at all scales; Sustainable finance planning; Development of capacity building strategies; <b>Formulation of all other project knowledge products.</b>

<p><b>Output</b> <b>1.1.1;</b> Output 3.1.1; Output 3.1.2_</p> <p><b>External source:</b> Common Ocean 1, IOC-UNESCO, STRONG High Seas project ; UNDOALOS website (BBNJ discussions);</p>	<p>Capacity needs ; stakeholder info;</p>	<p><b>1.1.2:</b> Capacity building program</p>	<p>Capacity building program development; Training workshops; Follow up assessments</p>	<p>ABNJ sectoral expertise and info (2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2); Economic and human benefits and ecosystem services info (2.2.2); Participant experiences (2.2.1, 2.2.2) Participant info (gender, age, employer etc.); Feedback</p>	<p>GDP R; IPR</p>	<p>Online capacity building training package; Training materials (incl. <i>downloadable packs and induction packs</i>); Participant networks; Workshop reports; Follow-up assessments ; Project reports (3.1.1, 3.1.2)</p>	<p>Y2 Q1 ? Y5 Q4</p>	<p>Relevant national and international organizations;  Project stakeholders; Partners; Participants</p>	<p>IW:Learn; Common Oceans Knowledge Portal; IW:LEARN Experience notes (2.2.1); Project Partner websites</p>	<p>Build organizational and network capacity ; Engagement of representatives across different sectors; Improve ABNJ considerations in policy and decision-making; Formulation of ABNJ management approaches</p>
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<p><b>Output</b> <b>t</b> <b>1.1.1;</b> <b>Output</b> <b>t</b> <b>1.1.2;</b> <b>Output</b> <b>t</b> <b>2.1.1;</b> <b>Output</b> <b>t</b> <b>2.1.2</b></p> <p>Output 3.1.1; Output 3.1.2_</p> <p><b>External source</b> <b>s:</b> Comm on Ocean s 1, IOC-UNESCO, STRO NG High Seas project ; UN DOAL OS websit e; Sector al organi zation websit es; Literat ure;</p>	<p>ABNJ uses <b>(1.1.1, 1.1.2)</b>; Sector al info and experti se; Regio nal govern ance details <b>(2.1.1)</b> ; Best practic es / lesson s learne d;</p>	<p><b>1.1.3:</b> Optio ns for cross-sector al cooper ation and coordi nation mecha nism</p>	<p>Global survey; Worksh op training sessions; Stakehol der consultat ion and review; Partners hip develop ment;</p>	<p>Current and potenti al cross-sectoral interact ions <b>(2.1.1)</b>; Knowle dge and info needs <b>(2.1.2)</b>; Potenti al goals and indicat ors for mechan ism; Sustain able finance options <b>(1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2)</b> Particip ant info (gender , age, employ er etc.);</p>	<p>GDP R; IPR</p>	<p>Descriptio ns of options (up to 3 per region); Detailed preferred option document/s; Working groups reports; <b>Workshop reports;</b> <b>Project reports</b> Output 3.1.1; Output 3.1.2</p>	<p>Y2 Q1 ? Y5 Q4</p>	<p>Releva nt nationa l and internat ional organiz ations;  <b>Projec t stakeh olders (incl. decisio n maker s);</b> Partner s; Partici pants</p>	<p>IW:Lea rn; Commo n Oceans Knowle dge Portal; IW:LE ARN Experie nce notes <b>(2.2.1)</b>; Project Partner websit e; Social media posts</p>	<p>Support decision - making; Engage ment of represen tatives across differen t sectors ; Support towards cross-sectoral cooper ation and coordin ation; Facilitat ion of basin-wide cooper ation; Identific ation and develop ment of sustaina ble financin g options</p>
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<p><b>Output 1.1.1;</b> <b>Output 1.1.2;</b></p> <p>Output 3.1.1; Output 3.1.2</p> <p><b>External source:</b> Common Ocean 51, IOC-UNESCO, STRO NG High Seas project ; UN DOAL OS website; Sectoral organization websites; Literature;</p>	<p>ABNJ uses (1.1.1, 1.1.2); Sectoral info and expertise; Regional governance details ;</p>	<p><b>2.1.1:</b> Governance Map</p>	<p>Stakeholder consultation; Research; Platform development; User testing</p>	<p>ABNJ Governance data (mandates, geographical remit, activities); User needs; User feedback</p> <p>Organizational contacts; User tester details; Google analytics details</p>	<p>FAIR; CARE; FPIR</p> <p>GDP R</p>	<p>ABNJ Governance database; Platform prototype; ?About? summary; Sustainability options;</p> <p>Project reports (3.1.1, 3.1.2)</p>	<p>Y1 Q1 ? Y3 Q4</p>	<p>Relevant national and international organizations;</p> <p>Project stakeholders; Partners; Participants</p>	<p>Governance ?platform? (specifics depending on SH feedback); Common Oceans Knowledge Portal; IW:LEARN; Ocean+ ; Social media posts</p>	<p>Facilitate cross-sectoral engagement; Improve ABNJ user awareness of governance mandate s;</p>
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<p><b>Output 1.1.1;</b> <b>Output 1.1.3;</b> <b>Output 2.1.1</b></p> <p>Output 3.1.1; Output 3.1.2_</p> <p><b>External source:</b> Common Oceans 1, IOC-UNESCO, STRONG High Seas project ; UN DOALOS website; Sectoral organization websites; Literature;</p>	<p>Capacity needs <b>(1.1.1)</b> ; Information needs <b>(1.1.1)</b> ; Info on cross-sectoral coordination options <b>(1.1.3)</b> ; Lessons learned from other regions;</p>	<p><b>2.1.2:</b> Model info-exchange mechanism</p>	<p>Stakeholder consultation; Workshops; Iterative review process;</p>	<p>Stakeholder input; Stakeholder priorities and preferences for info sharing <b>(1.1.3)</b>; Information exchange needs <b>(1.1.2)</b>; Wider ABNJ Expert input; <b>Participant details;</b> <b>Feedback</b></p>	<p>GDP R; IPR</p>	<p>Documented info-exchange mechanism proposal; <b>Workshop reports;</b> <b>Project progress reports (3.1.1, 3.1.2)</b></p>	<p>Y1 Q1 ? Y5 Q4</p>	<p>Relevant national and international organizations;  Project stakeholders <b>(incl. decision makers)</b>; Partners; Participants</p>	<p>Common Oceans Knowledge Portal; IW:LEARN; IW:LEARN Experience notes <b>(2.2.1)</b> Social media posts</p>	<p>Joint sharing and use of ABNJ data and information; Support joint decision-making; Improve cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination</p>
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<p><b>Output 1.1.1;</b> <b>Output 1.1.2;</b> <b>Output 1.1.3;</b> <b>Output 2.1.1;</b> <b>Output 2.1.2;</b> <b>Output 2.2.2</b></p> <p>Output 3.1.1; Output 3.1.2</p> <p><b>External sources:</b> GEF IW website; UN DOAL OS website; Country delegation contacts; UNEP</p>	<p>Project experiences; Upcoming event details (GEF IW, BBNJ, UNEA , Oceans conference, Nausicaa etc.)</p>	<p><b>2.2.1:</b> Documented project experiences to IW Learn community</p>	<p>Documentation of project experiences and key lessons; Development of promotional and communications materials; Attendance at / hosting of events (national , regional, or global); PSC event presentation</p>	<p>Regional stakeholder input; Input / feedback from wider ABNJ expert community <b>(2.2.2)</b>; Participant feedback; <b>Participant details;</b> <b>Google analytics details</b></p>	<p>GDP R; IPR</p>	<p>IW:LEARN experience notes; Promotional materials; Social media content; Project update reports; Meeting / event reports; <b>Project progress reports</b> (3.1.1, 3.1.2)</p>	<p>Y2 Q1 ? Y5 Q4</p>	<p>Relevant national and international organizations;  Project stakeholders <b>(incl. decision makers)</b>; Partners; Participants</p>	<p>Common Oceans Knowledge Portal; IW:LEARN; IW:LEARN Experience notes; Project Partner Website s; Social media posts</p>	<p>Share experiences and build ABNJ knowledge capacity ; Consideration of ABNJ within ongoing regional and global policy processes.</p>
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<p><b>Output</b> <b>1.1.1;</b> <b>Output</b> <b>1.1.2;</b> <b>Output</b> <b>1.1.3;</b> <b>Output</b> <b>2.1.1;</b> <b>Output</b> <b>2.1.2</b> _Output 3.1.1; Output 3.1.2 <b>External</b> <b>source</b> <b>s:</b> GEF IW website; UN DOAL OS website; Country delegation contacts; UNEP</p>	<p>Project experiences; Upcoming event details (GEF IW, BBNJ, UNEA , Oceans conference, Nausicaa etc.)</p>	<p><b>2.2.2:</b> Documented Experiences to wider public</p>	<p>Development of online training materials; Project promotion and outreach ; Promotional events (e.g., BBNJ side event); Participant feedback survey (post course)</p>	<p>Regional stakeholder input; Input / feedback from wider ABNJ expert community <b>(2.2.1)</b>; Participant feedback; <b>Participant details;</b> <b>Google analytics details</b></p>	<p>GDP R; IPR</p>	<p>Online on-demand training course on ABNJ; Promotional and communications materials; Social media content <b>Project reports (3.1.1, 3.1.2)</b></p>	<p>Project reports Y2 Q1 ? Y5 Q4</p>	<p>Relevant national and international organizations; Project stakeholders Partners; <b>Civil society users and participants</b></p>	<p>Common Oceans Knowledge Portal; IW:LE ARN; IW:LE ARN Experience notes; Project Partner Website s; Social media posts</p>	<p>Share experiences and build ABNJ awareness; Generation of interest in ABNJ across civil society;</p>
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## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

### Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Appendix 2 includes indicators for each output and outcome, which will serve as benchmarks for assessing project implementation progress and success. The full details of the M&E

activities are presented in the Costed M&E Plan (Appendix 4) and are fully integrated in the overall project budget. The indicative M&E budget is provided below in Table 7.

The PMU will prepare a detailed M&E plan in consultation with the Executing Partners to be presented to the first meeting of the PSC. Within the PMU, the Project Manager will develop a project supervision plan which will outline an adaptive management approach, and communicate it to the project partners during the first meeting of the PSC. The Project Manager will be responsible for initial screening of the financial and administrative reports from the executing partners prior to their submission.

The detailed M&E plan will be consistent with the data requirements of the 6-month project progress reports (PPR) and the annual project implementation reports (PIR).

During the implementation phase, the PSC will be responsible for proposing any necessary amendments to the M&E plan, be able to fine-tune indicators and their means of verification, receive periodic reports on progress from the Project Manager and make recommendations to the PMU, UNEP and the EA concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan, assess progress vis-à-vis the delivery of agreed project outputs at least annually, ensure that project partners regularly review project risks and assumptions (a responsibility shared with the PMU).

During the implementation phase, the PMU will be responsible for day-to-day project monitoring (though other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators) and regularly review project risks and assumptions (a responsibility shared with project partners).

Within the PMU, the Project Manager will be responsible for:

- o ensuring that any baseline data gaps are addressed during the first year of project implementation.
- o supplying periodic reports on progress to the PSC
- o informing UNEP and the EA of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion,
- o ongoing risk assessment and rating as an integral part of the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR),
- o preparation of the annual PIR, and
- o quarterly monitoring of key financial parameters to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

The Task Manager in UNEP-GEF and the EA will provide oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures, and review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of technical outputs and publications.



The Executing Partners will provide input to the 6-month PPRs and the annual PIRs and to other data requirements as indicated in the detailed project M&E plan.

The progress reports and annual PIRs will be used to track progress and steer implementation to achieve the project objectives and outcome targets as well as the project's contribution to the Common Ocean Program's outcomes and outputs as tracked by the Global Coordination Project. The project's M&E system will feed into the GCP's harmonized programmatic M&E system, through, e.g., progress reports and PIRs, to guide adaptive program management and reporting on program-wide contributions to GEF-7 core indicators and SDGs (GCP Component 1). Under this GCP component, the project will collaborate in generating synergies between projects with the aim of increasing cumulative impacts and limiting the risk of duplication or conflicts through its M&E.

A performance assessment will be conducted at the project's mid-point. The mid-term assessment will identify corrective measures and/or changes to the intended work plan of the project, focusing on the:

- (i) level of progress in attaining the project objectives stated in the Results Framework;
- (ii) level of acceptance of procedures developed under the project and;
- (iii) degree of effectiveness of the internal monitoring and supervision system of UNEP.

The mid-term assessment will also ascertain how the project is performing vis-à-vis the project's ToC and how it is contributing to the goals and objectives of the Common Oceans Program ToC.

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and UNEP's Evaluation Policy, GEF Full-Sized Projects and any project with a duration of 4 years or more will be subject to an independent Mid-Term Evaluation or management-led Mid-Term Review at mid-point. All GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. This performance assessment will be either an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review.

In case a Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review's performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically

be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

The project's target contributions to the GEF 7 Core indicators are highlighted in Annex F of the GEF CEO Endorsement document. The Project Manager will ensure that these are updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. The mid-term review and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the target contributions

**Table 2: Overview of the budget for the M&E plan**

<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<b>GEF Funding US\$</b>
Mid-term Review (incl.travel)	25,000
Independent terminal evaluation (incl.travel)	35,000
Travel of PSC members for final PSC meeting (an additional USD 125K is embedded into Component activity budget for the inception workshop and PSC meetings)	20,952
<b>M&amp;E total</b>	<b>80,952</b>

## 10. Benefits

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?**

This project will lead to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ through increased sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination. The global environmental benefits that result from this will lead to the following socio-economic benefits:

- **Increased food security.** Fisheries that are managed sustainably provide an increased amount of fish that are able to be caught. An increase in catch whilst not depleting the stock leads to increased food security. This is of particular importance in a world where the population is expected to increase to 10 billion people by the mid-century.

- **Climate change mitigation.** Sustainable resource use in ABNJ maintains ecosystem functioning, one function of which is carbon storage. Maintaining the ocean's ability to store carbon through restoration of key ecosystems will mitigate against further global warming and its associated socio-economic impacts.

- **Ecotourism.** By conserving and sustainably using biodiversity in ABNJ, there will be an increase in migratory marine species that, although spend much of their time in ABNJ, also spend time in national waters. This presents opportunities for countries to increase their tourism sectors and benefit from the presence of biodiversity.

•**Opportunities for women.** This project, through its capacity building element, will target women to increase the gender balance of ABNJ-sectors and actors. By building the capacity of women for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination, the project is increasing the number of women in decision-making. This will lead to more management decisions that have positive impacts and results for women, making the benefits from ABNJ fairer and more equitable.

•**Conserving traditional and indigenous knowledge.** Sustainable resource use in ABNJ will result in a healthier ocean overall, including national waters. In turn, this will allow indigenous and local coastal and island communities to continue their traditional ways of life that depend on a healthy ocean. In turn, by protecting and preserving these communities, the scientific community can benefit from traditional and indigenous knowledge which is highly valuable in addressing global issues.

The project will deliver valuable outputs that would allow it to contribute to the achievement of the Project and Program global environment benefits through:

- Enhancing capacity and knowledge of 1750 Women and 1750 Men to improve cooperative management of ABNJ in 2 regionally-defined ecosystems (Pacific Islands and South East Pacific) within one ocean basin
- Building, sharing, and applying capacity, knowledge and information to develop a regional cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination mechanism in ABNJ in the two pilot regions (level 1.5)
- Building and applying national capacity and knowledge to support the development of a cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination mechanism for ABNJ (level 1.5)
- Development of an active online ABNJ governance platform that ensures that all actors have access to information on existing governance bodies; facilitating the dissemination of, and uptake of project knowledge and experiences through IW:LEARN; and facilitating the active participation of project staff and national representatives at IW conferences (level 4).

## 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification \*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approva l	MTR	TE
Low			

#### Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

See SRIF attached in below section.

#### Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
SRIF - App 08 to Prodoc	CEO Endorsement ESS	

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

**Cross Sectoral Project**  
*GEF FULL SIZE PROJECT DOCUMENT*  
*Appendix 2*  
*Results framework*

Project Objective	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
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<p>Strengthened capacity in two pilot regions for ABNJ governance through cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination and knowledge exchange to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Relevant international organizations and their national focal points (i.e. the actors) currently have limited resources, capabilities and incentives to cooperate and coordinate their activities in ABNJ with each other.</p> <p>Coordination also lacks between activities in ABNJ and in national EEZs, including in regards to conservation / management and human uses of ecosystems and resources.</p> <p>There is also a lack of awareness, both amongst policymakers and the general public, of the importance of ABNJ to coastal countries and communities, as well as of the implication of the BBNJ Agreement, further reducing incentives for cross-sectoral coordination.</p> <p>Capacity needs for ABNJ management have previously been explored in the pilot regions, however an in-depth analysis to identify what resources, skills, institutional frameworks, technologies etc. are needed at a network-</p>	<p>GEF Core indicator 7: No. of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management)</p>	<p>(Y4-Q3) 2 regionally-defined ecosystems (Pacific Islands and South East Pacific) within one ocean basin with enhanced capacity and knowledge to improve cooperative management of ABNJ (Output 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3 2.2.1, 2.2.2)*.</p>	<p>Official documentation recognising the need for / committing to improved cross-sectoral cooperation (e.g. project reports, decisions, agreements, recommendations, meeting minutes) Mid-term and final evaluation reports Draft strategies or plans in place by relevant organisations to engage with / deliver upon objectives of project.</p>	<p>Assumptions: The achievement of the project objective is contingent on successful collaboration among project partners and key stakeholders, most notably the different international ABNJ management bodies with a remit in the pilot regions, and their national focal points.</p> <p>Risks: The long timeframe from project inception and development to project completion entails a high likelihood of staff turnover within project partners and stakeholder institutions, which may pose a risk to</p>
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<p>level to support cooperative and coordinated sustainable ocean governance across sectors and regions in ABNJ is lacking. Currently there are no systematic and formal mechanisms in place that allow/require cooperation and coordination between international organisations for sustainable use of ABNJ (ref). This is undertaken on an ad-hoc basis, depending on the will of parties</p> <p>Data and information on different ABNJ governance, ecosystems, uses, pressures and impacts is inconsistent and widely dispersed, which affects access and means that some actors are not necessarily aware of the activities of another, that cumulative impacts are not effectively addressed, and that area-based management measures are not coordinated.</p>	<p>GEF Core indicator 7.2: Level of Regional Agreement and Management institutions to support its implementation</p>	<p>(Y4-Q3) level 1.5 - capacity, knowledge and information are built, shared and applied to develop a regional cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination mechanism in ABNJ in the two pilot regions (Output 1.1.1) *.</p>	<p>Capacity building workshop reports Survey results Published document/s on regional cross-sectoral mechanism /s PSC minutes Project progress reports</p>	<p>continuity which will be mitigated by good record keeping (in progress reports) and good communication at handover.</p>
	<p>GEF Core indicator 7.3: Level of National/Local reforms and active participation in Inter-Ministerial Committees</p>	<p>(Y4-Q4) level 1.5 - National capacity and knowledge are built and applied to support the development of a cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination mechanism for ABNJ (Output 1.1.3). 1</p>	<p>Capacity needs assessment report Survey and interview results / write ups PSC minutes Project progress reports</p>	

		<p>GEF Core indicator 7.4: Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products</p>	<p>(Y4-Q4) level 4 - an active online ABNJ governance platform (compatible with IW:LEARN and other knowledge platform operations) contributing ensuring that all actors have access to information of existing governance bodies; Dissemination of, and uptake of project knowledge and experiences (including at least two IW experience notes) through IW:Learn; Active participation of project staff and National representatives at IW conferences (output 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). 2</p>	<p>Google analytics (user visits and downloads) : governance platform Project materials on IW:Learn and project partner websites Citations and references to project materials (e.g. in official documentation, reports, journals) Travel / meeting reports</p>	
		<p>GEF Core indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</p>	<p>1750 Women, 1750 Men 5</p>	<p>Survey results</p>	
<p>Component 1 Building and strengthening capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to improve sustainable use and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ in two pilot regions</p>					
Outcome 1.1	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions



<p>Officials, managers and technical staff in national, regional and global organizations that have an ABNJ-related management remit are applying their enhanced capacity in sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination initiatives for ABNJ management, including through the use of area-based management tools</p>	<p>Organisations (and their national focal points) operating? or with an interest? in ABNJ currently have limited resources, capabilities and incentives to cooperate and coordinate their activities with other sectoral organisations to support sustainable ABNJ use. Capacity needs for ABNJ management have previously been explored, however an in-depth analysis to identify what resources, skills, institutional frameworks etc. are needed at a network-level to support cooperative and coordinated for sustainable ocean governance across sectors and regions in ABNJ is lacking. This is critical for ensuring comprehensive, consistent and sustainable management of ABNJ resources, including biodiversity.</p> <p>A systematic and formal mechanism for cooperation and coordination of activities of different organisations in ABNJ is not currently available to encourage sustainable use of</p>	<p>% of national and regional organizations who have a mandate related to ABNJ management/governance in the pilot regions share a common understanding of the functional capacity needs for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ</p>	<p>75% of national and regional organizations who have a mandate related to ABNJ management/governance in the pilot regions share a common understanding of the functional capacity needs for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ</p>	<p>Capacity needs assessment report; PPR &amp; PIR</p>	<p>Risks: if buy-in is not secured, a comprehensive capacity needs assessment will not be possible and will not be reflective of all actors in the regions. Civil servants and ministers (key target audiences) may not engage with the process consistently or governments may have high staff turnover rates, meaning that capacity may be lost.</p> <p>Assumptions: achievement of this outcome will be contingent on the buy-in of the target audiences of the capacity building programme, their effective engagement in</p>
		<p>% of trainees who demonstrate increased competence on functional capacities? knowledge, skills, and attitude? in the development of options for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration (policies, legislations, strategies and programmes)1</p>	<p>50% of trained individuals participate actively in the development of options on cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation in ABNJ (in the training workshops and in the working group process)</p>	<p>Training development and implementation reports; Training evaluation reports; Project progress reports</p>	

(ABMTs), environmental impact assessments (EIAs), and marine spatial planning to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.	ABNJ and its resources, including biodiversity.	% of national and regional organizations who have a mandate related to ABNJ management/governance in the pilot regions who demonstrate the development/enhancement of an organizational culture, internal policies, arrangements, procedures, and/or frameworks on cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation in ABNJ	25-50% of national and regional organizations who have a mandate related to ABNJ management/governance in the pilot regions who demonstrate the development/enhancement of an organizational culture, internal policies, arrangements, procedures, and/or frameworks on cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation in ABNJ2	Documentation of step-change in level of cooperation, e.g.:  Documentation of data/information sharing Documentation of an official organizational policy or program on cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation on ABNJ	the needs assessment and their active participation in training events.
Output 1.1.1	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
A documented assessment of individual and institutional capacity needs for cross-sectoral	General information of individual and institutional capacity needs for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ is available for different scales, including in the draft text of a new international legally binding agreement on BBNJ and other ABNJ projects, including Common Oceans Program Phase 1	% of targeted stakeholder organizations (as identified in the stakeholder mapping exercise) who participated in the capacity needs assessment	At least 50% of targeted stakeholder organizations (as identified in the stakeholder mapping exercise) who participated in the capacity needs assessment	Capacity needs assessment report	Assumption: Relevant organizations are willing to participate in the capacity needs assessment.  Risks: Although their mandate on ABNJ

<p>cooperation and coordination among key ABNJ actors to support sustainable ABNJ management and use.</p>	<p>and STRONG High Seas. Such information will be compiled into a summary document to inform stakeholder engagement and the capacity needs assessment to be undertaken in this project.</p> <p>Previous studies have explored existing capacity development needs within the different regions (including the two pilot regions), for ABNJ intervention and/or management more broadly. Detailed information on specific capacity needs, issues, and constraints among relevant global, regional and national organizations to undertake cooperation and coordination to support sustainable ABNJ management and use is not yet available.</p>	<p>% of stakeholder organizations that participated in the capacity needs assessment who validated the outcomes and recommendations of the capacity needs assessment in terms of accuracy, reasonableness and practicality in the pilot regions</p>	<p>75% of stakeholder organizations that participated in the capacity needs assessment who validated the outcomes and recommendations of the capacity needs assessment in terms of accuracy, reasonableness and practicality in the pilot regions</p>	<p>Capacity needs assessment report</p>	<p>management/governance is recognized, organizations may be unwilling or unable to prioritize this remit over competing functions resulting in non-participation in the capacity needs assessment.</p>
<p>Output 1.1.2</p>	<p>Baseline</p>	<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Key Project Targets</p>	<p>Sources of verification</p>	<p>Risks and Assumptions</p>
<p>A capacity-building program to address the needs and priorities in Output 1.1.1</p>	<p>Various organisational capacity building programs for the management and governance of coastal areas and EEZs have been or are being developed and implemented, some as part of wider ocean management frameworks (ICZM, MSP initiatives) and blue economy strategies . These provide insights into national capacity for ocean management and shared priorities and needs, which are of particular importance to addressing transboundary issues, including those that travers EEZ/ABNJ. For the programs in development, there are opportunities to integrate ecosystem-scale considerations that include</p>	<p>Number of training packages to build/enhance the capacity of individuals (staff) in relevant regional and national organizations to develop/enhance and implement cooperation and coordination mechanisms in ABNJ hosted by UCN in the Southeast Pacific and by the USP in the Pacific Islands</p>	<p>One training package by the end of Y2 of project implementation</p>	<p>Training development report</p>	<p>Assumption: Trained participants remain employed in the same position or keep their job responsibility related to ABNJ management / governance</p> <p>Risk: Trained participants move to different positions with responsibilities unrelated to ABNJ management/governance</p>

<p>ABNJ and the deep ocean.</p> <p>Capacity building programs focusing on individual capacity (personnel) within relevant regional and national organizations to undertake cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ are lacking.</p>	<p>% of trainees who rate the training program (training techniques, media, materials, etc.) as effective, appropriate/relevant, etc.</p>	<p>75% of trainees who rate the training program (training techniques, media, materials, etc.) as effective, appropriate/relevant, etc.</p>	<p>Course evaluation results; Training report</p>
	<p>Number of male and female participants trained</p> <p>Number of government and non-state participants trained</p>	<p>At least 125 male and 125 female participants trained</p> <p>75% government and at least 25% non-state representatives among the training participants</p>	<p>Training report</p> <p>Training report</p>
	<p>% of trainees who average 75% or higher in competence on the subject matter (functional capacities ? knowledge, skills, and attitude - necessary for creating and managing options in cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration (policies, legislations, strategies and programmes)), based on a post-test, graded discussion board, graded group project, other assessment methods</p>	<p>75% of trainees who average 75% or higher in competence on the subject matter (functional capacities ? knowledge, skills, and attitude - necessary for creating and managing options in cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration (policies, legislations, strategies and programmes)), based on a post-test, graded discussion board, graded group project, other assessment methods</p>	<p>Post-test results; Graded discussion board results; Graded group project reports; Training reports</p>

Output 1.1.3	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
Options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination identified in the pilot regions	<p>Different approaches / mechanisms for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ocean management have been developed and implemented in various regions of the world, in both EEZs and ABNJ (e.g. NE Atlantic). Experiences and existing relationships between different organisations or government ministries working in EEZs can be utilised and built upon to explore and develop options for ABNJ. Existing examples from ABNJ can provide valuable insights and lessons in development, implementation, maintenance, and successes and challenges of such approaches (including, why, when, how and who considerations).</p> <p>In the Pacific basin (including the pilot regions) MOUs have been established to address shared issues. However, these are limited to very specific issues (so they don't fully address biodiversity conservation or</p>	<p>% of trainees participating actively in the development of options for cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation in ABNJ (performance on return to the job - in the training-workshops and in the working group process)</p> <p>Number of male and female workshop and working group participants</p> <p>Number of government and non-State workshop and working group participants including indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<p>50 % of trainees participating actively in the development of options for cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation in ABNJ (in the training-workshops and in the working group process)</p> <p>At least 50 male and 50 female workshop and working group participants</p> <p>75% government and at least 25% non-State representatives among the workshop and working group participants</p>	<p>- Observations and interviews of a sample of the trainees and their supervisors</p> <p>- Work-diaries compiled on the job by trainees</p> <p>- Questionnaires addressed to all trainees and their supervisors</p>	<p>Assumptions: Trained participants remain employed in the same position or keep their job responsibility related to ABNJ management/governance</p> <p>Consensus among member countries of relevant regional organizations is gained regarding the development of particular options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination</p> <p>Risks: Trained participants move to different positions with responsibilities unrelated to ABNJ management/go</p>

	<p>sustainable resource use) and are limited to pairwise agreements (e.g. between SPRFMO and CPPS, SPRFMO and SPREP, WCPC and SPREP).</p>	<p>% of national and regional organizations who have a mandate related to ABNJ management/governance demonstrate improvement in organizational culture, internal policies, arrangements, procedures, and/or frameworks on cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation in ABNJ</p>	<p>% of national and regional organizations who have a mandate related to ABNJ management/governance demonstrate improvement at least 1 step up from its baseline rating on the ladder of cooperation depending on the organization. (Note: Organizations might have different starting points)<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>Documentation of step-change in level of cooperation, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation of data/information sharing</li> <li>- Documentation of an official organizational policy or program on cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation on ABNJ</li> <li>- Documentation of inter-ministerial commission /regional working group meeting</li> </ul>	<p>governance</p> <p>Relevant regional organizations are constrained by a lack of consensus among member countries regarding the development of particular options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination</p>
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		Options for improved cooperation and coordination mechanisms identified and described	Up to 3 feasible mechanisms for improved cooperation and coordination among key ABNJ actors identified and described for each pilot region by end of Y3 (these mechanisms can include, e.g. MOUs, joint projects and proposals, communication mechanisms, joint working groups, and others)	Project progress and PIR reports	
		Options for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination fully developed	One preferred option (among the three identified in each pilot region) for a mechanism for improved cooperation and coordination among key ABNJ sectors) chosen and fully developed in each of the pilot region by end of Y4. 2	Documentation of the process initiated in the development of at least one option/mechanism for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in ABNJ in each of the pilot regions	
Component 2 Improving sectoral and cross-sectoral knowledge management on and public awareness of ABNJ in the pilot regions.					
Outcome 2.1	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions

<p>More 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 organisations (national, regional and global) with a focus on sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>There are a number of different data portals and platforms designed to facilitate access to scientific and geospatial data relevant for management bodies with a remit in the pilot regions (see the baseline for output 2.1.1). However, these currently lack comprehensive information on ABNJ governance (international bodies, their spatial and thematic remits, underpinning treaties, signatories, national focal points etc.). Newcomers to organisations with ABNJ management remits bodies (e.g. in national focal points) currently have limited resources available to orient themselves around ABNJ governance in the pilot regions as well as globally.</p> <p>Furthermore, existing platforms and portals aren't accompanied by functioning cross-sectoral communication or coordination mechanisms to catalyze effective communication and information exchange between all relevant actors (national bodies, international bodies). This outcome will build on existing platforms, identify key communication needs and pathways, and support actors in the region in developing improved information exchange mechanism as a basis for improved management of ABNJ resources and improved protection of ABNJ biodiversity, to align with the option for improved coordination and cooperation chosen in output 1.1.3.</p>	<p>Self-reported effort needed by project stakeholders in each pilot region to find information on ABNJ governance needed for decision making. A 5 point ranking from very easy to very difficult to find information on ABNJ governance including mandates and focal points</p>	<p>By end of project self reported effort has changed by at least 2 steps on a 5 step scale (very easy to very difficult) in relation to finding relevant information on ABNJ governance.</p>	<p>Stakeholder survey results (reported in PIR/PPR)</p>	<p>Assumptions: Actors in the pilot regions would benefit from improved access to governance information.</p> <p>Risks: There may be sensitivities relating to information sharing, including information about governance remits.</p>
		<p>Number of users accessing governance platform</p>	<p>By mid-term, at least 50 users (including users from at least 5 organisations in each pilot region) have accessed information (training materials etc) on the platform. By end of project at least 100 users have accessed the platform</p>	<p>Website analytics (reported in PPR)</p>	



Output 2.1.1	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
A governanc e map and database of ABNJ actors in the pilot regions (including	The previous ABNJ Deep Seas project identified a gap in the accessibility of ABNJ governance information. The project compiled an ABNJ database and GRID- Arendal developed a prototype online portal to improve accessibility to	Staging site (prototype of the online interface) available for user testing and feedback	Staging site online by Q2 Y2	URL to the staging site (reported in PPR / PIR)	Risks: There is a risk that when the project ends, nobody will have the capacity to update and maintain the interface and

<p>mandates, remits, agreements, information needs) underpinning an online ABNJ governance platform</p>	<p>such information (building upon existing governance mapping by the STRONG High Seas project). This provides a solid starting point to enhance availability and accessibility of comprehensive and up-to-date governance information to all relevant and interested stakeholders. Further, many relevant geospatial data portals already exist and can provide valuable lessons in the development of the proposed platform as well as strong linkages to different types of information, e.g. Pacific Data Hub (<a href="https://pacificdata.org/">https://pacificdata.org/</a>), Pacific Ocean Portal (<a href="http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html">http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html</a>), SPINCAM (<a href="http://atlasspincam.net/">http://atlasspincam.net/</a>), SPREP portal <a href="https://pacific-data.sprep.org/">https://pacific-data.sprep.org/</a>, ABNJ Stakeholder Platform developed by STRONG High Seas project (<a href="https://abnj-pacifico.org/">https://abnj-pacifico.org/</a>), IOC Ocean InfoHub (<a href="https://oceaninfohub.org/">https://oceaninfohub.org/</a>), Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) (<a href="https://obis.org/">https://obis.org/</a>), High Seas Alliance portal to track progress on BBNJ (<a href="http://highseasalliance.org/readytracker/">http://highseasalliance.org/readytracker/</a>), Marine Conservation institute high seas protection portal (<a href="https://marine-conservation.org/high-seas-protection-portal/">https://marine-conservation.org/high-seas-protection-portal/</a>). Further work by IOC-UNESCO is underway to explore potential options for the establishment of a Clearinghouse Mechanism compile scientific data to support the implementation of a new BBNJ ILBI ("IOC Info Hub"). This project will</p>	<p>Governance platform (designed in line with user feedback from test) online and functional</p>	<p>Platform online and functional at the end of the project</p>	<p>URL to the online platform (reported in PPR)</p>	<p>database for active use in the long term. (Long-term funding for existing information portals, e.g. for scientific and geospatial data, such as OBIS, is already a challenge.) We can't commit to creating a sustainable stand-alone portal, tool, app, or similar that will be maintained after the project has ended, but we will work with partners and stakeholders to maximise the chance of this happening. For geospatial data (e.g. boundaries of the spatial extent of the remit of governance bodies) there is a risk of political sensitivities, where such boundaries are not firmly defined in multilateral agreements or policy. We will mitigate this risk by populating the database and interface with publicly available data in the first instance, and working with</p>
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Output 2.1.2	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
A model information exchange mechanism between governance bodies in at least one of the pilot regions	<p>There are existing efforts to build capacity for engagement in ABNJ issues that are aimed at specific management bodies/ groups of actors with a management remit ? for example, the STRONG High Seas project has been working with the CPPS and related national focal points in the Southeast Pacific region.</p> <p>There are also existing regional science and geospatial data portals in the region (as mentioned in the baseline for output 2.1.1.), and the creation and use of these portals fosters information exchange between some of the relevant actors.</p>	Information needs for chosen option from output 1.1.3. articulated by the relevant stakeholders and documented by the project	Document outlining the information needs for the chosen option from output 1.1.3. co-developed with relevant stakeholders by Y3	meeting reports, PIR /PPR	<p>Assumptions: This output relies on the assumption that stakeholders in at least one of the pilot regions will see the need for and be able to agree on a model information exchange mechanism. A lack of buy-in from key stakeholders would make the mechanism unlikely to be implementable.</p>
		mechanism for addressing those information needs developed	information exchange mechanism documented in appropriate format, co-designed with relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the chosen coordination and cooperation option from output 1.1.3 (by end of project)	information exchange mechanism documented in appropriate format (reported on in meeting reports, PIR /PPR)	
Outcome 2.2	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions

<p>Increased understanding by the International Waters community and high-level officials in the BBNJ process regarding individual and institutional capacity needs and priorities related to sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in ABNJ and corresponding actions/processes identified to address those needs.</p>	<p>Intra-regional and -national coordination in management also makes management of ABNJ challenging. Often there is a lack of awareness of regional, national and/or priorities and capacities between different levels, making coordination difficult. Limited intra-national communication and coordination, sometimes exacerbated by government reshuffles, means knowledge and experience is lost as individuals leave.</p> <p>There are currently limited resources easily available to the international waters community and media / wider public that focus on cross-sectoral ABNJ governance and information exchange. The experiences create new resources for these target audiences to access.</p>	<p>Number and topic of viewer/user posts, comments and shares on project outputs on affiliate sites</p>	<p>At least 20 views/comments/shares per post about the project on GEF IW:LEARN and the Common Oceans Portal (by end of project)</p>	<p>posts on GEF IW:LEARN, and the Common Oceans Portal, and user statistics obtained from google analytics (all to be included in PIR)</p>	<p>Assumptions: Members of the international waters community and media / wider public will see the value of the resources provided by this project and will therefore want to attend relevant events</p>
<p>Output 2.2.1</p>	<p>Baseline</p>	<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Key Project Targets</p>	<p>Sources of verification</p>	<p>Risks and Assumptions</p>
<p>Documented knowledge and experiences gained from the project's sectoral and cross-</p>	<p>There is limited information in IW:Learn on ABNJ at present.</p> <p>There are currently limited resources easily available to the international waters community that focus on experiences of catalysing cross-sectoral cooperation</p>	<p>Project updates posted on Common Oceans website</p>	<p>Y1-Y4: At least 8 regular update reports (2-per year ? by -mid term) posted on the Common Oceans Website. (At least 2 by mid-term)</p>	<p>posts on Common Oceans website (reported in PIR / PPR)</p>	<p>Assumptions: International waters community has need for and interest in experiences and knowledge from this project;</p>

sectoral capacity building activities are shared with the wider international waters community, including high level officials in the BBNJ process	and coordination in ABNJ, including via knowledge sharing.	GEF IW Experience Notes published	Y4-Q3: At least 3 IW:LEARN Experience Notes prepared (in Spanish and English)	Experience Notes posted on GEF IW:LEARN and the Common Oceans Portal (reported in PIR / PPR)	External portals and communication channels (e.g. IW:Learn) will continue to exist and be supported so the project can utilise them for the distribution of communication materials
		Participation of project staff at International events attended	Y2-Q4: Participation at IWC (at least 2 project representatives participated in at least 1 GEF Biennial IW Conference)	project staff attendance at events (reported in PIR and travel reports)	
			Y2-Y4: Participation in 4 side events (1 per year) at high-level meetings e.g. CBD post-2020 and SOI meetings, Regional Seas meetings, COFI, UNEA, FAO and BBNJ etc.	project staff attendance at events (to be reported in PIR and travel reports)	
Output 2.2.2	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions

<p>Document ed knowledge and experience s 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</p>	<p>There are currently limited resources easily available to the media and wider public that cover ABNJ governance, especially from a comprehensive / multi-sectoral overview perspective. In addition, the project's monitoring and evaluation activities will ensure a rigorous and regular examination of the intervention to promote on-time delivery of expected results and information including lessons learned.</p>	<p>Communications documents and resources targeting the media and the public on the knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-Sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II produced</p>	<p>Y3- Q2: At least one communication s and awareness building materials designed and published each year (e.g. 1 brochure, 1 infographic, 1 video and 1 poster, social media content) targeting the media and the public on the knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-Sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II produced.</p> <p>Y5-Q4: At least 2000 unique individuals accessed the communication s materials from the Common Oceans Program Portal and social media outlets.</p>	<p>Published brochures and communication material</p>	<p>Assumptions: Members of the media and wider interested public will be able to find the resources provided, and will use them</p>
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		<p>High-level, media, and public event to showcase and disseminate knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II conducted</p>	<p>Y2-Q4: 1 high-level, media, and public event e.g. Nausicaa event in France to showcase and disseminate knowledge and experiences gained from the Cross-sectoral Project and from the other projects of the Common Oceans Program Phase II conducted. At least 15 high-level and 10 media representatives participated in the high-level media event</p>	<p>project staff attendance at events (reported in PIR and travel reports)</p>	
		<p>Open-self paced online introductory course prepared and made publicly available for national representatives, NGOs, academics and other stakeholders</p>	<p>Y1: One 45-minute open self-paced online introductory course on ABNJ, including associated sectoral and cross-sectoral issues and opportunities, produced Y2 &amp; Y4: One hundred and fifty (150) course takers documented each year</p>	<p>URL for the online course accessible on Common Oceans Portal and documented in PIR /PPR, web analytics about course users reported in PIR /PPR</p>	

Component 3 Monitoring & Evaluation					
Outcome 3.1	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
Efficient and timely project execution, monitoring and evaluation process carried out in support of Components 1 and 2 activities, and corresponding improvement of project execution as appropriate.	Operationally, the baseline for this Outcome are the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy and lessons learned in the monitoring and evaluation of the Common Oceans ABNJ child projects and other GEF-funded projects of similar focus. Substantively, the baseline for M&E monitoring and evaluation activities are the baselines for the respective outcomes and outputs of the project.	Number of monitoring and evaluation reports submitted in a timely manner	20 Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) 20 Quarterly Financial Reports (QER) 5 PIRs 5 Co-financing reports 5 Annual Project Execution Plan and Operational Plans 1 Midterm Evaluation report 1 Terminal Evaluation Report	Reports submitted to UNEP/GEF Sec	<b>Risks:</b> If buy-in of the project's M&E plan/process among the project stakeholders is not secured, an effective and efficient M&E cannot be carried out  <b>Assumptions:</b> Achievement of this outcome will be contingent on the project's M&E plan/process being secured among the project stakeholders; otherwise, an effective and efficient M&E cannot be carried out.

Output 3.1.1	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
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.	Operationally, the baseline for this output are the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy and lessons learned in the monitoring of the Common Oceans ABNJ child projects and other GEF-funded projects of similar focus. Substantively, the baseline for M&E monitoring activities are the baselines for	Number of operational plans; financial/co-financing/progress/supervision reports and performance implementation reports submitted in a timely manner	20 Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) 20 Quarterly Financial Reports (QER) 5 PIRs 5 Co-financing reports 5 Annual Project Execution Plan and Operational Plans	Reports submitted to UNEP/GEF Sec	<b>Assumption:</b> Participants of project implementation, including members of stakeholder groups and wider interested public will agree to participate in the monitoring process
	the respective outcomes and outputs of the project.				

Output 3.1.2	Baseline	Indicators	Key Project Targets	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
Independent evaluations documenting the process of collecting and <u>analyzing</u> information in order to understand the progress, success, and effectiveness of project activities under Components 1 and 2.	Operationally, the baseline for this output are the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy and lessons learned in the independent evaluations of the Common Oceans ABNJ child projects and other GEF-funded projects of similar focus. Substantively, the baselines for independent evaluation activities are the baseline for the respective outcomes and outputs of the project.	Number of evaluation reports submitted in a timely manner	Y3-Q2: 1 Midterm evaluation report Y5-Q4: 1 Terminal evaluation report	Mid-term and terminal evaluation reports submitted to the UNEP/GEF Sec	<b>Assumption:</b> Participants of project implementation, including members of stakeholder groups and wider interested public will agree to participate in the evaluation process

## ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

### Comments at PIF Stage

#### GEF Secretariat

No comments specific to this cross-sectoral child project were made that had to be addressed by CEO Endorsement. All comments raised during PIF development were addressed by PIF approval.

#### STAP



No comments specific to cross-sectoral were made by STAP

**GEF Council**

Canada		
	<p>We recommend adding add a line to the description of the project alluding to the negotiations process, along the lines of:</p> <p>?Additional projects may be considered in light of the Agreement on Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) currently under negotiations at the UN.?</p> <p>For the deep-sea fisheries child project, the suggestion that the project will ?support the transition from traditional single-species assessments to multi-species ecosystem frameworks? is somewhat concerning. Ecosystem frameworks are important and can yield new understanding, guide policy, management, etc. but it is important that the shift in framework incorporates and links to single-species work, and does not replace it.</p>	<p>Text incorporated into the Cross-sectoral project.</p>
Denmark/Norway		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project document points out that around 12% of the global fish catches are caught in the high seas. This does not make the catch insignificant but shows the importance of responsible management within the EEZs. International legal obligations need to, as noted in the project document, be integrated in national legislations, but the project does not seem to address this major obstacle.</li>   <li>- Many Regional Fisheries Management Organisations need strengthened capacity development. Historically industrialized countries have benefited from exploration and exploitation of the high seas, whereas poorer countries have lacked the means to invest in larger fishing vessels etc. The duty to document the sustainability of fisheries and other activities, although obviously necessary and supported, can become a barrier to poorer countries who lack both financial resources and research vessel capacity. Sharing data and research findings through regional arrangements can be a way of reducing the barrier. It is not provided any overview on how the current catches are distributed between developing and developed countries (who are the largest fishing nations in the high seas?).</li>   <li>- In paragraph 14 it says that "Globally, it is estimated that 33 % of marine fish stocks are currently overexploited and 60 % are considered fully utilized, meaning that 93 % of stocks have limited or no potential for increasing production (FAO, 2018)." The FAO Fisheries Symposium in 2019 presented research showing the potential for growth in better regulated fisheries. Stocks can be rebuilt through strict regulation, so it seems misleading to state that "93 % of stocks have limited or no potential for increasing production". The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018 (SOFIA) operates with the term "fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels". In 2018 this category is 66.9% of global fish stocks.</li> </ul>	<p>With respect to the cross-sectoral project one of the key barriers identified is the difficulty in accessing data and information . There is also a need to translate the available information into good decision-making. This project will develop an online ABNJ governance map aims to centralize the most current information and knowledge on ABNJ governance for the pilot regions, with respect to the institutional arrangements of the future ILBI, including vis-?-vis relevant instruments, frameworks, and bodies. The aim is to complement options and negotiations positions expressed under the future BBNJ Agreement</p>
France		

We strongly endorse the issues covered in the program (*creation of enabling environment to deliver a series of transformative changes that will lead to more sustainable and integrated use and management of ABNJ resources, etc.*), which were also included in the FGEF strategy for 2019-2022. We also approve of this support initiative for the BBNJ process, which is undoubtedly unique in scale. **We nevertheless believe that a broader focus on ?management tools per area?** (phrasing used by the negotiators owing to a lack of consensus on ?high seas MPA?), **conserving biodiversity and not only fisheries in the coming years, is critical.** It is covered in only one of the five child projects (Sargasso sea - see below) and, to a lesser extent, in the cross-cutting capacity-building project.

This program consists of five *child projects*: one covering overall technical assistance (TA) for the program, two relating to fishing (**including a highly innovative component on the link between CC and fisheries: *Predicted impacts of climate change on tuna and their fisheries in the Pacific***), a fourth on capacity building and collaboration between BBNJ actors and the last one in a pilot area, the Sargasso Sea. **The latter two programs are of particular relevance to us.**

We fully agree with the reviewer regarding the focus is broader than fisheries during this second phase. Therefore, the cross-sectoral project has been designed to cover a wider range of issues beyond fisheries, including the use of ABMTs, EIAs and MSP to conserve marine biodiversity.

The cross-sectoral project aims to enhance cross-sectoral capacity across different actors engaged in managing specific activities within a sector. It will develop a capacity building programme based on a capacity needs assessment to address specific needs and priorities for strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination.

It will work actively with co-finance partners who have expertise in scientific analysis and applied science for management, including marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management to ensure integrated and inclusive management of marine biodiversity and its sustainable use.

Key to this project is the relevance of the BBNJ agreement where the project will work with national and regional bodies to document knowledge and experiences gained from the project to high-level officials involved in the BBNJ process

	<p>? Regarding the Sargasso Sea child project, we appreciate the effort to better understand and improve cooperation in the Sargasso Sea area. However, we are concerned that the project calls for the review of stewardship and governance options (both existing and potential) before the other elements of the project are executed, primarily: (1) Improving the knowledge base to support Ecosystem Based Management; and (2) Identifying the impacts of stewardship and conservation actions. To do any kind of review, one should have the underlying baseline information available first.</p> <p>? We are also concerned by how the project muddles terminology such as ?governance, stewardship, and management? in a manner that could lead to the inference that the project is designed to establish a broad new governance regime -- which the U.S. could not support. The project should focus on opportunities to improve coordination and cooperation amongst institutions and partners in the region as well as improve the functioning and operations of the Sargasso Sea Commission.</p> <p>? We are strongly supportive of the other child projects in this Program, as evidenced through our in-kind partnership (via NOAA Fisheries) in Phase I. We anticipate that our mutual support in these areas will continue through Phase II. The two coordinating-themed projects in particular seem well aware of the processes that will influence the project, as well as the dynamics of the processes the projects are trying to influence themselves. However, there were somewhat limited opportunities for stakeholder consultation and involvement in Phase I of the project that we hope can be improved upon moving forward.</p>	<p>With specific relevance to the cross-sectoral project, the focus will be on building capacity that will support cooperation and coordination. This means that the project will effectively work with individuals, organizations and networks to enable them to perform their functions effectively and sustainably. This involves identifying competencies, resources and attributes relevant to an enabling environment.</p> <p>With respect to stakeholder consultation, the cross-sectoral project developed a PPG stakeholder engagement plan that has been followed throughout the PPG phase. As outlined in Section 5 of the UNEP ProDoc, the stakeholders have been involved in various ways according to their expertise.</p>

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).**

**(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:**

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Global Ocean Forum ? Systematic assessment and selection of regions; Stakeholder engagement during PPG; Co-finance; contribution to PPG development including budget	30,000	30,000	0
GRID Arendal ? Develop ToC, Logframe, M&E, Workplan	20,000	20,000	0

Lead Consultant ? Support and guide PPG and review documentation for the CEO Endorsement Package	20,000	20,000	0
UNEP-WCMC ? Coordinator across partners for the PPG Phase; stakeholder engagement during PPG; Co-finance	30,000	30,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>0</b>

## ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

This project combines a global scope with activities centered on two specific regions (Pacific Islands & South Pacific). These have been identified through a selection process (see summary selection process of the project's focus regions in Appendix 13 of the Prodoc available in the roadmap).

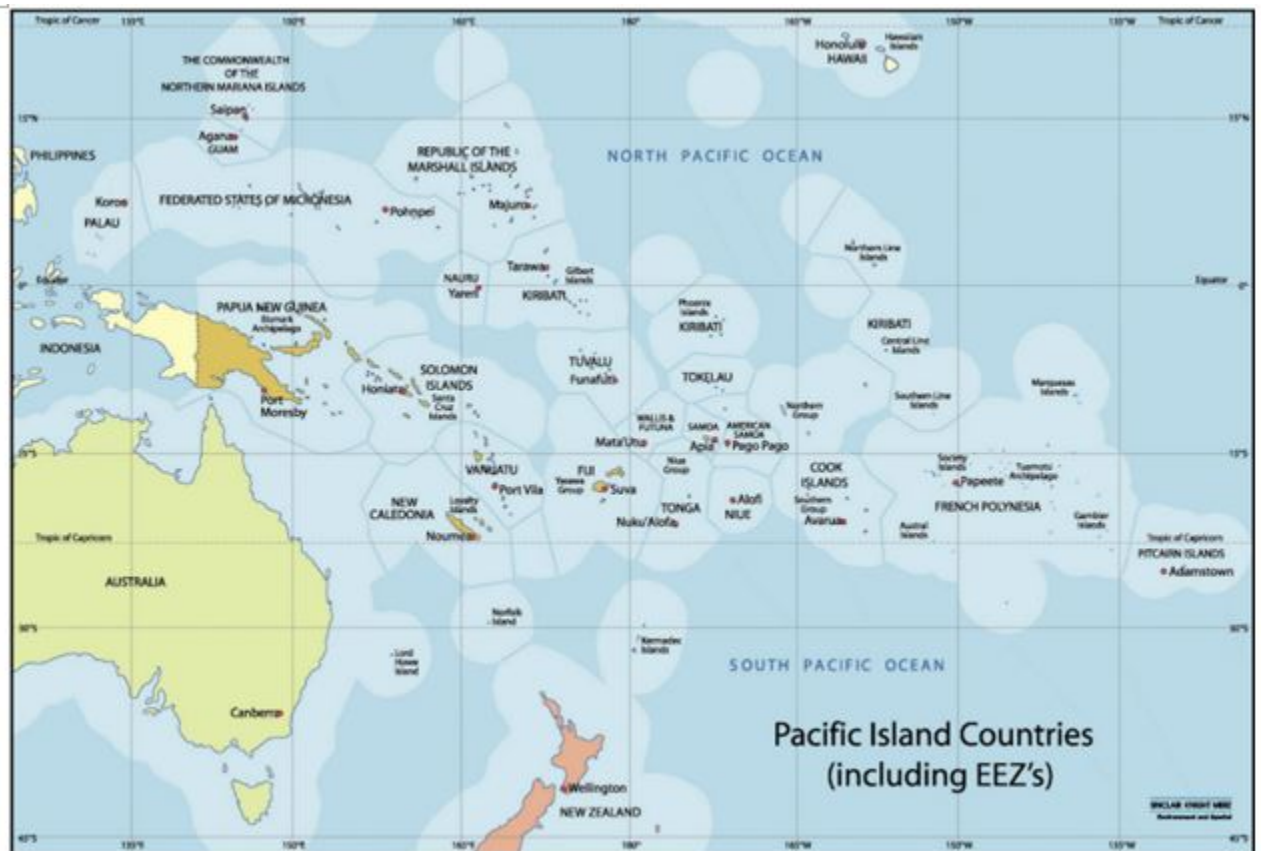


Figure 2: Pacific Islands region with Exclusive Economic Zones of countries in light blue. (From: Tilot et al. (2021). Traditional dimensions of seabed resource management in the context of Deep Sea Mining in the Pacific: Learning from the socio-ecological interconnectivity between island communities and the ocean realm. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8, 257)

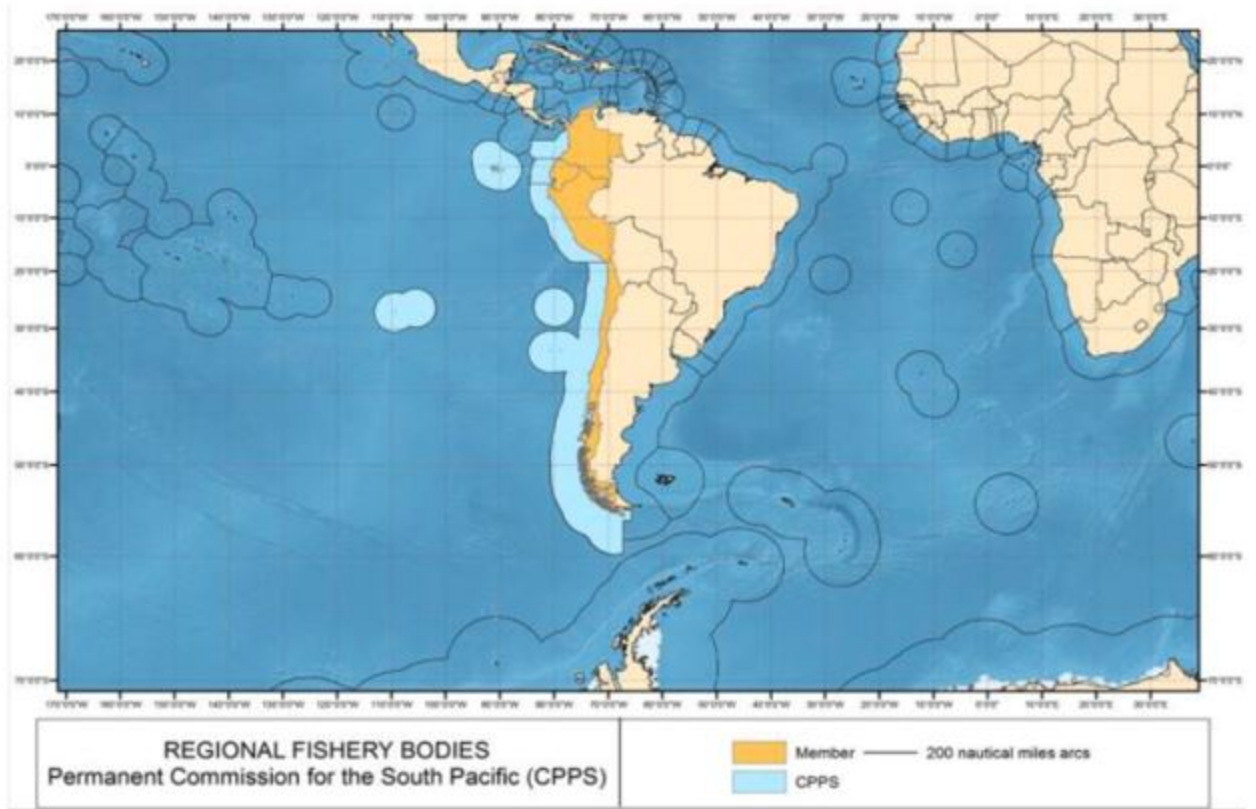


Figure 3: CPPS region countries EEZs. (Source: CPPS)

## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

**Please attach a project budget table.**

Please see Appendix 01 of the Prodoc available in the road map for detailed budget information.

UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE	BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROJECT COMPONENT + PM					ALLOCATION BY CALENDAR YEAR (3 Components + PM)					Total US\$	
	1 US\$	2 US\$	3/M&E US\$	PM US\$	Total US\$	Year 1 US\$	Year 2 US\$	Year 3 US\$	Year 4 US\$	Year 5 US\$		
<b>10 Staff &amp; Personnel (Including Consultants)</b>												
<b>Consultants &amp; Experts</b>												
Professional Staff w/m	366,300	114,902	-	102,846	584,048	118,300	119,900	119,900	112,248	113,700	584,048	
Project Manager-CD Specialist	244,200	81,252	0	66,580	392,032	79,200	81,200	81,200	73,248	77,184	392,032	
Administrative and Financial Professional-Research Assistant	122,100	33,650	0	36,266	192,016	39,100	38,700	38,700	39,000	36,516	192,016	
<b>Consultants &amp; Experts</b>	<b>84,143</b>	<b>77,357</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>201,500</b>	<b>29,464</b>	<b>54,458</b>	<b>46,708</b>	<b>21,804</b>	<b>49,066</b>	<b>201,500</b>	
Gender Consultant	6,000	6,000	0	0	12,000	0	12,000	0	0	0	12,000	
ABN Specialist	78,143	63,857	0	0	142,000	29,464	42,458	27,708	21,804	20,566	142,000	
Online course implementation analytics Consultant	0	7,500	0	0	7,500	0	0	4,000	0	3,500	7,500	
Evaluator (Mid-term)	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	
Evaluator (Terminal)	0	0	25,000	0	25,000	0	0	0	0	25,000	25,000	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>450,443</b>	<b>192,259</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>102,846</b>	<b>785,548</b>	<b>147,764</b>	<b>174,358</b>	<b>166,608</b>	<b>134,052</b>	<b>162,766</b>	<b>785,548</b>	
<b>120 Contract services</b>												
Translation services	5,000	20,909	0	0	25,909	3,753	6,702	3,753	5,753	5,949	25,909	
Printing and design services	7,000	24,361	0	0	31,361	6,250	4,500	9,500	4,500	6,611	31,361	
Other Contractual services (Virtual platform and Annual audit)	0	3,000	0	10,250	13,250	2,050	2,050	2,050	2,050	5,050	13,250	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>48,270</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,250</b>	<b>70,520</b>	<b>12,053</b>	<b>13,252</b>	<b>15,303</b>	<b>12,303</b>	<b>17,610</b>	<b>70,520</b>	
<b>125 Operating and other costs</b>												
Communications	9,150	0	0	0	9,150	6,150	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	9,150	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>9,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,150</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>9,150</b>	
<b>130 Supplies, Commodities &amp; Materials</b>												
Operational Equipment Supplies	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000	
Stationery & Office	0	0	0	1,952	1,952	1,952	0	0	0	0	1,952	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,952</b>	
<b>135 Equipment, Vehicles &amp; Furniture</b>												
Office Automation Equipment (Computers etc)	0	0	0	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,000</b>	
<b>140 Transfers &amp; Grants to Implementing Partners</b>												
Agreements	650,070	635,783	0	0	1,285,853	232,992	379,614	167,968	232,548	272,731	1,285,853	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>650,070</b>	<b>635,783</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,285,853</b>	<b>232,992</b>	<b>379,614</b>	<b>167,968</b>	<b>232,548</b>	<b>272,731</b>	<b>1,285,853</b>	
<b>160 Travel</b>												
Staff Travel on Official Business	8000	124725	0	0	132,725	15,500	31,500	29,000	20,500	36,225	132,725	
Travel of Consultants & Experts	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	20,000	
Travel of mid-term evaluator	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	
Travel of terminal evaluator	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	
Travel of Meeting Participants	110,000	49,000	20,952	0	179,952	0	5,000	10,000	115,000	49,952	179,952	
Travel of Training-workshop participants	110,000	0	0	0	110,000	0	0	110,000	0	0	110,000	
Travel of Meeting Participants	0	49,000	0	0	49,000	0	5,000	10,000	5,000	29,000	49,000	
Travel for PSC closing meeting	0	0	20,952	0	20,952	0	0	0	0	20,952	20,952	
Meeting costs	0	10,300	0	0	10,300	260	260	260	260	9,260	10,300	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>184,025</b>	<b>40,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>342,977</b>	<b>15,760</b>	<b>36,760</b>	<b>49,260</b>	<b>135,760</b>	<b>105,437</b>	<b>342,977</b>	
<b>PROJECT COMPONENTS TOTAL</b>	<b>1,239,663</b>	<b>1,060,337</b>	<b>80,952</b>	<b>119,048</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>							
<b>TOTAL BUDGET BY YEAR (2 Components + PM)</b>						<b>420,671</b>	<b>603,984</b>	<b>400,139</b>	<b>515,662</b>	<b>559,543</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	

**ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet**

Instructions. Please submit a finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

N/A

**ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

N/A

**ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).

N/A