



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Report of the
**Areas Beyond National jurisdiction Deep Seas Project
Second Project Steering Committee Meeting**

7–9 February 2017 • Rome, Italy

ABNJ Deep Seas Project

**Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources
and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction**



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Areas Beyond National jurisdiction Deep Seas Project
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ABNJ Deep Seas Project
Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine
Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second Project Steering Committee meeting of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project was held in Rome, Italy from 7–9 February 2017. The meeting was attended by representatives of 18 project partners.

The PSC noted the satisfactory progress of the project to date; and that there are, currently, no external threats that might adversely affect Project implementation.

During the presentation of the 2017 work plan, consultants engaged to undertake three major areas of project work (traceability, rights based management and monitoring control and surveillance) briefed the PSC on their respective plans of work and obtained feedback from the PSC on what is being proposed. This was a productive interaction which also enabled the consultants to signal to prospective partners, in particular the deep sea fisheries management bodies, what requirements the proposed work will have of them.

The PSC endorsed the 2017 work plan; and requested that a budget revision be presented at PSC3.

The PSC noted the various monitoring and evaluation activities being implemented by the PMU and agreed to the methods used by the PMU to estimate and present progress as it relates to outputs. The PSC also endorsed the proposal to start the mid-term evaluation in Q3-Q4 2017, and requested that the results of the evaluation be presented at PSC3.

The PSC encouraged the PMU to produce a range of e-communication materials that highlight the major achievements of the Project for partners to distribute through their networks; and hard copy materials that can be distributed at various major events in 2017.

The PSC agreed to hold its 3rd meeting from 6-8 February 2018 at UN environment-WCMC, Cambridge England.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	MDG	Millennium Development Goals
ABP	Area-Based Planning	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction	MPA	Marine Protected Area
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
CCAMLR	Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic	NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
COFI	Committee on Fisheries	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	OPP	Ocean Partnerships Project
CPPS	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (Permanent Commission for the South Pacific)	PIR	Project Implementation Review
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization (Australia)	PMU	Project Management Unit
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	PPR	Project Progress Report
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area	PSC	Project Steering Committee
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	RFMO/A	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or Arrangements
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	RSN	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network
GOBI	Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative	RSP	Regional Seas Programme
GOF	Global Ocean Forum	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ICFA	International Coalition of Fisheries Associations	SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
IGO	Inter Governmental Organization	SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
IMO	International Maritime Organization	SIODFA	Southern Indian Ocean Deep-sea Fishers Association
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
ISA	International Seabed Authority	UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
IUCN-FEG	IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Fisheries Expert Group	UNEP-WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
LTO	Lead Technical Officer	UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stock Agreement
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
		WOC	World Ocean Council
		WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The second meeting of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy from 7–9 February 2017. The meeting was attended by representatives of 18 project partners. The list of the participants is attached as [Appendix_1](#).
2. The outgoing PSC Chairperson, Mr Fred Kingston opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Ms Jackie Alder welcomed the participants on behalf of the FAO, and noted the importance of this project to showcase regional partnerships that will influence the ongoing discussions on SDG 14. Ms Marieta Sakalian welcomed participants on behalf of UN Environment, and Mr Steve Fletcher also provided opening remarks on behalf of UN Environment- World Conservation Monitoring Centre.
3. After a round of introductions, the meeting elected Mr Jon Lansley (SIOFA) as the new PSC Chairperson.
4. The meeting adopted the Agenda (Doc 1.1) as presented in [Appendix_2](#) to this report. The documents and presentations referred to at the meeting are listed in [Appendix_3](#).

2. Refresher – the ABNJ Deep Seas Project

2.1. Overview of the project

5. Mr Chris O'Brien (Coordinator) gave an overview of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project (ppt01) and recalled the relationships between the project and other FAO initiatives and the ABNJ Programme. He highlighted the major contribution made by the Norway-funded Deep-seas Fisheries Project which ended in 2016, and the ongoing SponGES project which also links some key development activities for the study of deep-sea sponges in the Atlantic.

2.2. Reports from related projects

6. Ms Kathrin Hett (FAO) provided a summary of ABNJ Tuna Project activities to date (ppt02), noting in particular the ongoing work on catch documentation schemes (CDS) for tuna fisheries and their contributions to improving monitoring, compliance, and surveillance in tuna fisheries.
7. Ms Tina Farmer (FAO) informed the meeting about the recent activities of the ABNJ Capacity Project (ppt03), and highlighted opportunities for linking ABNJ Deep Sea Project key outputs with the capacity development and information exchange work of the Capacity Project.

3. Project implementation status and partner activities

3.1. Partner activities

8. Written descriptions of partner activities are provided in the 2016 annual report([Appendix_4](#)). In addition, project partners were invited to provide short summaries of their activities.
9. Ms Sarah Lenel gave a summary of CCAMLR activities related to the project (ppt04), and noted the CCAMLR Secretariat ensures member countries are up-to-date on the Project status via an e-group. Ms Lenel recalled past and ongoing activities CCAMLR shares with FAO and the Project, including updating the FAO VME DataBase, contributing to the southern ocean chapters of the vulnerable marine ecosystems processes and practices publication, and the worldwide review of bottom fisheries in the high seas.
10. Ms Jihyun Lee provided updates from the CBD Secretariat (ppt05) in relation to their work on ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs). She noted the range of tools and guidelines that have been developed to address the impacts of key pressures and threats. Ms Lee

highlighted the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Action Plan (2015–2020) and noted the links with the Project’s work on ecosystem approach to fisheries.

11. Ms Merete Tandstad (FAO) provided an overview of the Norway-funded Deep-seas Fisheries Project, and highlighted the activities that are directly linked with the ABNJ Deep Seas Project. This included the FAO VME DataBase, and regional workshops held in the Mediterranean (with GFCM) and the eastern central Atlantic (with CECAF) on VMEs and deep-sea fisheries. The project also contributed to the completion of two major publications, the VME processes and practices publication and a technical report on alfonso fisheries; and supported the work on the second worldwide review of bottom fisheries in the high seas. The project also supported work collecting and improving information on deep-sea species, including the development of species catalogues and posters.
12. Mr Graham Patchell provided a summary of the Seaford Group’s involvement in two major activities on orange roughy (ppt06), the first being the ABNJ Deep Seas Project’s expert review workshop on orange roughy fisheries held in New Zealand in June 2016; and the second being the Project’s expert workshop on orange roughy acoustics, held in Rome in January 2017. Both workshops provided information that will be presented at the Scientific Committee meeting of SIOFA in March 2017.
13. Mr Julian Reyna (CPPS) gave an update on regional activities in the southeast Pacific which included the work being conducted with UN Environment-WCMC for Component 4. In particular, he noted the November 2016 workshop involving GRID-Arendal and Duke University. Mr Reyna stressed the importance of ensuring all relevant countries understand the context and application of the project’s activities in order to garner full support and cooperation. This included country participation in ongoing BBNJ discussions and capacity building activities in the region.
14. Mr Miles MacMillan-Lawler presented on GRID-Arendal’s activities in West Africa supporting UNCLOS Article 76, and work on the global seamount classification project (ppt07).
15. Mr Serge García reminded the meeting that the IUCN-FEG is a body that advocates closer connections between conservation and fisheries governance. He informed the meeting about IUCN-FEGs involvement in a range of publications including: an ecosystem approach to balanced harvest for fisheries; economic instruments and market-based approaches to bycatch impact mitigation; and rebuilding of stocks assemblages and ecosystems for fisheries (FAO technical paper). IUCN-FEG is also involved in the development of a range of projects including: mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries (with CBD); and other effective area-based measures (also with CBD) – and with a workshop planned in 2017.
16. Mr Fred Kingston noted that NAFO’s contribution to the ABNJ Deep Seas Project is mostly in-kind, particularly on the ecosystem approach to fisheries, including the development of a road map for NAFO. He also highlighted NAFOs work on biodiversity conservation, including the 14% of the NAFO Regulatory Area that is closed to bottom fishing, and assessments of bottom fishing impacts on corals and sponges. NAFO continues to participate in a range of ongoing global discussions, including those on the BBNJ.
17. Mr Alastair MacFarlane informed the meeting about ICFA’s participation at the UNGA review of bottom fisheries and the BBNJ discussions. He also noted the forthcoming Sustainable Oceans Conference and indicated that it was not clear to ICFA how this fitted into the calendar of other UN processes and meetings.
18. Mr Stefan Asmundsson noted NEAFC’s continued presence at global discussions on BBNJ and oceans, and informed the meeting about the unique situation of NEAFC and its use of an external body (ICES) for scientific advice. Mr Asmundsson also noted the close collaboration NEAFC has with OSPAR, and noted that a joint meeting of representatives of the Contracting Parties of both organizations would be held in May 2017. This would be the third meeting under the Collective Arrangement between NEAFC and OSPAR, which is intended to enhance

cooperation and coordination between international organisations with a legal mandate for activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the NE-Atlantic.

19. Mr Miguel Bernal (GFCM) gave a brief update on GFCM's activities for 2016 in relation to the ABNJ Deep Seas Project. In addition to providing information updates for the FAO VME DataBase, the Secretariat also contributed to the VME processes and practices publication, provided data for the upcoming worldwide review of bottom fisheries, and collaborated with FAO on the July 2016 VME workshop for the Mediterranean. Mr Bernal also noted that the Secretariat is making an effort to streamline VME and EBSA processes into GFCM's framework.
20. Ms Liz English described NOAA's work on mapping corals and other deep-sea ecosystems, and noted the 2016 USA's ratification of both SPRFMO and NPFC. Ms English also highlighted other scientific activities that may be of relevance to the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, including the use of research vessels to study deep-sea ecosystems.
21. Mr George Campanis noted SEAFO's contribution to the FAO VME DataBase, SmartForms, and the VME processes and practices publication and worldwide review of bottom fisheries. Additionally, SEAFO has collaborated with the EAF-Nansen programme and participated in the follow-up workshops on deep-sea species identification. The information collected on the 2015 R/V *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* research cruise was used to close some areas of the SEAFO convention area to bottom fishing.
22. Mr Jon Lansley provided an update from SIOFA and informed the meeting that SIOFA is a new RFMO with its first conservation measures (seven) being adopted in 2016 (<http://www.siofa.org/cmm>). He noted that the outcomes of the orange roughly workshops will be tabled at the second Scientific Committee meeting in La Réunion in March 2017.
23. Mr Tim Costelloe (SPRFMO) presented the work from New Zealand to develop models for the production of VMEs in the western part of the SPRFMO area; in addition New Zealand and Australia are looking at tools for the protection of VMEs. The SPRFMO Scientific Committee agreed to encourage fishery independent surveys, and Australia offered to host a scientific workshop for reviewed bottom fisheries measures in 2017.
24. Mr Steve Fletcher informed the meeting that UN Environment-WCMC is involved in a range of activities including: contributing to marine related biodiversity targets; supporting the BBNJ discussions by providing information on the pressures on biodiversity, legal mechanisms that could handle changes in the governance of the BBNJ; and working with EU-Environment, examining which area-based approaches might deliver ocean-based goals. He described their work with an EC project (with UNESCO-IOC) looking at cross border MSP practices, including the ABNJ. WCMC is also looking at how the behaviour of citizens can affect marine biodiversity — with a view to exploring this for deep sea environments.

3.2. 2016 Annual Report and proposed 2017 work plan

2016 annual report

25. The Coordinator described in detail the work that had been undertaken by the Project over the period January to December 2016 ([Appendix 4](#)).
26. The ABNJ Deep Seas Project is complex, with 5 components, 8 outcomes, 23 outputs, 98 targets and 54 activities. To assist the PSC, the 2016 Annual Report included a visual representation of project progress in the form of a dash board showing the extent of the completion of the targets. The PSC agreed that this was an useful way of showing project status as it relates to the completion of the many targets.
27. The Coordinator noted that the estimates of co-financing presented to the PSC were the same as those provided to the GEF for the period ending June 2016. The Coordinator informed that PSC that the mid term evaluation will require verified statements of co-financing from the partners.

28. In order to meet GEF reporting requirements, the PSC noted that, around May 2017, partners will be requested to provide co-financing information for the period September 2015 to the end of June 2017. And that in early 2018, the PMU would also request updates on co-financing to the period December 2017 in order to present both sets of figures to PSC3.
29. The PSC noted the satisfactory progress of the project to date; and that there are, currently, no external threats that might adversely affect Project implementation.
30. The PSC agreed that the style and level of reporting by the PMU at the meeting was satisfactory.

2017 work plan

31. To assist the PSC to get a complete picture of the work completed, underway and being proposed, the Coordinator presented the work done in 2016 and the work being proposed in 2017 together ([Appendix 4](#)). This was displayed in a format where the project activities were aligned with their respective project targets.
32. The Coordinator presented Components 1, 2, 3, and 5, and Ms Hannah Thomas and Ms Ruth Fletcher (both UN Environment-WCMC) presented Component 4 (ppt11).
33. Mr Gilles Hosch (CDS consultant) gave a presentation (ppt08) on the proposed work on market-based incentives with a focus on trade certification (output 1.1.4). The overarching goal of the output is to assess how deep-sea fisheries characteristics in general affect or determine catch documentation scheme (CDS) options, and to provide guidance on how CDS systems may be designed to respond to the needs of deep-sea fisheries. Mr Hosch reported on similar work completed for the ABNJ Tuna Project that resulted in a FAO publication on design options for tuna CDS¹. This work demonstrated that CDS can be effective to reduce the incidence of IUU and improve the overall sustainability of fisheries, if implemented correctly. The proposed work for the ABNJ Deep Seas Project includes: mapping typical deep-sea fisheries supply chains; IUU profiles in deep-sea fisheries; determine current RFMO, State, and industry practice in operating existing CDS for deep-sea fisheries (and others); assessing existing CDS for merits and limits (from a deep-sea fisheries perspective); determining CDS compatibility with characteristics and needs of current deep-sea fisheries; and technical, institutional, and political challenges regarding the adoption of future CDS for deep-sea fisheries. The partners needed for the work include deep-sea RFMOs and existing CDS operators, authorities of States involved in deep-sea fishery supply chains (flag States, port and transit States, processing States, and market States), and industry associations/operators/companies.
34. Mr Dale Squires (RBM consultant) presented (ppt09) on the proposed work for the rights-based management (RBM) activities of the project. Rights-based management mechanisms are important to prevent overfishing, and may function as a viable solution for RFMOs to implement to achieve sustainability and to realize maximum economic benefits of the fisheries. Exclusive rights provide a positive incentive to preserve and conserve the fish stock that enhances the future value of that right. These rights can take various forms (e.g. exclusive use or property right allocated by measures of catch, effort, licences, credit systems, etc.). RBM mechanisms are being used widely in many national programs, and for some ABNJ areas (e.g. IATTC, ICCAT, and CCSBT). For the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, Mr Squires proposed to build on previous work on RBM by the ABNJ Tuna Project, and visit individual RFMOs to gather information and experiences. Proposed activities include the development of a background document, the organization of an expert consultancy workshop, the development of RBM proposals for deep-sea fisheries (and maybe another workshop on the implementation of these proposals).

¹ Hosch, G. 2016. Design options for the development of tuna catch documentation schemes. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 596. Rome, FAO < <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5684e.pdf>>.

35. Ms Sarah Lenel (MCS consultant) presented (ppt10) on the proposed activities to develop an action plan for the adoption of best monitoring, compliance, and surveillance (MCS) (for output 3.1.4) practices, adapted to deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ and tested in one of the pilot areas. The proposed activities include a review of global successful practices in MCS and existing MCS systems, and consider options for strengthened MCS and compliance for the development of MCS action plans.
36. The 2017 work plan was developed by the PMU with inputs from partners. For several targets, the Coordinator requested input and clarification from the PSC on the nature and extent of the activities to be initiated. In such cases, the PSC referred to the descriptions of the envisaged project activities from the project document. Modifications to the work plan were made as a result of this process.
37. Regarding targets 26 and 27 (analysis of risks and threats of significant impacts for major fishing gears on biodiversity), the PSC noted the ongoing work of the deep seas management bodies on this topic and recommended that the activities for these targets build upon and promulgate the work undertaken by these bodies.
38. Regarding target 31 (creation of a mechanism to share geo-spatial information). The PSC agreed that a centralised data portal is not required as the organisations that hold data already make the metadata available. However, a useful step would be for the PMU to analyse the websites of relevant data holders and list the sources and types of information available, including (where possible) data collected by industry.
39. Regarding targets 35 and 36 (regional databases). The PSC noted that there has been no call for regional databases from regional bodies, and the activities for these targets should focus on strengthening the global EBSA database.
40. The PSC agreed in principle to the nature and extent of 2017 work plan as tabled in document 3.1 and noted the final work plan will contain the inputs from the PSC as recorded by the Coordinator during the meeting.
41. The PSC requested that the work plan be presented in a simplified form with information pertaining to previous years removed and the roles of partners indicated. The final 2017 work plan is provided in [Appendix 5](#).
42. The PSC noted that the project budget currently remains as per the Project Document, and requested a budget revision be presented at PSC3.

3.3. Matters relating to project implementation

43. The PSC stressed the importance of the linkages between component activities, and noted that the ongoing good cooperation and harmonisation of the components between FAO and UN Environment-WCMC was key to avoiding duplication of work and optimising the sharing and use of project knowledge and outputs.
44. The PSC requested that project activities, in the pilot areas, include to the extent possible, the full range of countries with an interest in fishing activities within the regional bodies concerned, including contracting parties, cooperating non contracting parties, signatories (yet to ratify) and coastal states with waters under national jurisdictions that are adjacent to the ABNJ.

3.4. Monitoring and evaluation

45. The Coordinator made a brief presentation on various aspects of the project's monitoring and evaluation system. The PSC noted the following matters:
 - Targets 12, 14, 21 and 56 may not be achieved in their current form during the course of the project due to them relying on the activities and/or agreements of external parties, i.e. these targets are above the accountability ceiling of the project.

- Several project outputs are written as outcomes in the Project Document. And several targets do not have prescribed activities. The PSC agreed that there is no urgent need to revise the logframe at this stage, as the intention and requirements of these elements are more or less clear. The PSC also noted that the mid-term evaluation may seek to clarify some of these matters.
 - The consultant undertaking mid-term evaluation of the ABNJ Tuna concluded (for the Tuna project) that there were more indicators than the project needs, so some indicators ought to be discarded. In particular, he noted that output indicators are largely redundant and the project only needed 2 indicators for each outcome and 3-4 indicators for the overall project objective. The PSC recalled that the ABNJ Deep Seas project has 50 indicators, so a similar recommendation might also be forthcoming from the mid-term evaluation.
 - Producing the outputs specified in the project will not necessarily result in their associated outcomes being achieved; and the PMU needs to monitor this carefully as additional activities may need to be undertaken over the course of the project in order to achieve the expected outcomes.
 - Given the complexity of the project, any opportunity to simplify reporting will be appreciated.
 - It is important collect baseline information across a range of project areas (e.g. capacity development) in order to be able to measure the impact of the project.
 - FAO has implemented a new project monitoring system, and the PMU now uses extracts from that system in its reports to the PSC and the GEF.
 - The ABNJ Deep Seas Project links and contributes to the theory of change developed for the ABNJ Programme (which comprises 4 projects).
 - The PMU worked with an expert to review the project's M&E design. This was useful exercise for the PMU as it resulted in a greater understanding of the linkages between components and the roles of the various partners. The experts report will be made available to the mid-term evaluation team.
46. The PSC noted the various monitoring and evaluation activities being implemented by the PMU. The PSC agreed to the methods used by the PMU to estimate and present progress as it relates to outputs. The PSC also endorsed the proposal to start the mid-term evaluation in Q3-Q4 2017, and requested that the results of the evaluation be presented at PSC3.

3.5. Communications

47. The Coordinator informed the PSC about the range of communications material produced in 2016, including:
- A project banner (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-co202e.pdf>);
 - A flyer on International commitments relating to biodiversity in sustainable deep-sea fishing in the ABNJ (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6062e.pdf>);
 - Common oceans brochure - Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems in ABNJ (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5500e.pdf>);
 - Articles on the project in the newsletters of several partners;
 - Project reports provided to the 8 regional bodies with a mandate to manage deep sea fisheries;
 - Project reports posted on the common oceans programme website (www.commonoceans.org);

48. The Coordinator requested advice from the PSC on whether a project newsletter was required. The PSC encouraged the PMU to produce modest e-communication materials that highlight the major achievements of the Project for partners to distribute through their networks; and hard copy materials to be distributed at the various major events in 2017; in particular the BBNJ meetings and the 2017 Sustainable Oceans Conference.
49. The PSC requested that the PMU investigate, and if feasible, convene, a side event at the forthcoming BBNJ discussions and Sustainable Ocean Conference to promote the work of the project, the partnerships, and major achievements.
50. The PSC stressed the importance of avoiding, in all communications, the use of hyperbolic language. Some considered that, during the development phase, the exaggeration of what the ABNJ Programme and its projects would deliver disaffected some RFMO contracting parties and stakeholders and caused them to seriously consider their participation in the project.

4. Any other business

4.1. Report on the Norway Deep-seas Fisheries Project

51. Merete Tandstad provided an overview of the Norway Deep-seas Fisheries Project that was managed by FAO from 2011 to 2016. This project contributed significantly to the work of the ABNJ Deep Seas project, especially in supporting formative activities that preceded the start of the project.

4.2. Update on the UNGA review of bottom fisheries

52. Alastair Macfarlane (ICFA) gave a presentation (ppt12) on the 2016 UNGA review of bottom fisheries, noting the following:
 - UNGA resolutions over the last 12 or more years were the catalyst for the ABNJ Deep Seas Project;
 - DOALOS conducted the 2016 review. The review was commented on in Fish Stocks Agreement review and in FAO COFI meeting. Both meetings made positive comment on progress and noted need for a positive UNGA review outcome;
 - DOALOS report published at time of 2016 Workshop was cautious, but this probably was due to a poor response rate to their questionnaire;
 - Workshop streams all focused on impacts of bottom fisheries on VME's. Most contributions were positive, but defensive;
 - Primary source of debate came from critical comment from eNGOs and a more "upbeat" analysis from ICFA. FAO contributed significant understanding of the true extent of bottom fishing and its declining nature.
 - UNGA Resolution 71/123, Section X, Paragraphs 171 to 192 reports the outcome and future expectations;
 - Positive progress was noted but imperative renewed to continue progress to fully implement previous resolutions and FAO Deep sea Guidelines;
 - There was particular note made of the need for assessing cumulative impacts, and that human activity other than fishing can have impacts on VMEs;
 - UNGA resolved have another review in 2020.

4.3. Update on the BBNJ process

53. Merete Tandstad gave a presentation on the BBNJ process (ppt13), noting the following:

- An informal working group on BBNJ was established in 2004. By 2015, there was agreement to develop an implementation agreement for the management of BBNJ. A preparatory committee was tasked with developing draft text; and two PrepCom meetings were held in 2016, with another two meeting scheduled for 2017 (ca. March and July).
 - The core elements of the agreement currently include: marine genetic resources, management measures, environmental impacts, capacity building and transfer of knowledge and technology.
 - FAO is providing information on fishing in the ABNJ, including holding side events.
 - With respect to the existence of fisheries management regimes, the BBNJ agreement options include adding management instruments to RFMOs that have a mandate on the ABNJ i.e. building on existing frameworks, or creating new substantial frameworks for the management of BBNJ (but respecting existing regimes).
 - Another key topic relates to genetic resources. One option for the agreement would be to develop a genetics only framework, but this would depend on the definition of genetic resources, in particular whether fish would be included or excluded.
 - With the two 2017 sessions to come, it is important to keep delegates informed about the true nature and extent of fisheries in the ABNJ, for RFMOs to be present; and to share outputs of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project.
 - The ABNJ Deep Seas Project will be supporting a side event in the March meeting that presents the results of the 2016 review of the international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.
54. The PSC encouraged FAO to continue its participation in the BBNJ process, and for project partners, especially the bodies managing deep sea fisheries, including their members, to participate and/or provide information to the process, to the extent possible.

4.4. Timing and location of the 3rd meeting of the PSC

55. The PSC agreed to hold its 3rd meeting from 6-8 February 2018 at UN environment-WCMC, Cambridge England.

4.5. SmartForms update

56. Aureliano Gentile (FAO) gave the PSC an update on the development of SmartForms (ppt14), an electronic application for reporting at-sea observations from deep-sea fishing vessels which is being developed by the Information Technology Division of FAO. This application, SmartForms, will include an initial set of forms for VME reporting requirements. It will be available for testing by project partners interested in deploying the application by mid 2017.

4.6. FAO's Coordinating Working Party on fisheries statistics

57. Cristina Ribeiro (FAO) provided the PSC with an update on the revitalisation and future direction of the CWP.

5. Adoption of meeting conclusions

58. The PSC agreed in principle to a range of recommendations and conclusions before the end of the meeting; however, it was agreed that final adoption of recommendations and conclusions would occur when the final report was reviewed and adopted by email.
59. The Report of the Second meeting of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project Steering Committee was adopted by email on 26 April 2017.

Appendix 1 Meeting participants



List of Participants

CBD

Jihyun Lee
Environment Affairs Officer,
Convention on Biological Diversity
Jihyun.lee@cbd.int

CEPESCA

Javier Garat Pérez
Secretario General,
Confederación Española de Pesca
javiergarat@cepesca.es

CPPS

Julian Reyna
Secretary General,
Comisión Permanente del Pacifico Sur
jreyna@cpps-int.org

GFCM

Miguel Bernal
Fishery resources officer
General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
miguel.bernal@fao.org

GRID-ARENDAL

Miles MacMillan-Lawler
Programme Leader Marine Spatial Planning,
GRID-Arendal
miles.macmillan-lawler@grida.no

FAO

Merete Tandstad
Fishery Resources Officer
merete.tandstad@fao.org

Kathrin Hett
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer,
Common Oceans Tuna Project
kathrin.hett@fao.org

Pio Manoa
Legal Officer,
Legal Division
pio.manoa@fao.org

Tina Farmer
Technical Editor
Common Oceans Capacity Project
tina.farmer@fao.org

ICFA

Alastair Macfarlane
Executive Secretary
International Coalition of Fisheries Associations
Alastair.macfarlane@seafood.org.nz

IUCN

Despina Symons
IUCN-FEG Coordinator
International Union for Conservation of Nature
Despina.symons@ebcd.org

Serge Michel García
Chair IUCN-CEM-FEG,
International Union for Conservation of Nature
grcsgm@gmail.com

NAFO
Fred Kingston Executive Secretary, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization fkingston@nafo.int
NEAFC
Stefán Ásmundsson Secretary, North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission stefan@neafo.org
NOAA
Elizabethann English Senior Policy Advisor, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration liz.english@noaa.gov
Pesquera Ancora SLU
Ivan López Van der Veen General Manager, Ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com
SEAFO
George Campanis Data and compliance officer, South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation gcampanis@seafo.org
SEALORD GROUP
Graham Patchell Resource Manager, Sealord Group Ltd gjp@sealord.co.nz
SIOFA
Jon Lansley Executive Secretary Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement jon@siofa.org
SPRFMO
Tim Costelloe Offshore Fisheries Division Director, Ministry of Marine Resources of the Cook Islands t.costelloe@mmr.gov.ck
Jianye Tang Professor, Shanghai Ocean University ijtang@shou.edu.cn
UN Environment

Marieta Sakalian Senior Programme Management/ Liaison Officer, UNEP/FAO/CGIAR marieta.sakalian@unep.org
UN Environment - WCMC
Hannah Thomas Area-based Planning Specialist, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre hannah.thomas@unep-wcmc.org
Steve Fletcher Head of Marine Programme, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre steve.fletcher@unep-wcmc.org
PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
Chris O'Brien Project Coordinator chris.obrien@fao.org
Ruth Fletcher Marine Programme Officer, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre ruth.fletcher@unep-wcmc.org
Jessica Fuller Fisheries consultant jessica.fuller@fao.org
Gilles Hosch Catch documentation scheme consultant hosch@pt.lu
Sarah Lenel MCS Consultant, lenelsarah@gmail.com
Ross Shotton Advisor R_shotton@hotmail.com
Dale Squires RBM Consultant Dsquires1@gmail.com



Appendix 2 Agenda

Day 1	Tuesday 7 February - starting 9 am
<p>1. Opening of the meeting</p> <p>1.1 Opening remarks.</p> <p>1.2 Introductions.</p> <p>1.3 Election of a chairperson.</p> <p>1.4 Adoption of the agenda.</p> <p>1.5 Housekeeping matters.</p>	
<p>2. Refresher - the ABNJ Deep Seas Project</p> <p><i>Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Recall the relationship between the Programme and Project. (ii) Recall the nature and extent of the Project <p>2.1 The Deep Seas Project – overview and linkages.</p> <p>2.2 Reports from the Common Oceans Programme projects (Kathrin Hett and Tina Farmer).</p>	
<p>3. Project implementation and status</p> <p><i>Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Work through the project report and work plan output by output (ii) Note the current status, linkages and issues related to each output (iii) Review the proposed work plan. (iv) Provide guidance on project implementation, the inter-institutional and partner coordination required for the proposed activities and the strategic direction of the project overall. (v) Adopt the 2017 work plan <p>3.1 Partners – a brief update from partners on activities relating to the project (5-10 minutes each partner).</p> <p>3.2 2016 Annual report: progress and results / presentation and discussion of the 2017 work plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Components 1 and 2 <p><i>This will include additional information/presentations on certain results obtained to-date, and future work proposed to assist partners, in particular the RFMOs and CCAMLR, better understand what requirements the proposed work will have on them, and allow partners to give feedback on what is being proposed, what resources might be required, timing, etc. Major project activities to be covered include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traceability – review of catch documentation schemes and value chain analysis (Gilles Hosch) • Rights based management (Dale Squires) • Monitoring control and surveillance (Sarah Lenel) • SmartForms (Anton Ellenbroek) 	
Day 2	Wednesday 8 February
<p>3. Project implementation and status (continued)</p> <p>3.2 2016 Annual report: progress and results / presentation and discussion of the 2017 work plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Components 3, 4* and 5 <p>* including a presentation on the approach being taken for component 4 (Hannah Thomas)</p> <p>3.3 Matters relating to project implementation / matters that need PSC intervention</p>	

3.4	Monitoring and evaluation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the review of the M&E system • The theory of change • The mid-term evaluation
3.5	Communications
4. Any other business	
4.1	Final report from the Norway Deep-seas Fisheries Project: “Support to the implementation of the international guidelines on the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas” (Merete Tandstad)
4.2	Update on the UNGA review of bottom fisheries (Alastair Macfarlane / others)
4.3	Update on the BBNJ process (Merete Tandstad / others)
4.4	Timing and location of PSC3
4.5	Other
Day 3	Thursday 9 February
5. Outstanding items and adoption of the meeting conclusions	
In addition, as time permits:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc meetings between consultants and project partners to discuss upcoming activities • Possible meeting of the informal Secretariat Contact Group

Appendix 3 List of documents

Reference	Title
<i>Session</i>	
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_Doc-1.1	Agenda
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_Doc-3.1	Annual report on the year 2016 and draft 2017 work plan
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_info	Description of project activities (ProDoc Annex 8)
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt01	Coordinator's presentation ABNJ Programme and certain project elements
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt02	ABNJ Deep Seas Tuna Project update
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt03	ABNJ Capacity Project update
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt04	CCAMLR update
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt05	CBD update
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt06	Sealord Group update
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt07	GRID Arendal update
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt08	Gilles Hosch on traceability
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt09	Dale Squires on rights based management
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt10	Sarah Lenel on monitoring control and surveillance
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt11	Environment-WCMC presentation on component 4
ABNJ_DSP-2015-PSC1_ppt12	ICAF, UNGA bottom fisheries review update
ABNJ_DSP-2015-PSC1_ppt13	FAO, BBNJ update
ABNJ_DSP-2017-PSC2_ppt14	FAO SmartForms update

Appendix 4 2016 annual report



ABNJ Deep Seas Project

Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea Living Resources
in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

PREPARED BY THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

REPORT TO THE 2ND PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

INCLUDING

PROJECT PROGRESS AND FINANCES IN 2016

A DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR 2017

V7 FEBRUARY 2017

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ABP	Area-Based Planning	MPA	Marine Protected Area
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction	NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
CCAMLR	Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
COFI	Committee on Fisheries	OPP	Ocean Partnerships Project
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	PIR	Project Implementation Review
CPPS	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (Permanent Commission for the South Pacific)	PMU	Project Management Unit
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization (Australia)	PPR	Project Progress Report
EAf	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	PSC	Project Steering Committee
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area	PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	RFMO/A	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or Arrangements
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	RSN	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network
GOBI	Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative	RSP	Regional Seas Programme
GOF	Global Ocean Forum	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ICFA	International Coalition of Fisheries Associations	SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
IGO	Inter Governmental Organization	SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
IMO	International Maritime Organization	SIODFA	Southern Indian Ocean Deep-sea Fishers Association
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
ISA	International Seabed Authority	UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
IUCN-FEG	IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Fisheries Expert Group	UNEP-WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
LTO	Lead Technical Officer	UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stock Agreement
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
MDG	Millennium Development Goals	WOC	World Ocean Council
		WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

1 The project in a nutshell

The *Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea Living Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Project* (ABNJ Deep Seas Project for short) is a five year project supported by the Global Environment Facility, and implemented jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Environment Programme. The UNEP project component is executed through the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre.

The Project is designed to enhance sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach. It brings together over 20 partners who work on deep-sea fisheries and conservation issues in the ABNJ globally. The partnership includes regional organizations responsible for the management of deep-sea fisheries, Regional Seas Programmes, the fishing industry and international organizations. The Project aims to:

- strengthen policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas;
- reduce adverse impacts on VMEs and enhanced conservation and management of components of EBSAs;
- improve planning and adaptive management for deep sea fisheries in ABNJ; and
- develop and test methods for area-based planning.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project started in September 2015 and is one of four projects under the GEF Common Oceans Programme. More information is available from www.commonoceans.org

2 Progress and challenges — December 2016

After a slow start, the project is making deliberate progress. The PMU and project partners are forming working relationships, and collaborative activities are underway on a range of levels, e.g. within and between stakeholder groups.

The completed review and stepwise guide to international and policy instruments related to deep sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ will be the basis for a training programme to be implemented to assist national and regional organisations strengthen legal and policy frameworks, management planning and implementation.

Reviews and studies have been implemented to improve the knowledge base relating to the ecosystem approach to fisheries elements and identify best practices in support of strengthening adaptive management in deep sea fisheries in the ABNJ. The Project has undertaken activities to assist capacity of fishing countries understand the issues and best practices relating to managing fishing impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems. The Project has also provided information to the international deliberations on a legally binding instrument on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, and the United Nations General Assembly bottom fisheries review.

The reviews and studies intended to underpin area-based planning activities in the south east Pacific Ocean and Western Indian Ocean areas have advanced well. Workshops were held in collaboration with CPPS countries and Nairobi convention countries to assess capacity and progress the first steps in regional area-based planning considerations.

The project has a range of challenges. While detecting positive changes in the deep sea fishstocks, biodiversity and ecosystems over the duration of the project is not biologically realistic, the project can be expected to contribute to the improved capacities of RFMOs and their members to manage deep sea fisheries and its impacts on biodiversity in the ABNJ.

Furthermore, many of the project outcomes are contingent on actions of RFMOs, and RFMO actions depend on the priorities, capacities and will of the country members which can change and consequently affect project activities and timelines. The two project focal area RFMOs have peculiarities that may limit proposed activities. For example, the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement is in its formative years, and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation in 2016 has only one vessel operating; and the countries eligible for GEF financing in these regions are currently not deep sea fishing in the ABNJ.

A diary of activities undertaken by the PMU in 2016 is provided as [Appendix 1](#). And a list of project reports is provided in [Appendix 2](#).

3 2016 Activities at a glance

3.1 Major project outputs and activities

- **A review of the international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ**

This work focused on the international obligations relating to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation. It included an analysis of current policy and legal instruments, and identification of the challenges in the implementation of current management requirements. The review and a training guide (to improve implementation) were pre-released in August 2016 for the BBNJ Prepcom, and they are expected to be published in early 2017.

- **Updating the VME Portal and DataBase**

The VME Portal provides general information on VMEs and the VME DataBase contains information on VME-related measures in ABNJ for each regional fisheries body, including SEAFO. The Project supports the ongoing maintenance and updating of the systems. (www.fao.org/in-action/vulnerable-marine-ecosystems/en/).

- **Global reviews and best practices for the assessment and management of key deep-sea species**

A global review of alfoncino (*Beryx spp.*), their fisheries, biology and management was published (www.fao.org/3/a-i5336e.pdf) in June 2016. A workshop of orange roughy experts was held in June 2016, and a review of orange roughy biology and assessment will be published in 2017.

- **2nd edition of the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas**

The 2009 Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas is being updated and expanded. A meeting of experts from the eight deep sea RFMOs was held in May 2016 to confirm the nature and extent of the work, and the review itself is expected to be published in 2017.

- **Best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments**

The report: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems – processes and practices in the high seas was published at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5952e.pdf>

The report of the best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments workshop report was published at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6452e.pdf>

- **Identification guide for deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the south eastern Pacific Ocean**

Both a species catalogue and field identification guide dedicated to the identification of deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the south eastern Pacific Ocean were published in 2016. The identification guide, available in both English and Spanish, were tested during a training workshop, in November (supported by Norway), and attended by scientists from countries bordering the South and Central Eastern Pacific Ocean.

- **Data collection manual**

A biological data collection manual, based on the additional requirements for reporting on vulnerable marine ecosystems included in the FAO International Guidelines for Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas was published in late 2016. The manual is structured into colour coded sections each corresponding to a taxonomic group and each including a set of explanatory and fully illustrated sheets describing the correct methodologies required to collect biological data from marine species in the field.

- **Review and synthesis of the values of the sectors operating in the ABNJ**

The project is undertaking a review of fishing, mining, oil and gas, waste disposal, cable laying, shipping and pharmaceuticals activities in the ABNJ. It will describe the nature and extent of the activities of these sectors; and where possible, quantitative/monetary valuation information.

- **Report on lessons learned on the scientific methods for describing EBSAs**

The CBD Secretariat has reported on practical options for further enhancing scientific methodologies and approaches on the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria, based on experiences from 12 regional workshops.

- **Area based planning**

Reviews of institutional arrangements and legal instruments in the Southeast Pacific and Western Indian Ocean have been completed. Global marine datasets of biodiversity importance to these regions have been identified and published. Area based planning workshops held in Southeast Pacific (with CPPS countries) and Western Indian Ocean (with Nairobi convention countries) resulting in capacity development assessments being undertaken.

3.2 Partner activities

CCAMLR – Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

CCAMLR:

- Reported 11 new VME risk areas in 2015, and 1 VME risk area in 2016, which brings the total number of VME risk areas to 76. CCAMLR has also registered 46 VMEs. The VME registry can be found at www.ccamlr.org/node/85695 and these data contribute to the Project's VME Portal and Database.
- Authored the Southern Ocean chapter for the Review of current practices and processes for VMEs: A regional review of current practices relating to VMEs
- Maintains a watching brief on the development of electronic monitoring systems on deep sea fishing vessels operating in the ABNJ to collect information on VMEs.
- Participated in a meeting of experts for the preparation of the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas.
- Provided comments on the legal analysis and guidelines.
- Developed, with the GEF, a (USD7 million over 4 years) project to support capacity building in CCAMLR processes for the GEF-eligible CCAMLR Member states, including Namibia, South Africa, Ukraine, India and Chile. The project is expected to be submitted to the GEF Council for funding consideration in 2017

CBD – Convention on Biodiversity

Major partner in the FAO, CBD, IUCN international workshop (February) to identify indicators in support of monitoring processes related to Aichi Target 6.

Convened EBSA meeting (February) and the production of a manual for the collection and analyses of EBSA data.

Major partner in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September).

With support from CSIRO and the IOC Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), coordinated two workshops on global marine biological monitoring and reporting as part of the CBD SBSTTA and COP meetings in Montreal and Cancun, respectively. Participants included participants from many Parties, developing monitoring networks and GEOBON, UN WOA, IPBES, GEF LME program, GOOS, OBIS.

CPPS - Comisión Permanente del Pacifico Sur

Convened a regional Integrated Ocean Policy workshop, Bogotá, Colombia.

Convened the CPPS General Assembly, Galapagos, Ecuador.

Held informal meetings with the Executive Secretary of the SPRFMO. The objective was to share views on the project, ways to move forward and review some documents (Valdivia, Chile 25-29 January 2016).

Review a series of documents and publications including: An interview framework for the study on "Institutional arrangements and legal instruments in ABNJ"; Chronology of Events in the South East Pacific region related to ABNJ; Governance of ABNJ in the South East Pacific; Introduction to marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the South East Pacific.

Preparation and presentation of a position paper regarding the ABNJ Deep Sea Fisheries project during the workshop "Development of capacities to improve the management of ABNJ". Grenada May 18th – 22, 2016.

Co-hosted an area-based planning tools workshop (Southeast Pacific) with UNEP-WCMC, and contributions from GRID Arendal, and Duke University. The workshop "Training on aspects of Ocean Governance and tools for Area-Based Planning (PBL), to support the decision-making process", was hosted in Guayaquil, November 2016.

CSIRO – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

Supported the CBD EBSA meeting (February) and the production of a manual for the collection and analyses of EBSA data.

Facilitated a meeting on Integrated Oceans in Samoa (November), with attendance by most of the Pacific countries plus all the technical agencies and the private sector. The first 2 days focused on SDG 14.7 (economic development in SIDS).

Participated in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September).

Conducted MSP training workshops throughout the Pacific area - in collaboration with CBD, Aus Aid, SPREP, PIFS - designed to be compatible with the EAF framework.

DUKE University – Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab

Supported the FAO, CBD, IUCN international workshop (February) to identify indicators in support of monitoring processes related to Aichi Target 6. Presented at the workshop on Quantitative Assessment of progress toward Aichi Target 11.

BBNJ PrepCom 1. presented at CBD side event on EBSAs

BBNJ PrepCom 2: Participation in multiple side events: including UNESCO/IOC/OBIS, GOBI, NRDC/HSA, and OPRI/SPF. Delivery of ~1000 policy briefs.

IMCC Workshop on the role of scientists in the BBNJ PrepCom negotiations. Supervision of the development of six policy briefs to inform PrepCom 2. Topics included: Area-based management, tech transfer, climate change, impacts of fisheries on open-ocean ecosystems, open data, satellite tracking to monitor human use of ABNJ. They are available at:

<http://www.nereusprogram.org/category/policy-briefs/>.

Support to UNEP-WCMC working on Aichi targets under the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

Support to CBD EBSA meeting (February) and the production of a manual for the collection and analyses of EBSA data.

Participated in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September).

Support to the November, CPPS General Assembly meeting in Galapagos, Ecuador.

With CBD and the IOC Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) coordinated two workshops on global marine biological monitoring and reporting as part of the CBD SBSTTA and COP meetings in Montreal and Cancun, respectively. Participants included participants from many Parties, developing monitoring networks and GEOBON, UN WOA, IPBES, GEF LME program, GOOS, OBIS.

FAO – Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

FAO, through the other projects under the FAO Deep-seas Fisheries Programme (supported by Norway, Japan and France), its Regular Programme and the EAF Nansen project has been undertaking a range of unilateral and collaborative activities in support of the Project. In 2016 this included:

- publishing the review on best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments;
- working with RFMOs, including providing training, to update the VME database. Ongoing development of the VME Portal and DataBase;
- development of deep seas inventories in collaboration with (FAO) iMarine;
- publishing an identification guide for deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the south eastern Pacific Ocean; and testing the guide during a training workshop in November [FAO-NOR];
- publishing a manual on collection of data on deep-sea species. This manual will supplement existing observer manuals and will be useful for those vessels operating in areas without RFMO technical support or without full observer coverage on data collection to meet new data collection requirements;
- ongoing collaboration with the University of Bergen led North Atlantic deep-sea sponges project. FAO, with government and academic agencies aim to develop an integrated ecosystem-based concept for the management and conservation of deep-sea sponge ecosystems of the North Atlantic. Activities associated with this project will include: strengthening the knowledge base, use of innovation technology, improving the ability to predict change, and providing decision support tools for management.
- published a global review of alfonso fisheries, biology and management (www.fao.org/3/a-i5336e.pdf);
- supported the June workshop of experts to review of orange roughy biology and assessment;
- supported the ongoing work to produce a 2nd edition of the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas, including the May meeting of experts from the eight bodies involved in deep sea fisheries management;
- facilitating a July workshop on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Mediterranean [in collaboration with GFCM];
- facilitating a November workshop on the management of deep-sea fisheries and vulnerable marine ecosystems in the eastern central Atlantic [in collaboration with the CECAF Secretariat];
- major partner in the FAO, CBD, IUCN international workshop (February) to identify indicators in support of monitoring processes related to Aichi Target 6;

- major partner in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September)
- managing the work developing an electronic application (SmartForms) for reporting at-sea observations from deep-sea fishing vessels.

GFCM – General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Participated in the FAO, CBD, IUCN international workshop (February) to identify indicators in support of monitoring processes related to Aichi Target 6.

Participated in the world wide review workshop in May;

Collaborated with FAO to hold a workshop on Mediterranean VME (July);

Participated in the August UNGA bottom fisheries review meeting in New York;

Participated in the August BBNJ PrepCom in New York, including a panel presentation on the FAO side event on ABNJs concerning GFCM deep sea fisheries management;

Participated in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September);

Adopted a subregional management plan for deep sea demersal fisheries in 2016 including the designation of three fisheries restricted areas to protect juveniles.

Adopted a three year strategy to support SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), especially on vulnerable species.

Ongoing work on the development of encounter protocols for VMEs in 2016, with a view to having them adopted in 2017.

Plans to focus on deep seas fisheries more in the future, with development of a management plan and regulations on deep seas fisheries expected.

Collaborating in the UNEP MAP initiative.

Is preparing a dedicated workshop to define the list of VME indicator species and to identify potential management measures to protect VME areas (April 2017)

GRID Arendal

GRID-Arendal contributed to the goals and objectives of the project through the following direct and indirect activities.

Workshop on area based planning in the Western Indian Ocean, Seychelles, October 2016, with UNEP-WCMC and Nairobi Convention. Conducted capacity assessment work to establish a baseline of regional capacity to engage in area based planning in ABNJ.

Workshop on area based planning in the South-Eastern Pacific Ocean, Ecuador, November 2016, with UNEP-WCMC and CPPS. Conducted capacity assessment work to establish a baseline of regional capacity to engage in area based planning in ABNJ.

Supported Pacific and West African countries on extended continental shelf claims under UNCLOS Article 76 through workshop and support.

Development of global seafloor geomorphic classification, for example published a global classification of seamount morphology (in *Ocean Solutions, Earth Solutions*, second edition DOI: 10.17128/9781589484603).

ICFA – International Coalition of Fisheries Associations

Major role in the organisation and facilitation of the March workshop of deep sea fishing industry representatives.

Represented the deep sea fishing industry in UN review of the Fish Stocks Agreement in May and the UNGA review of bottom fisheries and participated in the Bottom Fishing Review Workshop in August.

Convened its annual meeting in Rome in October, including a one day informal information exchange with FAO staff.

Reviewed the outcomes of UN review process through the year.

IUCN – The international Union for Conservation of Nature

Major partner in the FAO, CBD, IUCN international workshop (February) to identify indicators in support of monitoring processes related to Aichi Target 6.

Contributed to the EBSA meeting (February) and the production of a manual for the collection and analyses of EBSA data.

Co-hosted the Nairobi Convention Focal Points (March) Meeting and the IUCN-IDDRI Workshop on Southern Indian Ocean Project – Mauritius

Contributed to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (September).

Nairobi Convention

Nairobi Convention, through its other projects and programmes has been undertaking a range of unilateral and collaborative activities which are contributing to the Project. In 2016 this included:

- convening the Nairobi Convention Focal Points (March) Meeting and the IUCN-IDDRI Workshop on Southern Indian Ocean Project – Mauritius;
- hosting the June, Nairobi Convention Science to Policy workshop, Mahé, Seychelles.
- hosting the October, Nairobi Convention Science to Policy Forum, Mahe, Seychelles, in partnership with WIOMSA, UNEP-WCMC, GIZ, IASS, IDDRI, and COI, and developed terms of reference for the Science to Policy platform to support the delivery of SDGs
- hosting the October workshop on Area Based Planning Tools, Mahe, Seychelles, in collaboration with IASS, IDDRI, GIZ, BMZ, and COI, as part of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, and the workshop on Regional Cooperation for the implementation of SDGs on Ocean and Coasts in the Nairobi Convention area, and identified area based planning tools for Marine Spatial Planning in the EEZs and beyond, and capacity building needs required for the Western Indian Ocean countries.
- Participating in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September).

NAFO – North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation

NAFO:

- made contributions to the VME database, including a staff member being trained to use the system;

- through the work of the Scientific Council and the Joint FC-SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM); further developed the NAFO roadmap for the application of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management, continued work in support of the reassessment of bottom fishing impacts on VMEs, and made further progress in the identification of areas of significant concentration of non-coral and sponge VME indicator species.
- established a new closed area which has significant concentration of seapens
- The Executive Secretary served as the Chair of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project Steering Committee.
- Participated in the Workshop on implementation of General Assembly resolutions addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, New York (USA), 1-2 Aug 2016.
- Convened its annual meeting in Cuba in September and reported on the progress of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project to the organisation;
- Participated in the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD, FAO, UNEP) in September in Seoul, South Korea.
- Shared its expertise in the FAO/CECAF Technical Workshop on Deep-sea Fisheries and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems for the eastern central Atlantic, to be held from 8-10 November 2016 in Dakar, Senegal.
- Ongoing efforts in relation to potential impact of non-fishing activities, e.g. oil and gas, by engaging with other organizations such as IMO and ISA.

NEAFC – North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

NEAFC:

- had no new changes to the VME database;
- contributed to the World wide review workshop;
- participated in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September).
- a working group on deep seas species has been set up to map fishing effort and species composition in the catch;
- is receiving scientific advice from ICES that uses a new approach to advise on TACs for around 60 data limited stocks;
- held its second meeting under the collective arrangement with OSPAR. The two organisations are discussing how to engage with other relevant international organisations. Engagement with other sectors including IMO and ISA is beginning

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Contributing to project goals and objectives through NOAA's programs and offices. In 2016 this included:

- the design and organisation of the rights based management review and workshop.
- participating in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September).

NPFC – North Pacific Fisheries Commission**NPFC:**

- adopted conservation and management measures for bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean;
- responded to the UNGA bottom fishing inquiry;
- held small scientific committee meetings on Pacific saury, north Pacific armourhead and vulnerable marine ecosystems in April; followed by the 1st Scientific Committee meeting.
- participated in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September).

SEALORD GROUP

Ongoing acoustic surveys across the Southwest Indian Ocean commercial fishing vessels, and trialling of a full wideband (Simrad EK80) acoustic system in late 2016, covering the 30-90 Khz range, which is expected to give improved ground habitat discrimination, and better discrimination of fish targets.

Continued collection of mesopelagic samples for CSIRO, and calibrated acoustic transect data provided to the Australian Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) for use by scientists around the world (via the IMOS BASOOP data portal). This included a single Wideband survey across the Indian Ocean from 60 E to 90 E in December 2016.

Continued development of real time fibre optic broadband cable capability, which provides real time footage on the bridge, and the ability to observe and react to VMEs in real time. Successful development of full electronic control cable release from the net.

SEAFO – South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation**SEAFO:**

- collaborated in the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen survey in the South East Atlantic in 2015;
- identified a coral garden in one of the fishing areas and following scientific committee advice, the Commission, closed the area;
- has 13 areas closed for VME;
- held two workshops in May, of which one was on data analysis and this resulted in two publications.

Seascapes Ltd / GOBI – Global Ocean Biodiversity Inventory Secretariat

Seascope has contributed to the work on the review of Area-Based Management Tools in selected case study regions being coordinated by UNEP-WCMC. Seascope has worked on detailed analyses of the North-East Atlantic and the Central Eastern Pacific. These two regions, together with the Southern Ocean and Mediterranean regions that have been analysed by UNEP-WCMC, will help inform options that may be appropriate for the GEF-ABNJ Component 4 pilot areas.

GOBI efforts with strong relevance to the GEF ABNJ project include two expert meetings organised for CBD Secretariat in Berlin and a third meeting organised in New York. These meetings contributed

expert views to CBD SBSTTA20 where GOBI contributed to side events. GOBI also attended the first meeting of the BBNJ PrepCom process.

Participated in the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (September).

SIODFA – Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association

SIODFA is supporting project goals and objectives through its contributions to the business of SIOFA., including field survey activities and vessel time, training programs on the Association's vessels and data collection. SIODFAs main actions in 2016 were related to its participation in the SIOFA Scientific Committee and Commission meetings.

SIOFA – Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

The first meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee was held in March. The SC developed the following five themes for its first work plan

1. Scientific data standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data
2. Advice on vulnerable marine ecosystems
3. Current and historical status of fishing activities
4. Stock assessments
5. Advice on the impacts of fishing on associated and dependent species

Participated in the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD, FAO, UNEP) in September in Seoul, South Korea.

SPRFMO – South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Held Commission and Scientific Committee meetings in 2016.

Is developing a stock assessment for orange roughy; and notes that New Zealand is conducting exploratory fishing for toothfish.

Participated in the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD, FAO, UNEP) in September in Seoul, South Korea.

UNEP-WCMC – UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

UNEP-WCMC, through its other projects and programmes has been undertaking a range of unilateral and collaborative activities which are contributing to the Project. In 2016 this included:

Participated in the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD, FAO, UNEP) in September in Seoul, South Korea.

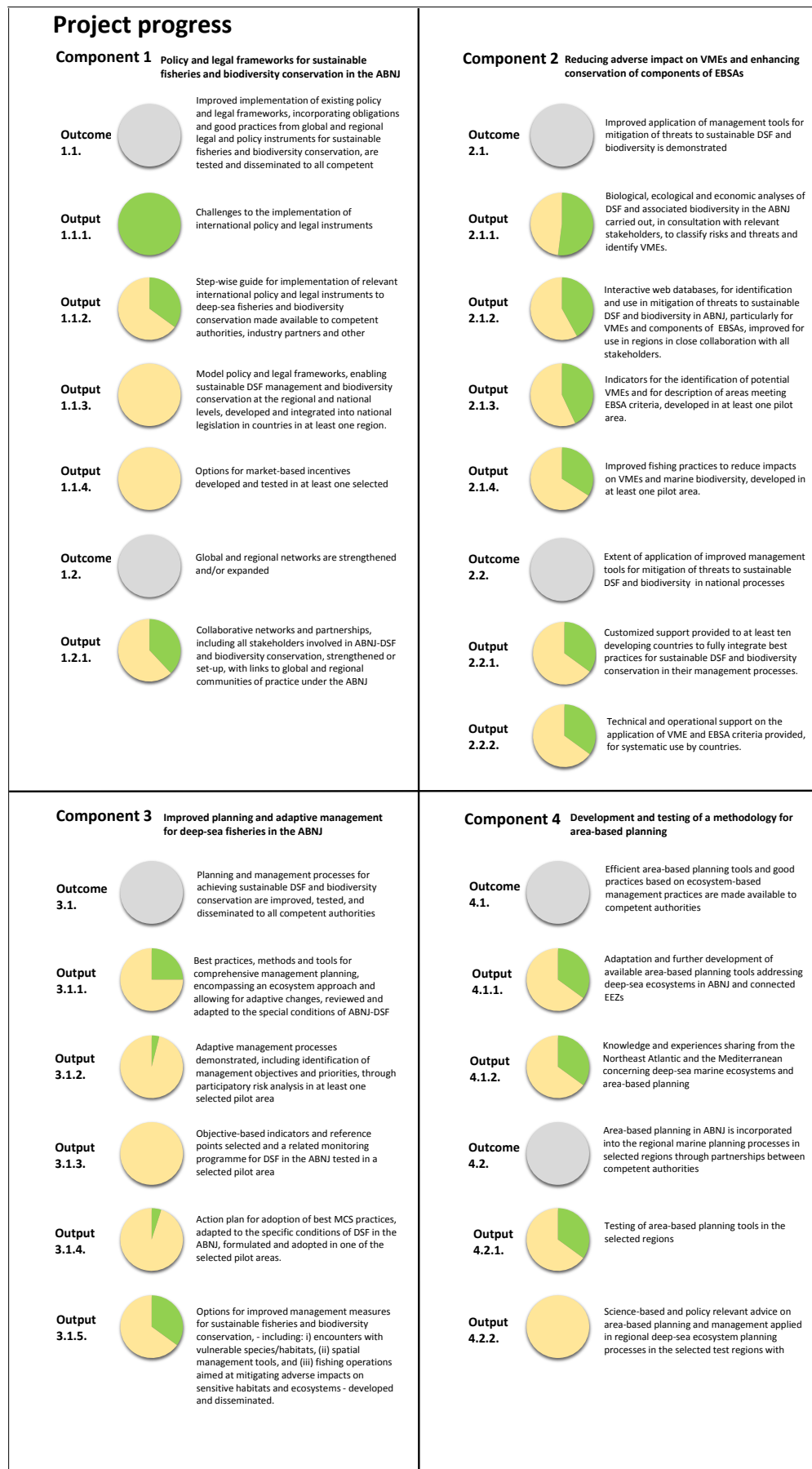
Developing the evidence base for Marine Spatial Planning, in collaboration with UN Environment.

Developing the marine metadata database and spatial data inventory. Presented through the Ocean Data Viewer (<http://data.unep-wcmc.org/>). The work builds on the inventory published in 2015 (Manual of marine and coastal datasets of biodiversity importance. December 2015. Available:

<p>http://wcmc.io/MarineDataManual To address lack of information in the marine realm, this document provides an overview of global marine and coastal datasets of biodiversity importance, and also includes some datasets of regional interest.)</p>	
<p>UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme</p>	
<p>UNEP, through its other projects and programmes has been undertaking a range of unilateral and collaborative activities which are contributing to the Project. In 2016 this included: <i>to be added</i></p>	

3.3 Outputs/targets progress dashboard.

Progress with respect to outputs and targets (as of December 2016). Green indicates estimated % progress as it relates to output targets; outcomes not scored this year. Progress is more described in more detail in Section 5 below.



4. 2016 financial overview

The ABNJ Deep seas Project budget comprises a GEF grant amounting to USD7 315 597 and co-financing from partner amounting to USD 79 558 500.

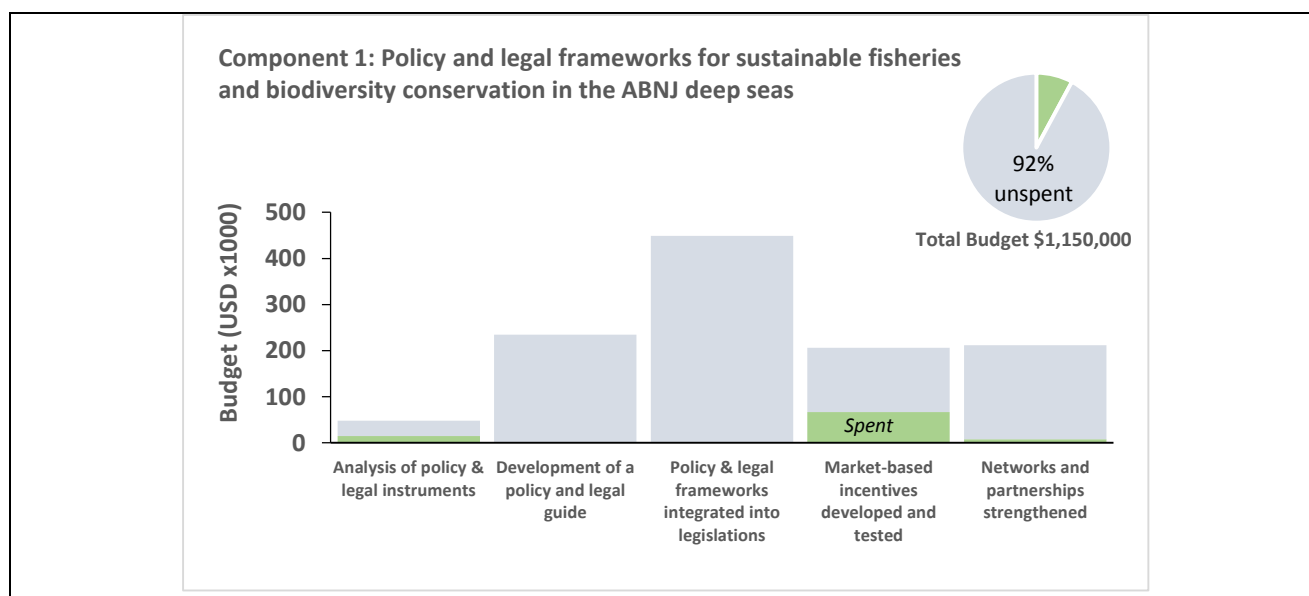
The levels of expenditures was lower than expected in 2016, largely due to many project activities being funded by external sources. In particular FAO-Norway and CBD.

4.1 Summary of GEF budget expenditures as of the end of December 2016

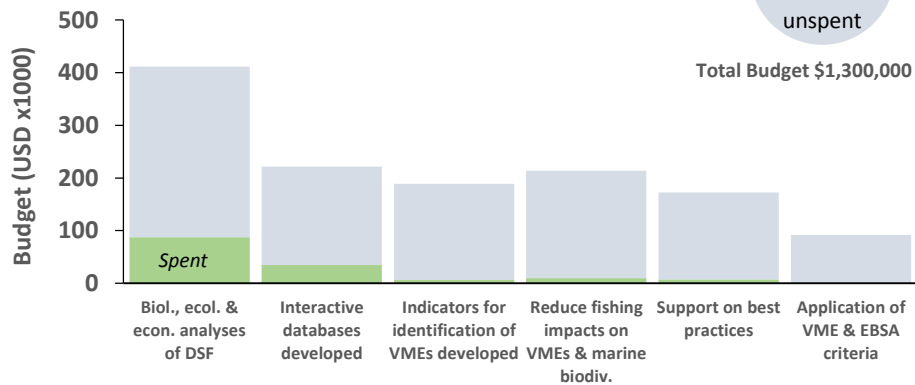
<i>Expenditure of Components</i>	<i>Expenditures*</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity in the ABNJ deep seas	\$90,653	\$ 1,150,000
2. Reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and enhancing conservation of components of EBSAs	\$145,643	\$ 1,300,000
3. Improved planning and adaptive management for deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ	\$23,181	\$ 1,952,236
4. Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning	\$466,098	\$ 2,366,990
5. Project monitoring and evaluation	\$25,954	\$ 198,246
GEF Total budget	\$751,532	\$ 7,315,597

**since 20 September 2014*

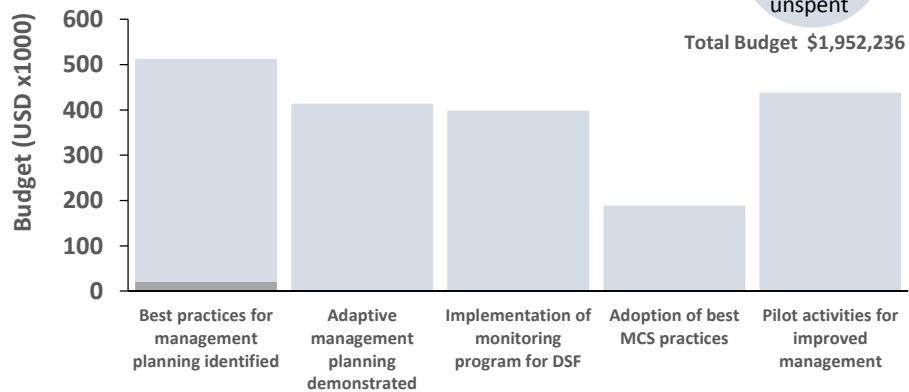
4.2 Expenditure by project output



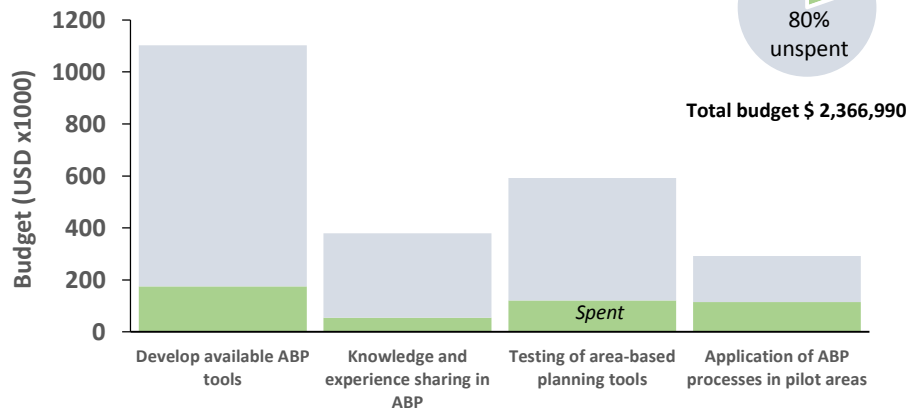
Component 2: Reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and components of EBSAs

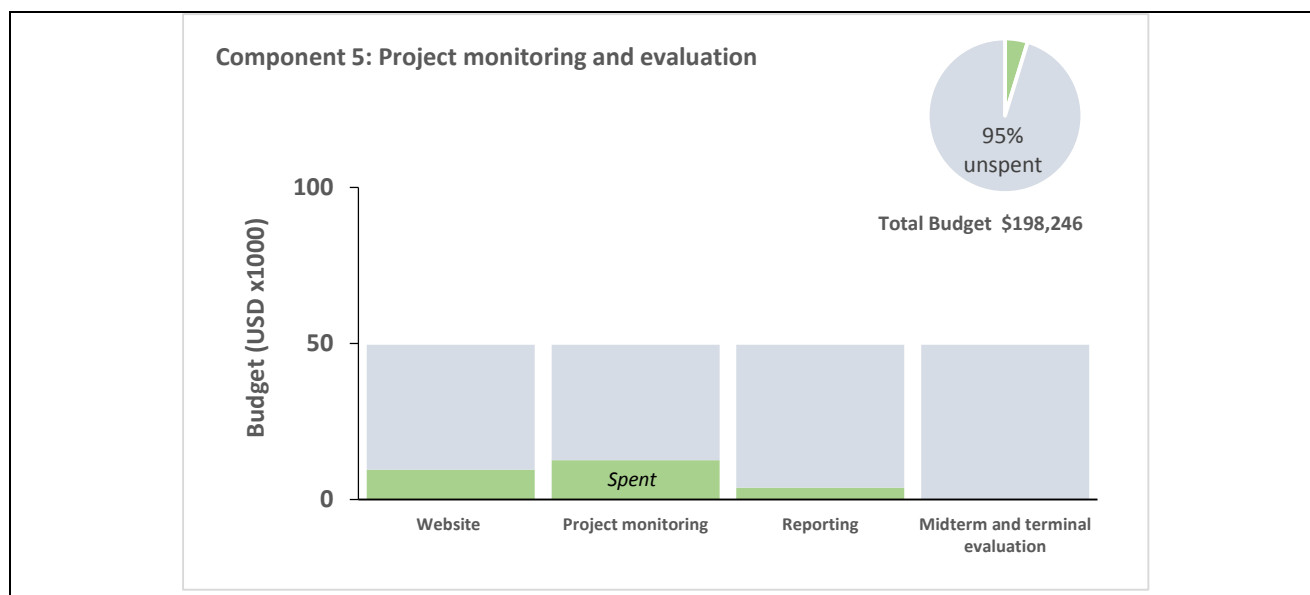


Component 3: Improved planning and adaptive management for DSF in the ABNJ



Component 4: Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning (ABP)





4.3 Co-financing estimates, as of the end of June 2016

Source	Type	Amount pledged (USD)	Amount estimated as of 30 June 2016
FAO	Cash	5,500,000	2,348,114
FAO	In-kind	7,000,000	2,566,667
UNEP	In-kind	380,000	139,333
Nairobi Convention	In-kind	870,000	319,000
CBD	In-kind	0	460,000
NEAFC	In-kind	1,950,000	715,000
NAFO	In-kind	2,100,000	646,000
SEAFO	Cash and in-kind	1,700,000	623,333
CCAMLR	In-kind	100,000	36,667
GFCM	In-kind	350,000	128,333
NPFC	In-kind	300,000	110,000
SPRFMO	In-kind	200,000	73,333
SIODFA	In-kind	20,000,000	7,333,333
Sealord Group	In-kind	14,000,000	513,333
ICFA	In-kind	5,000,000	1,833,333
Seascapes Ltd/GOBI Secretariat	In-kind	300,000	110,000
GRID-Arendal	In-kind	800,000	293,333
GRID-Arendal	Cash	50,000	18,333
Duke University	In-kind	5,136,000	1,883,200
IUCN	In-kind	2,110,000	773,667

UNEP-WCMC	In-kind	4,000,000	1466,667
CPPS Secretariat	In-kind	975,000	357,500
CPPS Secretariat	Cash	237,500	87,083
NOAA	In-kind	6,500,000	2,383,333
	TOTAL	Pledged	Estimated
		79,558,500	29,838,897
			38%

5. Progress towards achieving outputs in 2016 activities and a draft 2017 work plan

Progress scoring method for outputs, using targets.

- 1. Allocate an equal percentage of the (100%) implementation score to each of the targets. 1 target 100%, 2 targets 50%, five targets 20% etc..*
- 2. Give a score for the progress made in each target (based on activities): 0% if work has not started, 10% (x0.1) if the work has started, 60% (x0.6) if the work is advanced and 100% (x1.0) if it has been completed.*
- 3. E.g. For an output with 4 targets, allocation of the implementation score for each target is 20%. This each target allocation is multiplied by 0, 0.1, 0.6 or 1.*
- 4. Then the scores for each target are summed.*

Note: no estimates made this year for outcomes.

Component 1: Policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas.**Component 1 - Outcome 1.1: Improved implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks, incorporating obligations and good practices from global and regional legal and policy instruments for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation, are tested and disseminated to all competent authorities**

Target 6. Five national and regional organizations in at least one region have benefitted from implementation tools and related training to implement legal and policy instruments related to DSF and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ (by mid project)

Target 7. Total of ten national and regional organizations in two regions implement the policy and legal instruments to DSF and biodiversity conservation on the basis of the guide (by project end).

Output 1.1.1: Challenges to the implementation of international policy and legal instruments identified and remedial measures are formulated. (\$48,147)**COMPLETION STATUS: 100% (1 target, 1 completed)**

Target 8. Challenges to the implementation of all relevant international policy and legal instruments identified and fully documented (by mid project).

Progress 100%.

Activity 1: Analysis of challenges and best practices in the implementation of policy and legal instruments and processes as well as of relevant institutions involved, relating to DSF management and biodiversity in the ABNJ.

Completed in June 2016

Activity 2: Carrying out of an e-review to solicit input in the analysis prepared under Activity 1.1.1.1

Completed in September 2016. The document is expected to be published in Q1 2017.

Output 1.1.2: Step-wise guide for implementation of relevant international policy and legal instruments to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation made available to competent authorities, industry partners and other stakeholders. (\$234,409)**COMPLETION STATUS: 35% (2 targets, 2 underway)**

Target 9. Agreed step-wise implementation guide made available to national and regional organizations globally. Associated training is provided in Southeast Pacific region (by mid project).

Progress 60%.

Target 10. Five national and regional organizations in at least the South-East Pacific region have the demonstrable capacity to implement legal and policy instruments related to DSF and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ, making use of the implementation tools and related training (by project end).

Progress 10%.

Activity 1: Design and production of the step-wise guide.

In 2016:

The draft step-wise guide was available in July 2016

In 2017:

The stepwise guide will be formatted for training purposes and key elements developed into training materials. Led by FAO-Legal, University Strathclyde and IMA international (PMU).

Activity 2: Training in the use of the step-wise guide

In 2016:

A plan for training has been agreed to by FAO-Legal and the consultants that will undertake the work. Drafting of the contract is underway (PMU).

In 2017:

Develop a procedure for the announcement of the regional workshop/s and the selection of participating countries (alert RFMO Secretariats); hold regional workshop(s) with SEAFO and SIOFA GEF-eligible countries, inviting multiple agencies; the workshop aims to:

	<p>increase understanding on international obligations / develop a template for meeting regional and international obligations in SEAFO and SIOFA areas, respectively / use the guide to identify gaps and where support might be provided to each country / identify someone in each country to lead national activities (PMU)</p> <p>NOTE – it is proposed to undertake training on the stepwise guide in SEAFO and SIOFA countries first. Once the stepwise guide has been tested and revised (if necessary), it would be translated into Spanish and training would take place in the south east Pacific Ocean with CPPS.</p>
<p>Output 1.1.3: Model policy and legal frameworks, enabling sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation at the regional and national levels, developed and integrated into national legislation in countries in at least one region. (\$449,057)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 0% (2 targets, 0 started)</p>	
<p>Target 11. National model policy and legal framework, providing practical guidance on implementation of relevant instruments completed for at least one region (by mid project)</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Development of a national model policy and legal framework for at least one selected pilot region</u></p> <p>In 2017:</p> <p>Following on from the regional workshop described above, and the selection of participating countries (from the SIOFA and SEAFO regions), hold National, multi-agency workshops: to increase understanding on international and regional obligations and to determine the possible nature and extent of national assistance e.g. ranging from assistance to develop new legislation, undertaking selected amendments, developing regulations, or providing advice. Cook Islands, Namibia, Angola, South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles have indicated their interest in this activity.</p> <p><u>Activity 2: Carrying out of a stakeholder consultation in at least one pilot region</u></p> <p>2017/18. following on from above</p> <p><u>Activity 3: Preparation and implementation of a legal capacity building program in the selected pilot region</u></p> <p>2017/18. following on from above</p>

<p>Target 12. At least three countries update national legislation enabling sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 4: Revision of the national legislations of selected developing countries in the pilot region, with regards to DSF and biodiversity.</u></p> <p>This will depend on level of assistance sought by each country in activity 1.</p> <p>Note, the achievement of this target is above the accountability ceiling of the project.</p>
<p>Output 1.1.4: Options for market-based incentives developed and tested in at least one selected pilot area. (\$206,297)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 5% (2 targets , 1 started)</p>	
<p>Target 13. Global best practices on market based incentives (including ecolabelling and PES schemes) and agreed operational manual completed for utilization of traceability schemes ; both made available to countries and deep-sea RFMOs (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Best practices in market-based incentives for DSF.</u></p> <p><u>Activity 2: Production of operational manual of best practices and utilization of traceability.</u></p> <p><u>Activity 3: Implementation of a model outline for catch/trade documentation or traceability scheme</u></p> <p>2017. Produce a comprehensive supply chain map that covers all essential supply chain; assess the feasibility, the acceptability and the potential of eco-labelling and payment for environmental services in deep sea fisheries from an incentive and compliance perspective, and how such approaches could complement and contribute to a CDS agenda; develop a deep sea fisheries CDS strategy; assess the effectiveness and relevance of existing CDS schemes from a deep sea fisheries perspective, develop a blueprint for a comprehensive deep sea fisheries CDS strategy; prepare a draft “CDS Options for Deep Sea Fisheries” paper; hold a regional workshop to review the results of the work, propose a draft CDS model scheme, and identify what would need to be put in place in order implement the scheme, including capacity development. [PMU, with consultant Mr Gilles Hosch]</p> <p>In addition, the project is undertaking collaborative activities with FAO in support of capacity development. In 2015 FAO held an Expert Consultation on Establishing Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes to Improve the Traceability of Fishery Products. In 2016, FAO held a workshop on national and regional good practices in seafood traceability systems to combat IUU fishing in Asia. In 2017, the project is collaborating with FAO on preparation of a good practice guideline on national seafood traceability systems, and related training materials to be used in a regional workshop on National and regional good practices in seafood traceability systems to combat IUU fishing in Africa (including SEAFO and SIOFA countries).</p>
<p>Target 14. Two countries or regional organizations make use of at least one market-based mechanisms for DSF (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed to achieve this target in the project document.</u></p> <p>Note, the achievement of this target is above the accountability ceiling of the project.</p>
<p>Component 1 - Outcome 1.2: Global and regional networks are strengthened and/or expanded.</p> <p>Target 15. One to two targeted networks of relevant stakeholders are actively used and contributes to cross “community” dialogues and cross- regional connections (by mid project).</p> <p>Target 16. At least four targeted networks of relevant stakeholders are actively used and contributes to cross “community” dialogues and cross regional connections (by project end)</p>	
<p>Output 1.2.1: Collaborative networks and partnerships, including all stakeholders involved in ABNJ-DSF and biodiversity conservation, strengthened or set-up, with links to global and regional communities of practice under the ABNJ Program. (\$212,091)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 38% (5 targets, 4 underway, 1 above the project accountability ceiling)</p>	

<p>Target 17. One electronic network related to VMEs and EBSAs strengthened by providing links to communities of practice (by mid project). Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Strengthening of global and regional networks related to DSF and associated biodiversity.</u></p> <p>Ongoing: Both the respective VME and EBSA websites are promoted by FAO and CBD to 'communities of practice' to the extent that VME and EBSA practitioners, and participants in multiple VME and EBSA workshops constitute a community of practice.</p> <p>Ongoing: The Strengthening Global Capacity to effectively manage ABNJ Project (part of the Common Oceans Programme), has developed a community of practice for area-based planning.</p>
<p>Target 18. Two channels established for sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned on all aspects related to DSF and its associated biodiversity (by mid project). Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Strengthening of global and regional networks related to DSF and associated biodiversity.</u></p> <p>Ongoing: D-Groups email discussions and circulation of topical material.</p> <p>Ongoing: Common Oceans website (www.commonoceans.org)</p>
<p>Target 19. Five global and regional networks, both cross-sectoral and sectoral have been put into place and ensure that stakeholders have a tool for intra and cross-sectoral dialogue and exchange of best practices (by project end). Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Carrying out of two global stakeholder meetings for DSF and biodiversity communities.</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <p><i>Global networks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PSC 2015. • Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD, FAO, UNEP) in September in Seoul, South Korea [CSIRO, Duke University, GFCM, GOBI, IUCN-FEG, Nairobi Convention, NAFO, NEAFC, NOAA, NPFC, SIOFA, SPRFMO, UNEP-WCMC] • Informal Secretariats Contact Group formed (CCAMLR, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC, SEAFO, SIOFA, SPRFMO) • The Regional Seas Network was strengthened thorough two area-based planning meetings • The project facilitated two meetings of the deep seas fishing industry – in 2015 and 2016. • The eight regional bodies responsible for management of deep seas fisheries, exchange information though the Regional Secretariats Network (FAO). • The EBSA network is strengthen through global (February) and regional workshops (three since 2015). • CBD's informal working group on EBSAs • GOBI is a global network <p><i>Regional networks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAFO: ongoing -- continue efforts in relation to potential impact of non-fishing activities, e.g. oil and gas, by engaging with other organizations such as IMO and ISA. • CECAF VME network 2016 • GFCM VME network 2016 <p><i>Other</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles describing the project were promoted in GOBI and RSN newsletters

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project has produced information materials to BBNJ discussions and the bottom fisheries review process, including a deep sea fisheries brochure, deep sea project section of the Common Oceans Brochure. <p>In 2017/18:</p> <p>The February 2017 PSC meeting</p> <p>Undertake planning for Busan II meeting to review of the implementation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas — and identify challenges and ways forward. The first meeting was held in Busan in 2010 and reviewed the issues encountered by RFMOs and States in implementing the guidelines. The second meeting will review the challenges 7/8 years on. The timing of this meeting will be such that the results of several project reviews can also be considered (PMU).</p>
<p>Target 20. Some gender disaggregated data made available (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 100%.</p>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed in the project document to achieve this target.</u></p> <p>A gender analysis was undertaken on the deep sea fishing industry (2016) – there will a further gender assessment as part of activity 2.1.1.2</p>
<p>Target 21. Increased percentage of women contributing to Global and regional networks (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed in the project document to achieve this target.</u></p> <p>Note, the achievement of this target is above the accountability ceiling of the project</p>

Component 2: Reducing adverse impact on VMEs and enhancing conservation of components of EBSAs.**Component 2 - Outcome 2.1: Improved application of management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity is demonstrated**

Target 22. At least two new protocols and tools developed for identification and mitigation of potential threats to biodiversity, in the two pilot regions (by mid project)

Target 23. At least four new protocols and tools developed and applied to DSF for identification and mitigation of potential threats to biodiversity, in the two pilot regions (by project end) — uptake of these protocols and tools will take place, as appropriate and possible, in other regions

Output 2.1.1: Biological, ecological and economic analyses of DSF and associated biodiversity in the ABNJ carried out, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to classify risks and threats and identify VMEs. (\$411,360)

COMPLETION STATUS: 52% (7 targets, 1 completed, 4 underway)

Target 24. Datasets identified and compiled (by mid project).

Progress 60%.

Target 25. Analysis of datasets completed and made available for at least two regions, to be identified based on availability of data (by project end)

Progress 60%.

Activity 1: Collation and consolidation of existing biological and ecological information on DSF and associated biodiversity

CSIRO, Duke University, GOBI, GRID Arendal, WCMC and FAO have been collecting and consolidating existing biological and ecological information on DSF and associated biodiversity data as part of their normal activities.

Since 2015, CBD has held 3 regional EBSA workshops to identify review and analyse relevant data.

In 2015 the FAO Deep-seas Fisheries Programme, the EAF-Nansen project and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization organized a research cruise with the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen in the Convention Area of SEAFO to conduct basic mapping and identification of VMEs and fisheries on seamounts. This data was analysed by SEAFO countries and was used to develop VME management measures.

In 2016:

- CBD, CSIRO, IOC-GOOS: Two workshops on global marine biological monitoring and reporting as part of the CBD SBSTTA and COP meetings in Montreal and Cancun, respectively. Participants included participants from many Parties, developing monitoring networks and GEOBON, UN WOA, IPBES, GEF LME program, GOOS, OBIS [CBD with support from CSIRO and the IOC Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)].
- GRID-Arendal: continued to develop the classification of global seafloor geomorphology. Published global classification of seamount morphology in Ocean Solutions, Earth Solutions second edition (2016) Editor Dawn Wright (ESRI press)

In 2017:

- Duke University: development of a global Marine Migratory Connectivity Database focused initially on ABNJ
- NOAA: - to add
- GRID-Arendal: Developing a tool to assess representation of seafloor geomorphic features in managed areas as part of EU H2020 BlueBRIDGE Project.
- GRID Arendal: Application to report on features in MPAs and VREs in high seas
- Support to the above initiatives on a case by case basis (PMU)s.

Activity 2: Consolidation and analysis of existing socio-economic information on DSF and associated biodiversity.

	<p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gender analysis of deep seas fisheries, including an industry survey completed. • A draft Terms of reference for a study to examine decent work in deep sea fisheries in the ABNJ was reviewed by the PSC intersessionally. A consultant has been identified, and work is expected to start in 2017. • An ecosystems services valuation was been started. This work will also review and synthesise existing literature and web-based information relating to the direct values, indirect ecosystem values, option values, and non-use values of sponge dominated ecosystems, with particular reference to the North Atlantic region. This is a contribution to the SponGES project. FAO is also a partner in the SponGES Project which focuses on the deep-sea sponge ground ecosystems of the North Atlantic and takes an integrated approach towards their preservation and sustainable exploitation. <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing - the ecosystems services valuation (PMU) • Decent work study to characterise the labour issues and work force involved with deep sea fishing in the ABNJ, including interviews and consultations with relevant stakeholders and experts. Including an assessment of existing decent work practices in the deep-sea fishing industry and associated supply chains against the four pillars of ILO's decent work agenda and ILO's fundamental principles and rights at work. Recommendations for possible follow up work (PMU). • Value chain analysis on selected species (to follow from the supply chain analysis being undertaken as part of the market-based incentives work under output 1.1.4) (PMU).
<p>Target 26. Analysis of risks and threats of significant impacts for major fishing gears on biodiversity in one DSF RFMO (by mid project). Progress 10%.</p> <p>Target 27. Risks and threats of significant impacts for major fishing gears on biodiversity in one additional DSF RFMO area; Analysis made available to other RFMOs for possible future upscaling (by project end). Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 3: Assessment of potential interactions between DSF and biodiversity</u></p> <p>CCAMLR, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC, SEAFO, SIOFA and SPRFMO undertake work in support of the assessment of bottom fishing impacts on VMEs as normal practice.</p> <p>In 2016:</p> <p>NAFO undertook an assessment of its bottom fisheries.</p> <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing: work in support of the assessment of bottom fishing impacts on VMEs is undertaken by CCAMLR, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC, SEAFO, SIOFA and SPRFMO. • For discussion - <i>Using the biological and ecological information collated above, technical teams, at the regional level or other levels as appropriate, comprising of representatives from fisheries and conservation organizations, will analyze historical and current information collated above on DSF and biodiversity globally to identify possible interactions between DSF and biodiversity. This approach should, if appropriate, use a desk study followed by participatory discussions and analysis. DSF catch and effort by gear with occurrence of vulnerable biodiversity will be mapped to identify and determine possible areas of interaction using sensitivity evaluations of ecosystems to gear-specific impacts. Where appropriate, include potential interactions from other sectors on DSF and biodiversity. Through knowledge of habitats and biodiversity in areas of overlap with DSF, and an understanding of the potential impacts of various fishing gears, a risk matrix should be developed, through predictive modeling, ground-truthing data, or some other appropriate tool,</i>

	<p><i>that provides guidance on likely areas of impacts from a range of possible fishing scenarios. This information can be used to predict interactions between DSF and biodiversity and guide impact assessments for new and expanding fisheries. The assessment should include potential interactions with other uses of the deep seas, where appropriate and when provided through component 4.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of the consequences of climate change for VMEs. In collaboration with the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI) Climate Change working group. Review and expert workshop (PMU). • Pot fisheries workshop (this could look at impacts of pot fishing on biodiversity) – see also target 58 [in collaboration with SEAFO]
<p>Target 28. Updated understanding on DSF through the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas produced in collaboration with Deep-sea RFMOs (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 4: Updating of the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas.</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting of regional bodies with a mandate to manage deep sea fisheries was convened (in March) to review the structure and proposed content of the report. To-date, the regional chapters have been drafted [in collaboration with FAO-Norway, CCAMLR, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC and SEAFO]. <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing — finalization of the world wide review [PMU].
<p>Target 29. Best practices for identification of VMEs prepared based on experiences within Deep-sea RFMOs (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 100%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 5: Report on best practices for identification of VMEs.</u></p> <p>A review of current practices and processes for VMEs, including organising an international workshop was held in Namibia, in March 2015 to review draft overviews of regional chapters [FAO-NOR].</p> <p>A review of best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments took place in Norway in May 2015 in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR) ([FAO-NOR].</p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems – processes and practices in the high seas was published at http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5952e.pdf • The report of the best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments workshop report was published at http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6452e.pdf <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the above publications, a report of the best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments will be finalized and published.
<p>Target 30. Improved EBSA descriptions developed in collaboration with the CBD (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 6: Production of a manual for the collection and analyses of data to improve EBSA descriptions.</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD and GOBI convened an expert meeting to share experiences and lessons learned on the scientific approaches and methodologies for the description of EBSAs in February. The CBD Secretariat has reported on practical options for further enhancing scientific

	<p>methodologies and approaches on the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria, based on experiences from 12 regional workshops. A report on the outcomes of the meeting was produced, and subsequently provided to the CBD SBSTTA-20 meeting [CBD, contributions from GOBI, IUCN, CSIRO, Duke University, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC].</p> <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBSA workshops and fine tuning of EBSA processes and descriptions ongoing.[CBD and partners].
<p>Output 2.1.2: Interactive web databases, for identification and use in mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in ABNJ, particularly for VMEs and components of EBSAs, improved for use in regions in close collaboration with all stakeholders. (\$221,847)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 42% (6 targets, 1 completed, 4 underway)</p>	
<p>Target 31. Sharing mechanism operational (by mid project). Progress 60%.</p> <p>Target 32. Sources of information identified; metadata descriptions made and open-source, portal developed that allows access to existing datasets or to sources of datasets. New information being added to databases and available through portal (by project end). Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Sharing of geospatial information on DSF and associated biodiversity.</u></p> <p>In addition to the various databases held by partner institutions, and their work in certain regions, the RFMOs operate regional databases. Various data are available on open access basis. It is not clear what value a 'central' portal will add.</p> <p>For example, for CSIRO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all data is held in distributed data bases, though the level of maintenance varies considerably. Effort has gone into collecting disparate sets and storing data that is otherwise not easily accessible with appropriate metadata. The standard format is Open geospatial consortium (OGC) standards for data holding and visualisation, and ISO 19139 for metadata. Most of the data CSIRO holds is publicly visible on msp.csiro.au (eg http://msp.csiro.au/content/environmental-data-south-pacific). This includes data held by FAO (ie the WCPFC and SPRFMO boundaries) and some other organisations. Most of this will be relevant to the ABNJ project. All the EBSA data we CSIRO has made public can be seen at http://www.cmar.csiro.au/geoserver/web/?wicket:bookmarkablePage=:org.geoserver.web.demo.MapPreviewPage (and searching for ebsa). There are about 120 data sets there, all with metadata. The corresponding metadata is held on marlin.csiro.au. This will hold additional data sets to the ones seen on msp.csiro.au. <p>This target overlaps with targets 24 and 25. From the ProDoc:</p> <p><i>This activity is global in scope. The information collated on DSF and biodiversity for output 2.1.1 will be mainly at the regional level and will comprise both data and metadata. Some data may be stored in open access databases whereas other data sets will have restricted access. A centralized "portal" will be established for facilitating the use of this data and information from existing databases. A scoping exercise of existing mechanisms and tools that could be utilized will be carried out to decide on the form and functions of the portal and a sharing mechanism. The sharing mechanism will serve to link information obtained through project activities and other sources as well as to populate the sharing environment. Sharing of information between the two communities could be facilitated through the i-Marine platform, subject to the needs identified in the above activities</i></p>
<p>Target 33. 80% of deep-sea RFMO/As contribute information to VME database (by mid project). Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Development of specialised applications for and interactive VME database</u></p> <p>VME database and portal (http://www.fao.org/in-action/vulnerable-marine-ecosystems/en)</p> <p>For discussion – need guidance from PSC and other stakeholders on the nature and extent of database development – if needed.</p>

	<p>From the ProDoc.</p> <p><i>This activity is global in scope. The geospatial FAO VME database will be further developed to house or link to additional data using relevant information on VMEs provided by RFMO/As as part of activities 2.1.1.1 to 2.1.1.4. The existing VME database will be expanded to include additional information and applications to assist stakeholders, including those involved in the process and others who could benefit from the information and data, in the VME process such as a research project area, a networking and support forum area for specific stakeholder groups (e.g. industry corner, managers corner, etc.), a species identification area, and specific applications to develop regional pilot activities supporting the VME identification process.</i></p> <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing activity — the VME database and portal is updated annually [deep sea fisheries management bodies].
<p>Target 34. All RFMO/As actively supporting and using VME database. Additional functionality on research areas, survey data, networking and support for operational (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Development of specialised applications for and interactive VME database</u></p> <p>For discussion – need guidance from RFMOs on the nature and extent of database development</p> <p>From the ProDoc. <i>This activity is global in scope. The geospatial FAO VME database will be further developed to house or link to additional data using relevant information on VMEs provided by RFMO/As as part of activities 2.1.1.1 to 2.1.1.4. The existing VME database will be expanded to include additional information and applications to assist stakeholders, including those involved in the process and others who could benefit from the information and data, in the VME process such as a research project area, a networking and support forum area for specific stakeholder groups (e.g. industry corner, managers corner, etc.), a species identification area, and specific applications to develop regional pilot activities supporting the VME identification process</i></p> <p>2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with RFMOs, including providing training, to update the VME database. • Possible development of a tool for industry providing VME coordinates, fine scale maps and other information
<p>Target 35. Beta versions of regional databases available for two regions (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 3: Develop a regional EBSA information sharing platform in support of EBSA Global Repository</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSIRO: ongoing collection of global and regional data sets for the Indian and Pacific Oceans (to be displayed on geoserver and msp.csiro.au). <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSIRO: ongoing collection of global and regional data sets for the Indian and Pacific Oceans (to be displayed on geoserver and msp.csiro.au) • CSIRO: holding 2 workshops (Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean). These will gather the relevant experts and national stakeholders together to develop a draft bioregionalisation. Further workshops will be held in 2019 for both areas to finalise the work <p>For discussion – a global database exists and databases are created for regional workshops. Need guidance from CBD on the nature and extent of database development</p>

<p>Target 36. At least one regional “EBSA” database developed or expanded in one region to support the global CBD/EBSA process (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 3: Develop a regional EBSA information sharing platform in support of EBSA Global Repository</u></p> <p>EBSA database (http://www.cbd.int/ebsa/)</p> <p>A global database exists and databases are created for regional workshops..</p>
<p>Output 2.1.3: Indicators for the identification of potential VMEs and for description of areas meeting EBSA criteria, developed in at least one pilot area. (\$188,943)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 40% (4 targets, 1 completed, 1 underway, 2 not started)</p>	
<p>Target 37. Global review of VME indicators completed (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 100%?</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Review and develop VME indicators in pilot areas (Southeast Atlantic and and/or Indian Ocean).</u></p> <p>From the ProDoc. <i>Using the information collated through the review of best practices for identifying VMEs, and with the support of the appropriate RFMO/A, regional reviews of existing and potential indicators and thresholds globally and for the case study areas, for species and critical habitats to identify will be prepared. This should include indicators representing potentially vulnerable species groups, communities and habitats, including those used to preliminary identify VMEs. The information known about the DSF and benthic ecosystems in the case study areas will be assessed and new or improved indicators identified. In addition, appropriate gear specific threshold levels that could be used on commercial fishing vessels to provide a preliminary indication of the presence of a VME will be discussed. Where appropriate, additional indicators for the monitoring of key aspects of the VMEs will be identified. Tools, such as habitat modelling and information from research and commercial vessels, will be examined for use in support of identification, mapping and review of VME indicators and threshold levels. If enough information from surveys or other sources exists, the relationship between the densities of the VME indicator species and the quantity caught as bycatch will be examined. (Activity to be carried out in collaboration with overall indicator activities under Component 3). For the SEAFO area, an analytical geospatial application will be developed combining current information with new data layers, through collaboration with i-Marine and UNEP GRID-Arendal (who will provide a new seafloor map).</i></p> <p>Note completed activities relating to target 29 - the review of current practices and processes for VMEs and the review of best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments.</p> <p>In 2015 the FAO Deep-seas Fisheries Programme, the EAF-Nansen project and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization organized a research cruise with the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen in the Convention Area of SEAFO to conduct basic mapping and identification of potential VMEs and fisheries on seamounts. The information from this survey underpinned the development VME advice to SEAFO and subsequent closure of areas containing VMEs in 2016.</p> <p>In 2016:</p> <p>Development of identification tools for Sponges (Indian Ocean) and sponges and corals (Mediterranean) [FAO-Norway].</p> <p>In 2017.</p> <p>Completed? For discussion.</p> <p>NPFC has indicated some interest in a workshop for members to pool their VME data and undertake combined analysis with a view to making the best use of available data in support of the technical advice on VME thresholds and encounter protocols</p>

<p>Target 38. VME indicators implemented and tested at-sea in one pilot area (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 0%</p>	<p><u>Activity 3: Development of appropriate monitoring methods and tools for VME indicators in pilot areas.</u></p> <p>From the ProDoc. <i>(Southeast Atlantic and and/or Indian Ocean). Review methods and tools used globally to monitor and identify the presence of VMEs. If feasible, the review should also identify if these methods can identify areas that do not or are unlikely to contain VMEs. The development of appropriate monitoring methods will consider the use of technologies such as cameras, multi-beam sonar, and the use of existing and new tools such as species identification guides. Methods developed should be repeatable, cost-effective, and non-destructive in areas that are closed to fishing to protect benthic organisms. Training will be provided through the workshops on VMEs under activity 2.2.2.1 and specific capacity development activities in support of the implementation of the monitoring programme (including for crew, observers, port officials when appropriate) will be undertaken. The information generated will be stored in an appropriate format and when possible will be linked through the “sharing environment” (activity 2.1.2.1) while respecting data confidentiality issues, and as agreed with regional partners. This programme will be developed together with the overall monitoring programme in Component 3</i></p> <p>In 2017.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Cook Islands (Ministry of Marine resources), examine the technical aspects of whether VME encounters can be observed satisfactorily using an onboard camera monitoring system i.e. verification of VME encounters, and (some level of) identification and quantification of VMEs.</p>
<p>Target 39. EBSA global review completed (by mid project)</p> <p>Progress 0%</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Use of EBSA information for enhancing conservation and management measures in pilot areas.</u></p> <p>From the ProDoc. <i>This activity will examine the importance and relevance of information collected during the EBSA description process for use in the conservation of species or species groups by bodies with the competence to manage DSF in the high seas both globally and in the pilot regions. The EBSA description process has provided a catalogue of areas of important aggregations of various species and species groups. The information acquired during the EBSA description process will be compared and contrasted with information required by the RFMO/As with specific interest in this activity and other competent authorities to implement measures to monitor populations and impacts in one to two pilot areas (South Pacific or Indian Ocean) . Mitigation measures that have been adopted by RFMO/As to reduce impacts of DSF on the biodiversity will be documented, shared among relevant stakeholders, and compared to species, species groups or habitats of high importance highlighted in the EBSA process. Specifically, the criteria selected for the described EBSAs and important aggregations of species or vulnerable ecosystem components that may interact with DSF in the high seas of the pilot areas will be examined in detail. For these cases, the processes by which information used to describe EBSAs reaches RFMO/As will be reviewed and, where possible, information flows improved to ensure that this information is in a form that can be utilized by the RFMO/As in their management process. The appropriateness of the EBSA description process for providing information of relevance to management bodies will also be assessed. Material will be developed for use in the VME and EBSA training workshops held under activity 2.2.2.1.</i></p> <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the status of marine biodiversity in EBSAs — Decision XIII/12 on EBSAs [CBD and partners] • EBSA Scientific symposium in conjunction with World Congress on Marine Biodiversity 2018 (Montreal, 13-16 May 2018)

<p>Target 40. At least one deep-sea RFMOs/As and/or regional organization consider information from EBSA process (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Use of EBSA information for enhancing conservation and management measures in pilot areas.</u></p> <p>At least three bodies responsible for deep sea fisheries management have considered EBSA information (NAFO, NEAFC and SPRFMO). Regional Seas Organisations have also been involved with the EBSA process and also considered EBSA information.</p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of EBSA information was promoted in various international fora, including the CBD/FAO Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in September [CBD]. <p>In 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops to share experiences on the application of management measures in EBSAs [CBD]
<p>Output 2.1.4: Improved fishing practices to reduce impacts on VMEs and marine biodiversity, developed in at least one pilot area. (\$213,634)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 34% (6 targets, 1 completed, 3 underway, 2 not started?)</p>	
<p>Target 41. One formal partnership established in one pilot area which leads to for improved collection and recording of biodiversity information (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 60%.</p> <p>Target 42. At least two partnerships that allow for a more diverse range of information collection and tool development for recording biodiversity and possible impacts on biodiversity (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Establishment of partnerships and tools for recording biodiversity information.</u></p> <p>Species guides and catalogues of the deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean and the South East Atlantic available.</p> <p>In 2015 the FAO Deep-seas Fisheries Programme, the EAF-Nansen project and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization organized a research cruise with the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen in the Convention Area of SEAFO to conduct basic mapping and identification of VMEs and fisheries on seamounts.</p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An identification catalogue and guide for deep-sea elasmobranchs in the eastern Pacific region published. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4619e.pdf Marine species biological data collection manual published in 2016 [FAO-Norway]. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6353e.pdf Ongoing — development of SmartForms, an application for the on-board collection of VME and biodiversity information. <p>2017.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical workshop on ocean observing methods [FAO-EAF Nansen] • Road-testing the SmartForms application • IUCN Southern Indian Ocean seamount research survey - April/May 2017 • As part of it current seamounts project, IUCN will be examining the connectivity of EEZs and the ABNJ. The first step is to develop models to examine connectivity using larvae, then to test the models with data collected the survey. • Possible - IUCN leading capacity development workshops involving countries in the south west Indian Ocean area (or wider) to work collectively on the data collected to analyse connectivity between EEZs and ABNJ, and perhaps strengthen understanding of how such knowledge can be used in national and regional management processes.
<p>Target 43. Review of regional fisheries management measures on Biodiversity conservation completed for two regions (by mid project). Progress 60%.</p> <p>Target 44. Review of regional fisheries management measures on Biodiversity conservation completed for all regions (by project end). Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Review of regional fisheries management measures on biodiversity conservation</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <p>A list of management measures for the conservation and management of biodiversity conservation (binding and non-binding) and an overview of management measures of relevance to biodiversity conservation has been collated and categorized. Waiting for final inputs from 2016 before finalizing</p> <p>In 2017.</p> <p>Finalization of the above document</p> <p>For discussion, regarding the workshop mentioned in the ProDoc:</p> <p><i>This activity is global in scope. With the full support of deep-sea RFMO/As or States, and using the results and findings of activity 3.1.2.4, a global review will be carried out of the current fisheries measures adopted and enforced by the RFMO/A concerning protection of biodiversity. This will include measures directed towards benthic ecosystems through VME regulations and those relating to the conservation of other ecosystem components such as deep-sea sharks, turtles, and seabirds. Using a participatory approach involving a range of stakeholders including the fisheries management bodies, fishing industry and NGOs, a workshop will be organized with Activities 2.2.1.1 and 3.1.2.4, to review the need and effectiveness of these measures. As appropriate, recommendations will be made on additional or refined measures that could enhance protection of ecosystem components that are subject to significant adverse impacts from certain DSF.</i></p>
<p>Target 45. Two tools for testing agreed to and implementation plans for their testing developed (by mid project) Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed to achieve this target in the project document</u></p> <p>For discussion</p>

<p>Target 46. Management measures to reduce key known and important negative impacts by DSF are tested at sea in at least one pilot area (by project end)</p> <p>Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 3: Testing of new techniques for mitigating adverse impacts from DSF on ecosystems.</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <p>Operational use of real time fibre optic broadband cable in a New Zealand orange roughy survey, providing real time footage on the bridge, and the ability to observe and react to VMEs in real time. Associated with this was the successful use of a cable release from the net, carried out from controls on the bridge [Sealord Group].</p> <p>Installation and operational trial of a full wideband acoustic system on a vessel in the Indian Ocean (covering the from 30-90 Khz range), which is expected to give improved ground habitat discrimination [Sealord Group].</p> <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing — Implementation of real time fibre optic winch system on vessel in the Indian Ocean [Sealord Group]. • Ongoing — Collection of wideband acoustic data on vessels in the Indian Ocean (covering the from 30-90 Khz range), and evaluation of species composition, and bottom habitat identification[Sealord Group]
<p>Component 2 - Outcome 2.2: Extent of application of improved management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in national processes</p> <p>Outcome targets:</p> <p>Target 47. At least two regions benefited from training activities (by mid project)</p> <p>Target 48. Ten countries apply improved management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in national processes (by project end)</p> <p>Output 2.2.1: Customized support provided to at least ten developing countries to fully integrate best practices for sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation in their management processes. (\$172,470)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 35% (2 targets, 2 underway)</p>	
<p>Target 49. Capacity development program to integrate best practices for sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation agreed (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Formulation of capacity development programs for integrating sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation into national management processes and for supporting their implementation.</u></p> <p>In 2015:</p> <p>The GEF/FAO/GOF held a workshop on “Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) (organized at FAO, Rome, February 17-20, 2015). This workshop identified the further development of capacity to better manage ABNJ areas, including through the application of integrated and ecosystem-based management approaches to area-based planning, as an essential imperative.</p>

	<p>In 2016, GOF held a workshop on 'Capacity Development to Improve the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Needs, Experiences, Options, and Opportunities' 18-21 May 2016, St. George's, Grenada</p> <p>Overall, capacity development needs have been identified from a range of sources and capacity development activities have been undertaken in a range of topics:</p> <p>Taxonomy / deep sea species identification; ocean governance; VMEs; traceability; EBSAs; international obligations. See below.</p>
<p>Target 50. Participants from ten developing countries have received training in the use of improved management tools (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Support to enhance participation of developing countries in DSF and conservation processes</u></p> <p>Training on EBSAs and associated data analyses. 3 regional workshops since 2015 (11 overall). In the last 3 workshops, 31 countries and 31 organisations represented [CBD]</p> <p>Providing training to RFMOs related to updating the VME database.</p> <p>Training in scientific write up of the SEAFO survey results, through partnerships between regional and international experts [FAO-Norway]</p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean governance training. The project supported the participation of Mr. Paulus Kainge (Namibia / SEAFO) to the ABNJ Regional leaders Program held in March (organized by the ABNJ Capacity Project). • Training on the identification of deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the south eastern Pacific Ocean. 11 countries, November 2016 [FAO-Nor]. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5514e.pdf • Training on the identification of invertebrates from the South East Atlantic (biological samples collected on the RV Nansen / SEAFO research cruise). 3 countries, December [FAO-Nor]. • Workshop held on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Mediterranean in collaboration with GFCM, in July [FAO-Norway] http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6685e.pdf • Workshop held on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Central Atlantic in collaboration with CECAF, in November [FAO-Norway, NAFO] <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From output 1.1.2 above: regional and national trainings on international obligations (CPPS, SEAFO and SIOFA countries). • From output 1.1.4 above: the project is collaborating with FAO on preparation of a good practice guideline on national seafood traceability systems, and related training materials to be used in a regional workshop on National and regional good practices in seafood traceability systems to combat IUU fishing in Africa (including SEAFO and SIOFA countries). • Possible support to fish aging initiatives [Sealord Group]

Output 2.2.2: Technical and operational support on the application of VME and EBSA criteria provided, for systematic use by countries. (\$91,746)**COMPLETION STATUS: 35% (2 targets, 1 underway)**

Target 51. Needs assessment conducted and training material developed, used and disseminated through IW: Learn (by mid project).

Progress 10%.

There are no activities prescribed to achieve this target in the project document

This is envisaged to be an ongoing activity until the project ends.

In 2016:

- Presentation made by the Coordinator to IW Learn International Waters symposium on ABNJ (May, Sri Lanka)
- Presentation made by the Coordinator to IW Learn LME forum on Fisheries governance and its relevance to LME processes: Coastal and ABNJ perspectives (December, France).

Target 52. At least 10 national or regional organizations able to apply VME and EBSA criteria (by project end).

Progress 60%.

Activity 1: Carrying out of customized training workshops on the application of VME and EBSA criteria

Every regional workshop on EBSAs (11 since 2014, 3 in 2015) has started with EBSA training [CBD, in collaboration with Duke University and CSIRO technical support teams].

In 2016:

- Workshop held on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Mediterranean in collaboration with GFCM, in July [FAO-Norway] <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6685e.pdf>
- Workshop held on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Central Atlantic in collaboration with CECAF, in November [FAO-Norway, NAFO]

In 2017:

- Possible workshop on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the central east Atlantic in collaboration with CECAF. Date to be advised.

Component 3: Improved planning and adaptive management for deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ.**Component 3 - Outcome 3.1: Planning and management processes for achieving sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation are improved, tested, and disseminated to all competent authorities**

Outcome targets:

Target 53. Best practices for sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation analysed and information on status of selected deep-sea stocks synthesized (by mid project)

Target 54. Adaptive approaches to management planning and implementation under EAF, including MCS, developed and applied to DSF in at 3 national or regional organisations (by project end)

Output 3.1.1: Best practices, methods and tools for comprehensive management planning, encompassing an ecosystem approach and allowing for adaptive changes, reviewed and adapted to the special conditions of ABNJ-DSF. (\$512,879)**COMPLETION STATUS: 25% (7 targets, 1 completed, 3 underway, 3 not started)**

Target 55. Agreed operational manual for improved DSF and biodiversity conservation made available to countries and Deep-sea RFMOs (by mid project).

Progress 10%.

Activity 1: (global) Analysis of best practices for DSF and development of an operational manual for improved planning and management for DSF.

Not started. In general, the operational manual is anticipated to be a collation of material collected and developed over the course of the project.

In 2017:

Possibly examine the commonalities and differences of observer reports for deep sea fisheries. A manual for deep-sea observers [in collaboration with SIODFA / Cook Islands]

Target 56. Five national and regional organizations make use of the operational manual for DSF and biodiversity conservation in their planning and management processes (by project end).

Progress 0%.

Activity 1: (global) Analysis of best practices for DSF and development of an operational manual for improved planning and management for DSF.

Note, the achievement of this target is above the accountability ceiling of the project

Target 57. Improved information on at least one deep-sea fish stocks made available to national and regional organisations (by mid project).

Progress 100%.

Target 58. Improved information on at least two deep-sea fish stocks made available to national and regional organizations (by project end).

Progress 60%.

Activity 2: (global) Improving knowledge on key deep-sea species and on methodologies and technologies for studying and assessing them.

In 2016:

- A cornerstone document on the biology, assessment and management of alfonso was published (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5336e.pdf>)
- A workshop of experts was held in July to provide input into a global review of the biology and assessment of orange roughy. The resulting document is at an advanced stage of preparation.
- Training on the identification of biological samples (from the RV Fridtjof Nansen survey) provided in December 2016 [FAO-Norway]. the use of sponges and corals identification guides— to be followed up on the second half 2016.
- A species catalogue and field identification guide dedicated to the identification of deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the south eastern Pacific Ocean was published in late 2016. The identification guide, available in both English and Spanish, was tested during a training workshop in November.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing - FAO is a partner in the University of Bergen led North Atlantic deep-sea sponges (SponGES) project which received EU funding in 2015. FAO, with government and academic agencies aim to develop an integrated ecosystem-based concept for the management and conservation of deep-sea sponge ecosystems of the North Atlantic. Activities associated with this project will include: strengthening the knowledge base, use of innovation technology, improving the ability to predict change, and providing decision support tools for management. • Linkages developed with the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI), in particular the DOSI climate change working group, to collaboratively explore the effects of climate change on VMEs. <p>2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop to review the methodological approach and uncertainties associated with the use of acoustics data in the assessment of orange roughy in the Southern Indian Ocean, January. • Possible expert review of the biology and assessment of Pacific armourhead on collaboration with NPFC. • Ongoing – collaboration with the SponGES project. • Examination of the effects of climate change on VMEs in collaboration with the DOSI climate change working group (review and workshop). • Pot fisheries workshop [in collaboration with SEAFO] • Support to a workshop on the assessment of orange roughy in the SEAFO region [in collaboration with SEAFO] • NAFO: to widen the scope of the NAFO Coral and Sponge Guide (published 2015) by developing and compiling identification guides for fishes (e.g. sharks and skates) that could be provided to observers
<p>Target 59. Inventory of existing and emerging methods and tools relevant to DSF and recommendations for their use (by mid project). Progress 0%.</p> <p>Target 60. Existing and emerging methods and technologies for assessing the state of DSF stocks analysed for relevance in DSF and disseminated to national and regional organizations (by project end). Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed to achieve these targets in the project document.</u></p> <p>For discussion.</p>
<p>No output target associated with this activity. Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 3: (Global) Review of effectiveness and application of RBM in fisheries in the ABNJ.</u></p> <p>To start in 2017 — consultant has been identified and planning has started. Approach to be discussed by PSC [PMU, with consultant Mr Dale Squires]</p>
<p>Output 3.1.2: Adaptive management processes demonstrated, including identification of management objectives and priorities, through participatory risk analysis in at least one selected pilot area. (\$414,131)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 4% (5 targets, 2 underway, 3 not started)</p>	

<p>Target 61. EAF process initiated for at least one fishery (by mid project). Progress 10%.</p> <p>Target 62. EAF Baseline report (by mid project) Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: (Pilot areas) Preparation of EAF baseline report for the selected pilot areas.</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAFO: The Scientific Council continued development of a roadmap for the application of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management. • NAFO: The Scientific Council has established a working group to review the application of the precautionary approach to fisheries management in NAFO and elsewhere. • CSIRO, in collaboration with CBD, Aus Aid, SPREP, PIFS, is conducted MSP training workshops in the Pacific area – these workshops are designed to be compatible with the EAF framework. <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project: - Develop an agreed approach to assess EAF in the deep seas fishery management bodies and regional organisations (related to the indicator- number of national and regional organizations that have planning and management processes consistent with EAF for achieving sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation); identify where the project could provide assistance to address gaps and capacity development [PMU, with consultant Mr Rick Fletcher] • NAFO: Ongoing - Scientific Council continued development of the roadmap for the application of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management. • NAFO: ongoing – the working group to review the application of the precautionary approach to fisheries management in NAFO and elsewhere will hold a workshop on this topic in late 2017/early 2018 <p><u>Activity 2: (Pilot areas) Issue identification and prioritisation for management planning</u></p> <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the EAF process in relation relevant economic questions in pilot countries (Indian Ocean and SE Atlantic). For example: how to enhance returns for the Cook Islands deep sea fisheries (lobster or orange roughy); or assess the economic potential for Namibia to extend their fishing for orange roughy (or deep sea crab fishery) into the ABNJ (SEAFO area).
<p>Target 63. EAF objectives and priorities identified through participatory risk assessment (by mid project). Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 3: (pilot areas) Development of operational objectives</u></p> <p>Follows on from above</p>
<p>Target 64. EAF process demonstrated in at least one fishery (by project end).</p>	<p><u>Activity 4: (Pilot areas) Identification of options for improved adaptive management measures</u></p>

<p>Progress 0%.</p> <p>Target 65. Options for strengthening current management measures in order to achieve priority objectives will have been identified and accepted by stakeholders in at least one fishery (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p>Follows on from above</p>
<p>Output 3.1.3: Objective-based indicators and reference points selected and a related monitoring programme for DSF in the ABNJ tested in a selected pilot area. (\$398,229)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 0% (2 targets, 2 not started)</p>	
<p>Target 66. Indicators and reference points to address priority concerns identified through a structured risk assessment in one pilot region (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: (Pilot areas) Selection of objective-based indicators and reference points.</u></p> <p>Follows on from above</p>
<p>Target 67. Monitoring program for indicators and references points designed and tested for at least one fishery (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: (Pilot areas) Design and implementation of monitoring programme.</u></p> <p>Follows on from above</p>
<p>Output 3.1.4: Action plan for adoption of best MCS practices, adapted to the specific conditions of DSF in the ABNJ, formulated and adopted in one of the selected pilot areas. (\$189,013)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 5% (2 targets, 1 started)</p>	
<p>Target 68. A report on best practices on MCS for DSF globally produced and disseminated to all stakeholders (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: (Global/pilot areas) Review global successful practices in MCS and existing MCS systems</u></p> <p>To start in 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describing and assessing the efficacy of the MCS systems implemented by the bodies that manage deep sea fisheries, review MCS systems in other fisheries and identify practices that may have applicability for deep-sea fisheries. [PMU, with consultant Ms Sarah Lenel] Organize and facilitate a workshop involving South Africa, Cook Islands, Seychelles, Mauritius, Namibia and Angola to review and evaluate of the effectiveness existing MCS systems and practices in these counties and identify activities to strengthen MCS and compliance in the SEAFO and SIOFA regions.

	it is envisaged that additional activities relating to the above work will take place after it is completed. These include: the development and implementation of plans and activities to strengthen MCS and compliance; and the possible future organization and facilitation of a workshop/s involving the above countries to share experiences.
<p>Target 69. An MCS action plan designed and adopted by the management body or flag states in one pilot region (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: (pilot areas) Consider options for strengthened MCS and compliance and develop or revise MCS action plan(s) accordingly.</u></p> <p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible activities following on from activity 1 above • Support to training of Cook Island Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) compliance officers working in the deep sea fisheries. This also links to the review and strengthening of policy and legal frameworks under output 1.1.3. It is envisaged that this activity will be documented with a view to replicating it in other target countries. <p><i>MMR is establishing a Compliance Observer program to train Cook Islanders and other Pacific Island professional Observers to undertake Compliance Observing work on Cook Islands flagged fishing vessels in the High Seas. The first requirement is to deploy Observers to satisfy the new 100% Observer coverage requirement for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement under CMM 2016/01, and to offer the opportunity for Cook Islands Authorised Officers to increase the capacity of MMR to monitor and audit compliance with flag state requirements. A first cohort of up to six Observers will require a specialist training course in Nelson, New Zealand to gain certified skills in trawl gear and methods, Cook Islands and international fisheries law, species identification, conversion factors, supervision and verification of scientific data collected by fishing crews, and management of compliance operations on deepwater factory trawler vessels. This program is currently under design to be delivered by April or May 2017 for commencement of 100% coverage from July 2017 on Cook Islands flagged vessels. The course will be designed by MMR Offshore Division staff to meet the specific needs of the Cook Islands as a distant water flag state.</i></p>
<p>Output 3.1.5: Options for improved management measures for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation, - including: i) encounters with vulnerable species/habitats, (ii) spatial management tools, and (iii) fishing operations aimed at mitigating adverse impacts on sensitive habitats and ecosystems - developed and disseminated. This will include pilot activities in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Atlantic. (\$437,984)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 35% (2 targets, 2 underway)</p>	

Target 70. Implementation plans for testing two agreed management measures are developed (by mid project).

Progress 60%.

Target 71. At least two improved management measures have been tested and disseminated (by project end).

Progress 10%.

Activity 1: (Global/regional) Experimental testing and trial implementation of improved management measures, indicators and thresholds.

From the ProDoc: *This activity will contribute to meeting these needs by undertaking practical testing and experimentation of selected management and conservation measures to improve performance. Support is provided to the mandated management organization or agency and fishing industry partners of the selected pilot areas to test potential improvements in management measures, indicators and thresholds where particular problems or limitations are being experienced. The selection of measures and tools for potential improvement will take into account relevant high priority issues identified in Activity 3.1.2.2. Likely measures to be addressed include, for example, improvements and alternatives to fishing gear to reduce undesirable impacts of trawling on ecosystems and habitats, testing mitigation and practical management options to minimize ecosystem impacts such as the usefulness of move-on clauses and methods for estimating coral and other substrate volumes in trawls. According to the issues and concerns in each pilot area, experiments could include testing potential improvements to measures related to sponges, corals, VMEs, deep-sea sharks, turtles, and seabirds. At-sea experimentation and testing will be dependent on the availability and affordability of fishing and/or survey vessels with suitable fishing gear and will require good support from the deep-sea fishing industry or fish survey vessels in the selected pilot areas. This activity will be done in collaboration with Activity 2.1.4.3.*

From June to August 2015, the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen undertook a Trans-Indian Ocean Survey from Indonesia to South Africa. During the second leg of this trip, from Mauritius to South Africa, the crew tested a video grab system for sampling benthic habitats; however, due to bad weather, the results were limited [FAO-Norway]

From 2.1.4

In 2016:

- Ongoing — Operational use of real time fibre optic broadband cable in a New Zealand orange roughy survey, providing real time footage on the bridge, and the ability to observe and react to VMEs in real time. Associated with this was the successful use of a cable release from the net, carried out from controls on the bridge [Sealord Group].
- Ongoing — Installation and operational trial of a full wideband acoustic system on a vessel in the Indian Ocean (covering the from 30-90 Khz range), which is expected to give improved ground habitat discrimination [Sealord Group]

From 2.1.4

2017.

- Ongoing — Implementation of real time fibre optic winch system on vessel in the Indian Ocean [Sealord Group].
- Ongoing — Collection of wideband acoustic data on vessels in the Indian Ocean (covering the from 30-90 Khz range), and evaluation of species composition, and bottom habitat identification[Sealord Group].

Component 4: Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning.**Component 4 - Outcome 4.1: Efficient area-based planning tools and good practices based on ecosystem-based management practices are made available to competent authorities****Outcome targets:**

72. Existing ABNJ approaches are shared with three RSPs, other than project areas of intervention (by mid project)
73. Existing ABNJ approaches are shared with RSP coordination group, to reach all eighteen RSPs, and related, relevant competent authorities (by project end).
74. Two selected project areas of intervention are engaged in developing area-based planning tools (by mid project)
75. Two selected project areas of intervention have developed and tested area-based planning tools within a planning process (by project end)

Output 4.1.1: Adaptation and further development of available area-based planning tools addressing deep-sea ecosystems in ABNJ and connected EEZs. (\$1,102,388)**COMPLETION STATUS: 35% (2 targets, 2 underway)**

Target 76. Three available area-based planning tools are reviewed for applicability to the ABNJ and deep-sea ecosystem planning (by mid project).

Progress 60%.

Activity 1: Review and outlook of area-based planning.

In 2016:

- Final draft report on institutional arrangements and legal instruments in SE Pacific and WIO completed
- Review of area-based planning (ABP) tools and their applicability to deep sea ABNJ [UNEP-WCMC; UNEP DEPI] - initial work started

In 2017;

- Finalise for publication: Institutional arrangements and legal instruments in SE Pacific and WIO
- Ongoing — review of area-based planning (ABP) tools and their applicability to deep sea ABNJ
- Synthesis report - Drawing together the findings from the reviews undertaken in Output 4.1.1 Activity 1 and 4.1.2. Activity 1., a synthesis report will be done to suggest appropriate area-based planning approaches in the two pilot regions based upon each regional context, utilizing suitable experiences of area-based planning approaches in ABNJ and applicable area-based planning tools.

Target 77. Three available area-based planning tools are reviewed and developed for applicability to the ABNJ and deep-sea ecosystem planning (by project end).

Progress 10%.

Activity 2: Development of area-based planning tools and technologies for ABNJ application in regional pilot areas.

In 2016:

- Connectivity study of ABNJ and EEZs, a review - Started
- (ii) introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the Western Indian Ocean - published
- (iii) introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the South East Pacific - published

In 2017:

- Complete the above review on connectivity of ABNJ with EEZs
- Identify the relevant data needed for the tool

Output 4.1.2: Knowledge and experiences sharing from the Northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean concerning deep-sea marine ecosystems and area-based planning. (\$379,826)**COMPLETION STATUS: 35% (2 targets, 2 underway)**

Target 78. Four case studies concerning planning processes in the ABNJ, are gathered and analysed (by mid project).

Progress 60%.

Target 79. Four case studies concerning planning processes in the ABNJ, are gathered and analysed and shared in knowledge transfer workshops in the two selected areas of intervention (by project end).

Progress 10%.

Activity 1: Collate and communicate lessons learned and experiences in area-based planning processes to regional policy makers and key regional authorities.

In 2016:

- A review of regional area-based planning (ABP) approaches in ABNJ started [UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with Seascope Consultants Ltd]

In 2017:

- Completion of the review of regional area-based planning (ABP) approaches in ABNJ.

Component 4 - Outcome 4.2: Area-based planning in ABNJ is incorporated into the regional marine planning processes in selected regions through partnerships between competent authorities

Outcome targets:

Target 80. Area-based planning has been discussed in one selected area of intervention, with identified sectoral stakeholders and policy makers (by mid project)

Target 81. Area-based planning has been discussed in two selected areas of intervention, with identified sectoral stakeholders and policy makers (by project end)

Output 4.2.1: Testing of area-based planning tools in the selected regions. (\$592,388)**COMPLETION STATUS: 35% (2 targets, 2 underway)**

Target 82. Area-based planning tools are described and demonstrated in one area of intervention (by mid project).

Progress 60%.

Target 83. Area-based planning tools are described and demonstrated in two areas of intervention (by project end).

Progress 10%.

Activity 1: Regional pilot area engagement, stakeholder analysis, governance and area-based planning capacity assessment.

In 2015:

- CPPS Workshop on Integrated Regional Oceanic Policy, Bogota, Colombia, 28 to 30 October, 2015

In 2016:

- Regional pilot area engagement began with representation in each pilot region to present and discuss the project and Component 4 activities in particular: Nairobi Convention Focal Points Meeting and the IUCN-IDDRI Workshop on Southern Indian Ocean Project, Mauritius (March); Area Based Planning Workshop, Seychelles [Nairobi convention, UNEP-WCMC, with Grid Arendal] (October); CPPS Ocean Governance and Area-Based Planning Workshop, Guayaquil, Ecuador [UNEP-WCMC, with Grid Arendal, and skype presentation from Duke University] (November)
- Stakeholder analysis and capacity assessment – phase 1 undertaken
- CSIRO, in collaboration with CBD, Aus Aid, SPREP, PIFS, is conducted MSP training workshops in the Pacific area – these workshops are designed to be compatible with the EAF framework.

Activity 2: Undertake participatory area-based planning in the pilot regions to test ABNJ area-based planning tools

In 2017:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two regional workshops will be held in the second half of 2017, one in each of the pilot regions (South-East Pacific and Western Indian Ocean). These workshops will be the forum for further developing the methodology and tools for area-based planning in collaboration with the two pilot regions. The workshops are supported by CPPS and the Nairobi Convention. Identify potential areas where the tool may be tested through a regional prioritization process.
Output 4.2.2: Science-based and policy relevant advice on area-based planning and management applied in regional deep-sea ecosystem planning processes in the selected test regions with engagement of relevant stakeholders and through the partnership between competent authorities. (\$292,388)	
COMPLETION STATUS: 0% (2 targets, 2 not started)	
<p>Target 84. Competent authorities, regional experts and policy makers have been engaged in discussions regarding area-based planning in one area of intervention (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p> <p>Target 85. Competent authorities, regional experts and policy makers, are engaged in planning processes in two selected regions and the experience and lessons learned are captured for future capacity building (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Carrying out workshop with policy makers.</u></p> <p>No activities in 2016</p> <p>In 2017:</p> <p>No work planned.</p>
Component 5: Project monitoring and evaluation.	
Component 5 - outcome 5.1: Project implementation conducted with adaptive results-based management, supported by M&E, including transmission of lessons learned via the IW-Learn Program.	
<p>Outcome targets:</p> <p>Target 86. Adaptive results based management system in place and lessons learned shared through IW: Learn and the Common Oceans Portal (by mid project)</p> <p>Target 87. Adaptive results based management system in place and lessons learned shared through IW: Learn and the Common Oceans Portal (by project end)</p>	
Output 5.1.1: Website established which is compatible with IW-Learn program and contributes to ABNJ Program portal. (\$49,562)	
COMPLETION STATUS: 22% (5 targets, 2 underway, 3 not started)	
<p>Target 88. Website set up completed under Common Oceans Portal intervention (by mid project).</p> <p>Progress 100%.</p> <p>Target 89. This website has provided continued and updated information to stakeholders through quarterly updates (by project end).</p> <p>Progress 10%</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Setting-up of website</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Oceans website operation and populated with project documents. This website is being assimilated into the FAO website framework.

<p>Target 90. Two representatives from the pilot regions and 1 project staff supported to participate in one IW Conference (by mid project). Progress 0%..</p> <p>Target 91. Two representatives from the pilot regions and 1 project staff supported to participate for each IW Conference (by project end). Progress 0%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: IW-Learn activities</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions made to ABNJ-Learn by the PMU included: the GEF International Waters Conference in May; the World Ocean Council's Sustainable Ocean Summit in December, and the Annual Large Marine Ecosystem consultation meeting, also in December.
<p>Target 92. Two experience notes prepared and published (by project end). 0% completed</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: IW-Learn activities</u></p>
<p>Output 5.1.2: Project monitoring system operating and systematically providing information on progress in meeting project output and outcome targets. (\$49,562)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 80% (2 targets, 2 underway)</p>	
<p>Target 93. Project specific M&E system set up updates (by mid project). Progress 100%.</p> <p>Target 94. There is a project-specific M&E system set up and fully operational (by project end). Progress 60%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Setting-up of monitoring system</u></p> <p>Inception and First PSC meetings held December 2015</p> <p><u>Activity 2: Operation and maintenance of monitoring system</u></p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical review of the monitoring and evaluation system undertaken. FAO Project task force meeting held in August to review project progress.. The project was loaded into the FAO project monitoring system as an additional monitoring facility.
<p>Output 5.1.3: Timely biannual PPRs available for adaptive results-based management. (\$49,562)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 35% (2 targets, 2 underway)</p>	
<p>Target 95. PPRs have been produced biannually and according to standards (by mid project). Progress 60%.</p> <p>Target 96. PPRs have been produced biannually and according to standards (by project end). Progress 10%.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Preparation of PPRs</u></p> <p>Ongoing — Project Progress Reports produced for:</p> <p>September 2014 to December 2014 / January 2015 to June 2015 / July 2015 to December 2015 / January 2016 to June 2016 / July 2016 to December 2016 in prep.</p> <p>A GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) produced for the period July 2015 to June 2016.</p>
<p>Output 5.1.4: Midterm and terminal evaluation carried out and reports available. (\$49,562)</p> <p>COMPLETION STATUS: 0% (2 targets, 2 not started)</p>	

<p>Target 97. Midterm review completed (by mid project). Progress 0%.</p> <p>Target 98. Midterm and terminal reports have been produced according to schedule and standards (by project end). Progress 0%.</p>	<p>Activity 1: Carrying out of evaluations.</p> <p>In 2016:</p> <p>Upon advice from the lead technical officer, budget holder and the FAOs Office of Evaluation, the mid-term evaluation should commence in Q3-4 2017.</p>
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6. Progress with respect to outcomes (as of December 2016)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Level at December 2016
<p>Objective:</p> <p>To achieve efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for: (i) improving sustainable management practices for DSF, taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems; (ii) improving the protection of VMEs and components of EBSAs; and (iii) testing improved area-based planning tools for deep-sea ecosystems.</p>	<p>Number of national or regional organisations that have made improvements to legal or policy frameworks, management planning and implementation</p> <p>Extent of implementation of comprehensive adaptive management plans based on current best-practices, in accordance with an EAF framework, including protection of biodiversity</p> <p>Improved status of DSF and the resources, biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>Two regions with improved knowledge of area-based planning and which incorporate it into the regional marine planning processes.</p>	<p>Some EAF measures in place in DSF, but low uptake of best practices in many regions</p> <p>Most tools not adequately adapted to address deep-sea issues in the ABNJ.</p>	<p>Current available knowledge on best practices for application of an ecosystem approach, from legal frameworks to planning to implementation and monitoring, identified, synthesized and distributed;</p>	<p>Measurable improvements to legal or policy frameworks, management planning and implementation in the two Deep-sea RFMOs and 50 percent of national institutions in the two pilot areas through uptake and implementation of guidance from the project;</p> <p>Management plans for DSF and biodiversity conservation developed and under implementation in the two pilot areas;</p> <p>Management measures taken to maintain sustainability of key deep-sea stocks and associated (measurable beyond life of the project -Year 10)</p> <p>Two regions have begun implementation and testing of area-based planning tools</p>	<p>The completed review and stepwise guide to international and policy instruments related to deep sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ will be the basis for a training programme to be implemented to assist national and regional organisations strengthen legal and policy frameworks, management planning and implementation.</p> <p>A range of reviews and studies has been implemented to improve the knowledgebase relating to the EAF elements and identify best practices in support of strengthening adaptive management in deep sea fisheries in the ABNJ.</p> <p>While detecting positive changes in the deep sea fishstocks, biodiversity and ecosystems over the duration of the project is not biologically realistic, the project can be expected to contribute to the improved capacities of RFMOs and their members to manage deep sea fisheries and its impacts on biodiversity in the ABNJ.</p> <p>The reviews, studies and preparations intended to underpin area-based planning activities in the south east Pacific Ocean and Western Indian Ocean areas have advanced well.</p>
<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>1.1. Improved implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks, incorporating obligations and good practices from global</p>	<p>Number of national and regional organizations that implement the policy and legal instruments to DSF and biodiversity conservation on the basis of the project activities.</p>	<p>Limited awareness, tools and legal capacities to implement obligations and best practices from particular global and regional legal and policy instruments.</p>	<p>Five national and regional organizations in at least one region have benefitted from implementation tools and related training to implement legal and policy</p>	<p>Total of ten national and regional organizations in two regions implement the policy and legal instruments to DSF and biodiversity conservation on the basis of the guide</p>	<p>Training tools are being developed and recipients of training are being identified.</p> <p>Guidelines for catch documentations schemes to improve traceability of fishery products in preparation.</p>

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Level at December 2016
and regional legal and policy instruments for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation, are tested and disseminated to all competent authorities			instruments related to DSF and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ.		The indicator for this outcome has challenges. Getting States to update policy and legal instruments is likely to be beyond the influence of the project. However, all efforts will be made to encourage countries to consider such actions.
1.2. Global and regional networks are strengthened and/or expanded.	Extent to which network groups are used and contribute to cross-community and cross-regional dialogue.	Networks are largely sector oriented. At the regional level, there is a lack of coordination among various ongoing activities relevant for DSF and biodiversity in ABNJ.	One to two targeted networks of relevant stakeholders are actively used and contributes to cross "community" dialogues and cross-regional connections.	At least four targeted networks of relevant stakeholders are actively used and contributes to cross "community" dialogues and cross regional connections.	Fishing industry meetings have been convened under the auspices of the project. RFMO's, CBD and Regional Seas actively contributing to the project. The Project is contributing information to international dialogues (e.g. BBNJ and the UNGA Bottom fisheries review).
Outcome 2: 2.1. Improved application of management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity is demonstrated.	Number of new protocols and tools for identification and mitigation of potential threats to biodiversity, developed and applied in the pilot regions. Extent of uptake of these tools in protocols in other regions.	Limited availability of deep-sea specific protocols and tools	At least two new protocols and tools developed for identification and mitigation of potential threats to biodiversity, in the two pilot regions.	At least four new protocols and tools developed and applied to DSF for identification and mitigation of potential threats to biodiversity, in the two pilot regions. Uptake of these protocols and tools will take place, as appropriate and possible, in other regions.	Considerable work undertaken by a range of partners to consolidate and share relevant datasets, and analyse these using EBSA protocols. VME processes and practices have been described and will be available to RFMOs late 2016. The VME database and portal and EBSA database continue to develop. Tools for the identification of deep sea species have been developed. Review activities have been implemented in order to inform management bodies on a range of matters related to sustainable DSF and biodiversity.
2.2. The capacities of stakeholders are developed, to use improved management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity. (This will include support to countries in the pilot areas and others)	Extent of application of improved management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in national processes.	National capacities to address DSF and biodiversity insufficient in many countries.	At least two regions benefited from training activities	Ten countries apply improved management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in national processes	Capacity development started at national and regional levels; including the application of EBSA criteria (3 regional workshops); VME awareness and training (4 events).

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Level at December 2016
Outcome 3. 3.1. Planning and management processes for achieving sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation are improved, tested, and disseminated to all competent authorities.	Number of national and regional organizations that have planning and management processes consistent with EAF for achieving sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation	EAF only partially considered in planning and management processes for DSF of national and regional organizations. Processes varies considerable from region to region, but even in those areas where practices are most advanced improvements are required, particularly but not only in relation to implementation of EAF.	Best practices for sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation analysed and information on status of selected deep-sea stocks synthesized	Adaptive approaches to management planning and implementation under EAF, including MCS, developed and applied to DSF in at 3 national or regional organisations.	Best practices for sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation analysed and information on status of alfonso completed; similar work on orange roughy started.
Outcome 4. 4.1. Efficient area-based planning tools and good practices based on ecosystem-based management practices are made available to competent authorities.	The number of RSPs and other regional competent authorities that have had access to previous experiences with area-based planning in the ABNJ. The number of RSPs that are developing relevant and applicable area-based planning tools	Regional application of area-based planning exists in a variety of contexts but the enabling factors need to be highlighted to determine their applicability to other regions. Existing area-based planning tools are specific to EEZs and have not been developed and tested in deep-sea ecosystem or ABNJ contexts.	Existing ABNJ approaches are shared with three RSPs, other than project areas of intervention. Two selected project areas of intervention are engaged in developing area-based planning tools	Existing ABNJ approaches are shared with RSP coordination group, to reach all eighteen RSPs, and related, relevant competent authorities. Two selected project areas of intervention have developed and tested area-based planning tools within a planning process.	Work has started to support the achievement of this outcome; including, gathering of experiences in ABNJ and consideration of the governance frameworks in the two areas of intervention. Opportunities for reaching out to all eighteen RSPs are being explored. Knowledge sharing activities will be undertaken as part of the two workshops planned for 2017 listed in 4.2.

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Level at December 2016
4.2. Area-based planning in ABNJ is incorporated into the regional marine planning processes in selected regions through partnerships between competent authorities.	The number of RSPs where planning processes discussing ABNJ area management are organized and attended.	ABNJ planning has been undertaken in a few regions where clear mandates exist. There is high resource capacity, but very rarely in other regions with different governance structures or lower capacity. Capacity for using area-based planning tools has not been developed.	Area-based planning has been discussed in one selected area of intervention, with identified sectoral stakeholders and policy makers,	Area-based planning has been discussed in two selected areas of intervention, with identified sectoral stakeholders and policy makers,	Work has started to support the achievement of this outcome; workshops were undertaken in the second half of 2016 in order to start these discussions and undertake a capacity assessment for area based planning in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Further workshops are planned for 2017 to validate the capacity assessments and undertake targeted capacity development activities in partnership with the two regional seas organisations.
5.1 Project implementation conducted with adaptive results-based management, supported by M&E, including transmission of lessons learned via the IW-Learn Program	Adaptive results based management system in place and lessons learned shared through the IW-Learn Program.	No system in place	Adaptive results based management system in place and lessons learned shared through IW: Learn and the Common Oceans Portal	Adaptive results based management system in place and lessons learned shared through IW: Learn and the Common Oceans Portal	The Project is being monitored within the FAO project management database. The LogFrame is being constantly tested as project activities are planned and implemented. The project is in its formative stage with limited material to share with IW learn at this stage.

Appendix 1. Project management unit* events diary 2016

* Those of the Coordinator (FAO) and the Area-based planning specialist (UNEP-WCMC)

January	
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February	
16	CBD-FAO workshop on Aichi Target 6 — Rome, Italy
22-24	Project participation in the CBD EBSA review workshop — Berlin, Germany
24	Project presented at the GOBI Annual meeting — Berlin, Germany
March	
2-4	Meeting of deep sea fishing industry representatives — Rome, Italy.
21-24	Project presented at the SIOFA Scientific Committee meeting — Fremantle, Australia.
23 – 25	Nairobi Convention Focal Points Meeting and the IUCN-IDDRI Workshop on Southern Indian Ocean Project – Mauritius.
April	
14-16	Project presented at the NPFC Small Scientific Committee meeting on VMEs — Tokyo, Japan
25-27	Review of ABNJ Deep seas Project logframe and theory of change — Rome , Italy
May	
3-5	Workshop of regional deep seas fisheries management bodies in support of the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas — Rome, Italy
10-12	GEF International Waters Conference — Colombo, Sri Lanka
19-21	Capacity Development to Improve the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Needs, Experiences, Options, and Opportunities— Grenada
31	Meeting with IUCN on project matters
June	
7-9	Workshop on the biology and assessment of orange roughy — Auckland, New Zealand.
23-24	Project participation in the EU Expert Seminar on Maritime Spatial Planning – Azores, Portugal
July	
-	
August	
11	Meeting of the FAO Project Task Force, Rome, Italy.
16-18	PMU monitoring and evaluation exercise
September	
26-28	Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD, FAO, UNEP) — Seoul, Republic of Korea.
30 -01 Nov	18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plan – Incheon, Republic of Korea
October	
10-14	Project presented at the SEAFO Scientific Committee meeting — Windhoek, Namibia.
13 - 14	Area-based planning workshop (Western Indian Ocean) – hosted by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Mahe, Seychelles.
17-21	Project presented at the CCAMLR Scientific Committee meeting — Hobart, Australia.
November	
7-8	Area-based planning workshop (South-East Pacific)) – hosted by CPPS, Guayaquil, Ecuador.
9	Meeting with SIOFA Executive Secretary to discuss project implementation
December	
2	Participated in the World Ocean Council Sustainable Ocean Summit — Rotterdam, Netherlands
7-8	Participated in the 18 th Annual consultative meeting on large marine ecosystems and coastal partners – presenting on fisheries governance in LMEs and ABNJ — Paris, France.

Appendix 2. Reports

5.1. (i) Project reports

2015	
Record of the meeting with deep sea fishing industry representatives, 6 October 2015, Vigo, Spain. ABNJ_DSP-2015-Doc-01 (Industry meeting)	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6541e.pdf
Report of the Inception & first Project Steering Committee meetings, 15–16 December 2015, Rome, Italy. ABNJ_DSP-2015-Doc-02 (Inception & PSC Report)	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6715e.pdf
Progress report and presentation to CCAMLR, NAFO, NPFC, SEAFO, SPRFMO	Available on request
Internal Progress Report: July-December 2014	FPMIS
Internal Progress Report: January-June 2015	FPMIS
2016	
Record of the deep seas fishing industry meeting, 2-4 March 2016, Rome, Italy. ABNJ_DSP-2016-Doc-01 (Industry meeting).	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6680e.pdf
Record of the workshop of regional deep seas fisheries management bodies in support of the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas, 3-5 May 2016, Rome, Italy. ABNJ_DSP-2016-Doc-02 (WWR WS Report)	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6341e.pdf
Record of the meeting of the deep sea fisheries secretariats contact group, 12 July 2016, Rome, Italy. ABNJ_DSP-2016-Doc-03 (SCG meeting).	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6654e.pdf
International commitments relating to biodiversity in sustainable deep-sea fishing in the ABNJ (Communications material)	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6062e.pdf
ABNJ Deep Seas Project (Communications material)	5.2. http://www.fao.org/3/a-co202e.pdf
GOBI partners support the ABNJ Deep Seas Project (Communications material)	5.3. http://gobi.org/news/gobi-newsletters/GOBI_newsletter_Apr2016_low-res.pdf/view
ABNJ Deep Seas Project fishing for sustainability (Communications material)	5.4. http://www.fao.org/3/a-c0022e.pdf
Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems in ABNJ (Communications material)	5.5. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5500e.pdf
Weatherdon LV, Martin JCG, Fletcher R, Martin CS, Blyth S, Fletcher S (2016). Introduction to marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the Western Indian Ocean. Cambridge (UK): UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre. 17 pp. (+ 3 annexes)	5.6. http://wcmc.io/WIOdata
Weatherdon LV, Martin JCG, Fletcher R, Martin CS, Blyth S, Fletcher S (2016). Introduction to marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the South East Pacific. Cambridge (UK): UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre. 17 pp. (+ 3 annexes)	5.7. http://wcmc.io/SEPdata
Progress report and presentation to CCAMLR, NAFO, NEAFC(report only), NPFC, SEAFO, SIOFA, SPRFMO (report only)	Available on request
Internal Progress Report: July-December 2015	FPMIS

Internal Progress Report: January-June 2016	FPMIS
GEF Progress Report (PIR): July 2015 to June 2016	FPMIS
<i>A review of the international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ</i>	<i>In advanced publishing process</i>

5.8. (ii) Partners reports

2015	
Expert Consultation on Establishing Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes to Improve the Traceability of Fishery Products held in July 2015	www.fao.org/3/a-i5063e.pdf
The GEF/FAO/GOF workshop report on “Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)” (organized at FAO, Rome, February 17-20, 2015). This workshop identified the further development of capacity to better manage ABNJ areas, including through the application of integrated and ecosystem-based management approaches to area-based planning, as an essential imperative.	GOF
CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Seas of East Asia, and Training Session on EBSAs (13-18 December, China)	https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2015-03
CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas, and Training Session on EBSAs (19-25 April, United Arab Emirates)	https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2015-02
CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the North-East Indian Ocean region, and Training Session on EBSAs (22-27 March, Sri Lanka)	https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2015-01
2016	
FAO workshop on national and regional good practices in seafood traceability systems to combat IUU fishing in Asia.	tba
GOF: workshop on ‘Capacity Development to Improve the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Needs, Experiences, Options, and Opportunities’ 18-21 May 2016, St. George's, Grenada	GOF
Report of the expert meeting to share experiences and lessons learned on the scientific methodologies and approaches for the descriptions of EBSAs. Convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, 22-24 February 2016, Berlin, Germany	On request

5.9. FAO: Workshop held on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Mediterranean in collaboration with GFCM	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6685e.pdf
5.10. FAO: Training on the identification of deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the south eastern Pacific Ocean. 11 countries, November 2016.	5.11. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5514e.pdf
Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems: Processes and Practices in the High Seas	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5952e.pdf
Best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments workshop report	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6452e.pdf
FAO. 2016. Marine species biological data collection manual. An illustrated manual for collecting biological data at sea. vi + 53 pp	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6353e.pdf
FAO. 2016. Global review of alfonso (Beryx spp.), their fisheries, biology and management, by Ross Shotton. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1084. Rome, Italy	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5336e.pdf
GRID Arendal: Published global classification of seamount morphology in Ocean Solutions, Earth Solutions second edition (2016) Editor Dawn Wright (ESRI press)	http://esripress.esri.com/display/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=295&moduleID=0
Report on the outcome of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 26 to 28 September 2016	CBD
UN Environment: Scoping Meeting on Collaboration between Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies In Southwest Indian Ocean Mahé, Seychelles, 13-14 June 2016	http://web.unep.org/regionalseas/sites/unep.org.regionalseas/files/documents/UNEP_SWIO_SM1_4_ReportMeeting.pdf

Appendix 5 2017 work plan

This document was prepared by the Coordinator following inputs and guidance from the Project Steering Committee in February 2017. The underlined activities listed below are those prescribed in the project document. The actions preceded by a dot are the detailed activities to be undertaken in 2017.

Component 1: Policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas.**Component 1 - Outcome 1.1: Improved implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks, incorporating obligations and good practices from global and regional legal and policy instruments for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation, are tested and disseminated to all competent authorities**

Target 6. Five national and regional organizations in at least one region have benefitted from implementation tools and related training to implement legal and policy instruments related to DSF and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ (by mid project)

Target 7. Total of ten national and regional organizations in two regions implement the policy and legal instruments to DSF and biodiversity conservation on the basis of the guide (by project end).

Output 1.1.1: Challenges to the implementation of international policy and legal instruments identified and remedial measures are formulated.

Target 8. Challenges to the implementation of all relevant international policy and legal instruments identified and fully documented (by mid project).

Activity 1: Analysis of challenges and best practices in the implementation of policy and legal instruments and processes as well as of relevant institutions involved, relating to DSF management and biodiversity in the ABNJ.

Completed.

Activity 2: Carrying out of an e-review to solicit input in the analysis prepared under Activity 1.1.1.1

Completed.

Output 1.1.2: Step-wise guide for implementation of relevant international policy and legal instruments to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation made available to competent authorities, industry partners and other stakeholders.

Target 9. Agreed step-wise implementation guide made available to national and regional organizations globally. Associated training is provided in Southeast Pacific region.

Activity 1: Design and production of the step-wise guide.

- The stepwise guide will be formatted for training purposes and key elements developed into training materials [led by University Strathclyde, FAO-Legal, and IMA international, Coordinated through the PMU].

Activity 2: Training in the use of the step-wise guide

Target 10. Five national and regional organizations in at least the South-East Pacific region have the demonstrable capacity to implement legal and policy instruments related to DSF and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ, making use of the implementation tools and related training.

- Develop a procedure for the announcement of the regional workshop/s and the selection of participating countries (alert RFMO Secretariats); hold regional workshop(s) in collaboration with SEAFO and SIOFA², inviting multiple agencies; the workshop aims to: increase understanding on international obligations / develop a template for meeting regional and international obligations in SEAFO and SIOFA areas, respectively / use the guide to identify gaps and where support might be provided to each country / identify someone in each country to lead national activities [led by University Strathclyde and FAO-Legal, Coordinated through the PMU].

² In accordance with paragraph 44 of the 2017 PSC report this includes: contracting parties, cooperating non contracting parties, signatories (yet to ratify) and coastal states with waters under national jurisdictions that are adjacent to the ABNJ

Output 1.1.3: Model policy and legal frameworks, enabling sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation at the regional and national levels, developed and integrated into national legislation in countries in at least one region.	
<p><i>Target 11. National model policy and legal framework, providing practical guidance on implementation of relevant instruments completed for at least one region.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Development of a national model policy and legal framework for at least one selected pilot region</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following on from the regional workshop described above, and the selection of participating countries (from the SIOFA and SEAFO regions), hold National, multi-agency workshops: to increase understanding on international and regional obligations and to determine the possible nature and extent of national assistance e.g. ranging from assistance to develop new legislation, undertaking selected amendments, developing regulations, or providing advice. Cook Islands, Namibia, Angola, South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles have indicated their interest in this activity [led by University Strathclyde and FAO-Legal, Coordinated through the PMU in collaboration with SEAFO and SIOFA].. <p><u>Activity 2: Carrying out of a stakeholder consultation in at least one pilot region</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017/18. following on from above <p><u>Activity 3: Preparation and implementation of a legal capacity building program in the selected pilot region</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017/18. following on from above
<p><i>Target 12. At least three countries update national legislation enabling sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 4: Revision of the national legislations of selected developing countries³ in the pilot region, with regards to DSF and biodiversity.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work on this activity in 2017. And any future work will depend on level of assistance sought by each country in activities 1-3.
Output 1.1.4: Options for market-based incentives developed and tested in at least one selected pilot area.	
<p><i>Target 13. Global best practices on market based incentives (including ecolabelling and PES schemes) and agreed operational manual completed for utilization of traceability schemes ; both made available to countries and deep-sea RFMOs.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Best practices in market-based incentives for DSF.</u></p> <p><u>Activity 2: Production of operational manual of best practices and utilization of traceability.</u></p> <p><u>Activity 3: Implementation of a model outline for catch/trade documentation or traceability scheme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a comprehensive supply chain map that covers all essential supply chain; assess the feasibility, the acceptability and the potential of eco-labelling and payment for environmental services in deep sea fisheries from an incentive and compliance perspective, and how such approaches could complement and contribute to a CDS agenda; develop a deep sea fisheries CDS strategy; assess the effectiveness and relevance of existing CDS schemes from a deep sea fisheries perspective, develop a blueprint for a comprehensive deep sea fisheries CDS strategy; prepare a draft "CDS Options for Deep Sea Fisheries" paper; hold a regional workshop to review the results of the work, propose a draft CDS model scheme, and identify what would need to be put in place in order implement the scheme,

³In accordance with paragraph 44 of the 2017 PSC report this includes: contracting parties, cooperating non contracting parties, signatories (yet to ratify) and coastal states with waters under national jurisdictions that are adjacent to the ABNJ

	<p>including capacity development. [Consultant Mr Gilles Hosch working with RFMOs and CCAMLR, industry representatives, coordination by the PMU]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is also collaborating with FAO on preparation of a good practice guideline on national seafood traceability systems, and related training materials to be used in a regional workshop on National and regional good practices in seafood traceability systems to combat IUU fishing in Africa [FAO, including SEAFO and SIOFA countries].
<p><i>Target 14. Two countries or regional organizations make use of at least one market-based mechanisms for DSF.</i></p>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed to achieve this target in the project document.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work on this target in 2017.
<p>Component 1 - Outcome 1.2: Global and regional networks are strengthened and/or expanded.</p> <p>Target 15. One to two targeted networks of relevant stakeholders are actively used and contributes to cross “community” dialogues and cross- regional connections (by mid project).</p> <p>Target 16. At least four targeted networks of relevant stakeholders are actively used and contributes to cross “community” dialogues and cross regional connections (by project end)</p>	
<p>Output 1.2.1: Collaborative networks and partnerships, including all stakeholders involved in ABNJ-DSF and biodiversity conservation, strengthened or set-up, with links to global and regional communities of practice under the ABNJ Program.</p>	
<p><i>Target 17. One electronic network related to VMEs and EBSAs strengthened by providing links to communities of practice.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Strengthening of global and regional networks related to DSF and associated biodiversity.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing: Both the respective VME and EBSA websites are promoted by FAO and CBD to ‘communities of practice’ to the extent that VME and EBSA practitioners, and participants in multiple VME and EBSA workshops constitute a community of practice [FAO, CBD].
<p><i>Target 18. Two channels established for sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned on all aspects related to DSF and its associated biodiversity.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Strengthening of global and regional networks related to DSF and associated biodiversity.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing: D-Groups email discussions and circulation of topical material; and the Common Oceans website (www.commonoceans.org) [PMU]
<p><i>Target 19. Five global and regional networks, both cross-sectoral and sectoral have been put into place and ensure that stakeholders have a tool for intra and cross-sectoral dialogue and exchange of best practices.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Carrying out of two global stakeholder meetings for DSF and biodiversity communities.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The February 2017 PSC meeting [PMU, PSC]. Undertake planning for Busan II meeting to review of the implementation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas — and identify challenges and ways forward. The first meeting was held in Busan in 2010 and reviewed the issues encountered by RFMOs and States in implementing the guidelines. The second meeting will review the challenges 8 years on. The timing of this meeting will be such that the results of several project reviews can also be considered and it can feed into the 2020 UNGA review on bottom fisheries (PMU). Possible location: Republic of Korea, back to back with the 2nd SOI workshop [PMU, CBD].
<p><i>Target 20. Some gender disaggregated data made available.</i></p>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed in the project document to achieve this target.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed. A further gender assessment as part of activity 2.1.1.2

Target 21. Increased percentage of women contributing to Global and regional networks.	<p>There are no activities prescribed in the project document to achieve this target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work on this target in 2017. Note, the achievement of this target is above the accountability ceiling of the project
Component 2: Reducing adverse impact on VMEs and enhancing conservation of components of EBSAs.	
Component 2 - Outcome 2.1: Improved application of management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity is demonstrated	
Target 22. At least two new protocols and tools developed for identification and mitigation of potential threats to biodiversity, in the two pilot regions (by mid project)	
Target 23. At least four new protocols and tools developed and applied to DSF for identification and mitigation of potential threats to biodiversity, in the two pilot regions (by project end) — uptake of these protocols and tools will take place, as appropriate and possible, in other regions	
Output 2.1.1: Biological, ecological and economic analyses of DSF and associated biodiversity in the ABNJ carried out, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to classify risks and threats and identify VMEs.	
<p>Target 24. Datasets identified and compiled (by mid project).</p> <p>Target 25. Analysis of datasets completed and made available for at least two regions, to be identified based on availability of data.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Collation and consolidation of existing biological and ecological information on DSF and associated biodiversity</u></p> <p>Ongoing, CSIRO, Duke University, GOBI, GRID Arendal, WCMC and FAO have been collecting and consolidating existing biological and ecological information on DSF and associated biodiversity data as part of their normal activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duke University: development of a global Marine Migratory Connectivity Database focused initially on ABNJ GRID-Arendal: Developing a tool to assess representation of seafloor geomorphic features in managed areas as part of EU H2020 BlueBRIDGE Project. GRID Arendal: Application to report on features in MPAs and VREs in high seas Support to the above initiatives on a case by case basis [PMU]. <p><u>Activity 2: Consolidation and analysis of existing socio-economic information on DSF and associated biodiversity.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing - the ecosystems services valuation [PMU]. Decent work study to characterise the labour issues and work force involved with deep sea fishing in the ABNJ, including interviews and consultations with relevant stakeholders and experts. Including an assessment of existing decent work practices in the deep-sea fishing industry and associated supply chains against the four pillars of ILO's decent work agenda and ILO's fundamental principles and rights at work. Recommendations for possible follow up work [PMU and FAO]. Value chain analysis on selected species (to follow from the supply chain analysis being undertaken as part of the market-based incentives work under output 1.1.4) [PMU].
<p>Target 26. Analysis of risks and threats of significant impacts for major fishing gears on biodiversity in one DSF RFMO.</p> <p>Target 27. Risks and threats of significant impacts for major</p>	<p><u>Activity 3: Assessment of potential interactions between DSF and biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing: work in support of the assessment of bottom fishing impacts on VMEs is undertaken by CCAMLR, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC, SEAFO, SIOFA and SPRFMO. Examination of the consequences of climate change for VMEs. In collaboration with the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI) Climate Change working group. Review and expert workshop [PMU].

<i>fishing gears on biodiversity in one additional DSF RFMO area; Analysis made available to other RFMOs for possible future upscaling.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pot fisheries workshop (this could look at impacts of pot fishing on biodiversity) [PMU and experts in collaboration with SEAFO] – see also target 58 • Possible support to the development of the ecosystem risk assessment tool currently being developed by the Government of Australia and the SIOFA Scientific Committee. The support is envisaged to include: supporting a workshop of shark experts to complete data entry; development of the ERA tool to include sources of fishing mortality other than gillnets; development of the tool to other species; promulgation of the tool to other regional bodies with a mandate to manage deep sea fisheries — Note this opportunity arose after the PSC meeting deliberations on the work plan.
<i>Target 28. Updated understanding on DSF through the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas produced in collaboration with Deep-sea RFMOs.</i>	<p><u>Activity 4: Updating of the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing — finalization of the world wide review — including a final review by DSF Secretariats [PMU].
<i>Target 29. Best practices for identification of VMEs prepared based on experiences within Deep-sea RFMOs.</i>	<p><u>Activity 5: Report on best practices for identification of VMEs.</u></p> <p>Completed.</p>
<i>Target 30. Improved EBSA descriptions developed in collaboration with the CBD.</i>	<p><u>Activity 6: Production of a manual for the collection and analyses of data to improve EBSA descriptions.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBSA workshops and fine tuning of EBSA processes and descriptions ongoing. Including improving application of EBSA criteria, better use of the guidelines given the experience gained so far; an EBSA symposium; and a workshop to set up a CBD process to modify existing EBSAs [CBD and partners].
Output 2.1.2: Interactive web databases, for identification and use in mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in ABNJ, particularly for VMEs and components of EBSAs, improved for use in regions in close collaboration with all stakeholders.	
<p><i>Target 31. Sharing mechanism operational.</i></p> <p><i>Target 32. Sources of information identified; metadata descriptions made and open-source, portal developed that allows access to existing datasets or to sources of datasets. New information being added to databases and available through the portal.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Sharing of geospatial information on DSF and associated biodiversity.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the websites of relevant data holders and list the sources and types of information available , including data collected by industry [PMU].

<i>Target 33. 80% of deep-sea RFMO/As contribute information to VME database.</i>	<u>Activity 2: Development of specialised applications for and interactive VME database</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing activity — the VME database and portal is updated annually [PMU with deep sea fisheries management bodies].
<i>Target 34. All RFMO/As actively supporting and using VME database. Additional functionality on research areas, survey data, networking and support for operational.</i>	<u>Activity 2: Development of specialised applications for and interactive VME database</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible development of a tool for industry providing VME coordinates, fine scale maps, fishing footprints and other information [PMU, SIODFA]
<i>Target 35. Beta versions of regional databases available for two regions.</i>	<u>Activity 3: Develop a regional EBSA information sharing platform in support of EBSA Global Repository</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSIRO: ongoing collection of global and regional data sets for the Indian and Pacific Oceans (to be displayed on geoserver and msp.csiro.au) CSIRO: holding 2 workshops (Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean). These will gather the relevant experts and national stakeholders together to develop a draft bioregionalisation. Further workshops will be held in 2019 for both areas to finalise the work
<i>Target 36. At least one regional “EBSA” database developed or expanded in one region to support the global CBD/EBSA process.</i>	<u>Activity 3: Develop a regional EBSA information sharing platform in support of EBSA Global Repository</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the global EBSA database [CBD and partners]
Output 2.1.3: Indicators for the identification of potential VMEs and for description of areas meeting EBSA criteria, developed in at least one pilot area.	
<i>Target 37. Global review of VME indicators completed.</i>	<u>Activity 1: Review and develop VME indicators in pilot areas (Southeast Atlantic and and/or Indian Ocean).</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPFC has indicated some interest in a workshop for members to pool their VME data and undertake combined analysis with a view to making the best use of available data in support of the technical advice on VME thresholds and encounter protocols [to be confirmed after NPFC SC and Commission meetings and PMU] Compile a list of indicator species from RFMO and CCAMLR websites and make this available on the VME website [PMU].
<i>Target 38. VME indicators implemented and tested at-sea in one pilot area.</i>	<u>Activity 3: Development of appropriate monitoring methods and tools for VME indicators in pilot areas.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In collaboration with the Cook Islands (Ministry of Marine resources), examine the technical aspects of whether VME encounters can be observed satisfactorily using an onboard camera monitoring system i.e. verification of VME encounters, and (some level of) identification and quantification of VMEs [Cook Islands and PMU]. Match the RV. Fridtjof Nansen survey data from the SEAFO region with VME encounters reported by SEAFO vessels to investigate the predictive nature of the survey data for VME encounters [SEAFO and PMU].

Target 39. EBSA global review completed.	<p><u>Activity 2: Use of EBSA information for enhancing conservation and management measures in pilot areas.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the status of marine biodiversity in EBSAs — Decision XIII/12 on EBSAs [CBD and partners] • Planning for an EBSA Scientific symposium in conjunction with World Congress on Marine Biodiversity 2018 (Montreal, 13-16 May 2018) [CBD]
Target 40. At least one deep-sea RFMOs/As and/or regional organization consider information from EBSA process.	<p><u>Activity 2: Use of EBSA information for enhancing conservation and management measures in pilot areas.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a survey to determine the nature and extent of the use of EBSA information by deep sea fisheries management bodies [CBD]. • Workshops to share experiences on the application of management measures in EBSAs [CBD]
Output 2.1.4: Improved fishing practices to reduce impacts on VMEs and marine biodiversity, developed in at least one pilot area.	
<p>Target 41. One formal partnership established in one pilot area which leads to for improved collection and recording of biodiversity information.</p> <p>Target 42. At least two partnerships that allow for a more diverse range of information collection and tool development for recording biodiversity and possible impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Establishment of partnerships and tools for recording biodiversity information.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for a technical workshop on the use of ocean observing methods for ecosystem characterization [FAO-EAF Nansen] • IUCN Southern Indian Ocean seamount research survey - April/May 2017 [IUCN] • As part of it current seamounts project, IUCN will be examining the connectivity of EEZs and the ABNJ. The first step is to develop models to examine connectivity using larvae, then to test the models with data collected the survey [IUCN]. • Possible - IUCN leading capacity development workshops involving countries in the south west Indian Ocean area (or wider) to work collectively on the data collected to analyse connectivity between EEZs and ABNJ, and perhaps strengthen understanding of how such knowledge can be used in national and regional management processes [IUCN].
<p>Target 43. Review of regional fisheries management measures on Biodiversity conservation completed for two regions.</p> <p>Target 44. Review of regional fisheries management measures on Biodiversity conservation completed for all regions.</p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Review of regional fisheries management measures on biodiversity conservation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of report on management measures for the conservation and management of biodiversity conservation (binding and non-binding) and an overview of management measures of relevance to biodiversity conservation [PMU].

Target 45. Two tools for testing agreed to and implementation plans for their testing developed.	<p>There are no activities prescribed to achieve this target in the project document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road-testing the SmartForms application [PMU-FAO]
Target 46. Management measures to reduce key known and important negative impacts by DSF are tested at sea in at least one pilot area.	<p>Activity 3: Testing of new techniques for mitigating adverse impacts from DSF on ecosystems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operationalising the recording and mapping bottom habitats using video. Testing of the camera sensitivity and control of settings in different waters to ensure reliable identification of habitat (remote tuning of cameras has proved problematic and very time consuming). Testing of the ability to monitor fishing net from the bridge, and reaction time to be able to avoid impacts [SEALORD-PMU]. Establishing the target strength of 40-60 cm ORH through acoustic optical system (AOC) calibrated measurements including laser controlled measurement of target fish length and orientation [SEALORD-PMU]. Determining acoustic frequency response curves over 38-120 kHz for broadband acoustic CHIRP echosounders for orange roughy, alfonsino, oreo dory, cardinal fish [SEALORD-PMU].
<p>Component 2 - Outcome 2.2: Extent of application of improved management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in national processes</p> <p>Target 47. At least two regions benefited from training activities (by mid project)</p> <p>Target 48. Ten countries apply improved management tools for mitigation of threats to sustainable DSF and biodiversity in national processes (by project end)</p> <p>Output 2.2.1: Customized support provided to at least ten developing countries to fully integrate best practices for sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation in their management processes.</p>	
Target 49. Capacity development program to integrate best practices for sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation agreed.	<p>Activity 1: Formulation of capacity development programs for integrating sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation into national management processes and for supporting their implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity development needs have been identified from a range of sources and capacity development activities have been undertaken in a range of topics: Taxonomy / deep sea species identification; ocean governance; VMEs; traceability; EBSAs; international obligations. See below [PMU].
Target 50. Participants from ten developing countries have received training in the use of improved management tools.	<p>Activity 2: Support to enhance participation of developing countries⁴ in DSF and conservation processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From output 1.1.2 above: regional and national trainings on international obligations [in collaboration with CPPS, SEAFO and SIOFA]. From output 1.1.4 above: the project is collaborating with FAO on preparation of a good practice guideline on national seafood traceability systems, and related training materials to be used in a regional workshop on National and regional good practices in seafood traceability systems to combat IUU fishing in Africa [in collaboration with SEAFO and SIOFA]. Possible support to fish aging initiatives [Sealord Group]

⁴In accordance with paragraph 44 of the 2017 PSC report this includes: contracting parties, cooperating non contracting parties, signatories (yet to ratify) and coastal states with waters under national jurisdictions that are adjacent to the ABNJ

Output 2.2.2: Technical and operational support on the application of VME and EBSA criteria provided, for systematic use by countries.	
<i>Target 51. Needs assessment conducted and training material developed, used and disseminated through IW: Learn.</i>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed to achieve this target in the project document</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by the Coordinator to IW Learn International Waters Science Symposium (location and place to be advised) [PMU]. • Presentation made by the Coordinator to the annual IW Learn LME forum (location and place to be advised) [PMU].
<i>Target 52. At least 10 national or regional organizations able to apply VME and EBSA criteria.</i>	<p><u>Activity 1: Carrying out of customized training workshops on the application of VME and EBSA criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible workshop on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the central east Atlantic in collaboration with CECAF. Date to be advised [FAO].
Component 3: Improved planning and adaptive management for deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ.	
Component 3 - Outcome 3.1: Planning and management processes for achieving sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation are improved, tested, and disseminated to all competent authorities	
Target 53. Best practices for sustainable DSF management and biodiversity conservation analysed and information on status of selected deep-sea stocks synthesized (by mid project)	
Target 54. Adaptive approaches to management planning and implementation under EAF, including MCS, developed and applied to DSF in at 3 national or regional organisations (by project end)	
Output 3.1.1: Best practices, methods and tools for comprehensive management planning, encompassing an ecosystem approach and allowing for adaptive changes, reviewed and adapted to the special conditions of ABNJ-DSF.	
<i>Target 55. Agreed operational manual for improved DSF and biodiversity conservation made available to countries and Deep-sea RFMOs.</i>	<p><u>Activity 1: (global) Analysis of best practices for DSF and development of an operational manual for improved planning and management for DSF.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, the operational manual is anticipated to be a collation of material collected and developed over the course of the project. • Training materials and a manual – which will integrate manuals from other RFMOs and CCAMLR) to be made available for other SIOFA countries, from Cook Island Training programme [Cook Islands-PMU]. • Possibly examine the commonalities and differences of observer reports for deep sea fisheries. A manual for deep-sea observers [PMU in collaboration with SIOFA / Cook Islands]
<i>Target 56. Five national and regional organizations make use of the operational manual for DSF and biodiversity conservation in their planning and management processes.</i>	<p><u>Activity 1: (global) Analysis of best practices for DSF and development of an operational manual for improved planning and management for DSF.</u></p> <p>Note, the achievement of this target is above the accountability ceiling of the project, but the materials will be promoted to national and regional bodies.</p>
<i>Target 57. Improved information on at least one deep-sea fish stocks made available to</i>	<p><u>Activity 2: (global) Improving knowledge on key deep-sea species and on methodologies and technologies for studying and assessing them.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop to review the methodological approach and uncertainties associated with the use of acoustics data in the assessment of orange roughy in the Southern Indian Ocean, January [PMU and experts].

<p><i>national and regional organisations.</i></p> <p><i>Target 58. Improved information on at least two deep-sea fish stocks made available to national and regional organizations.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible expert review of the biology and assessment of Pacific armourhead on collaboration with NPFC [PMU and NPFC]. • Ongoing – collaboration with the SponGES project [PMU and FAO]. • Examination of the effects of climate change on VMEs in collaboration with the DOSI climate change working group (review and workshop [PMU]. • Pot fisheries workshop [in collaboration with SEAFO] • Support to a workshop on the assessment of orange roughy in the SEAFO region [in collaboration with SEAFO] • NAFO: to widen the scope of the NAFO Coral and Sponge Guide (published 2015) by developing and compiling identification guides for fishes (e.g. sharks and skates) that could be provided to observers [NAFO]
<p><i>Target 59. Inventory of existing and emerging methods and tools relevant to DSF and recommendations for their use.</i></p> <p><i>Target 60. Existing and emerging methods and technologies for assessing the state of DSF stocks analysed for relevance in DSF and disseminated to national and regional organizations.</i></p>	<p><u>There are no activities prescribed to achieve these targets in the project document.</u></p> <p>See outputs from target 46.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report providing the estimates of target strength(of 40-60 cm orange roughy) and the results of trials to estimate fish lengths and orientation using laser techniques [Sealord]. • A report containing the acoustic frequency response curves over 38-120 kHz for broadband acoustic CHIRP echosounders for orange roughy, alfonsino, oreo dory, and cardinal fish [Sealord]. • A manual describing the procedures for operating and maintaining the on board video equipment [Sealord].
<p><i>No output target associated with this activity.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 3: (Global) Review of effectiveness and application of RBM in fisheries in the ABNJ.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBM consultant to discuss various elements of the proposed plan of work with the PSC • PMU to send a final RBM plan of work to the PSC for comment [PMU-PSC]. • Work to commence.
<p>Output 3.1.2: Adaptive management processes demonstrated, including identification of management objectives and priorities, through participatory risk analysis in at least one selected pilot area.</p>	
<p><i>Target 61. EAF process initiated for at least one fishery.</i></p> <p><i>Target 62. EAF Baseline report.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: (Pilot areas) Preparation of EAF baseline report for the selected pilot areas.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project: - Develop an agreed approach to assess EAF in the deep seas fishery management bodies and regional organisations (related to the indicator- number of national and regional organizations that have planning and management processes consistent with EAF for achieving sustainable DSF and biodiversity conservation); identify where the project could provide assistance to address gaps and capacity development [PMU, with consultant Mr Rick Fletcher] • NAFO: Ongoing - Scientific Council continued development of the roadmap for the application of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management. • NAFO: ongoing – the working group to review the application of the precautionary approach to fisheries management in NAFO and elsewhere will hold a workshop on this topic in late 2017/early 2018 <p><u>Activity 2: (Pilot areas) Issue identification and prioritisation for management planning</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the EAF process in relation relevant economic questions in pilot countries (Indian Ocean and SE Atlantic). For example: how to enhance returns for the Cook Islands deep sea lobster fishery; or assess the economic potential for Namibia to extend their fishing for orange roughy (or deep sea crab fishery) into the ABNJ (SEAFO area) [PMU].
Target 63. EAF objectives and priorities identified through participatory risk assessment.	<u>Activity 3: (pilot areas) Development of operational objectives</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows on from above
Target 64. EAF process demonstrated in at least one fishery.	<u>Activity 4: (Pilot areas) Identification of options for improved adaptive management measures</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows on from above
Target 65. Options for strengthening current management measures in order to achieve priority objectives will have been identified and accepted by stakeholders in at least one fishery.	
Output 3.1.3: Objective-based indicators and reference points selected and a related monitoring programme for DSF in the ABNJ tested in a selected pilot area. (\$398,229) COMPLETION STATUS: 0% (2 targets, 2 not started)	
Target 66. Indicators and reference points to address priority concerns identified through a structured risk assessment in one pilot region.	<u>Activity 1: (Pilot areas) Selection of objective-based indicators and reference points.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows on from above
Target 67. Monitoring program for indicators and references points designed and tested for at least one fishery.	<u>Activity 2: (Pilot areas) Design and implementation of monitoring programme.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows on from above
Output 3.1.4: Action plan for adoption of best MCS practices, adapted to the specific conditions of DSF in the ABNJ, formulated and adopted in one of the selected pilot areas. (\$189,013) COMPLETION STATUS: 5% (2 targets, 1 started)	
Target 68. A report on best practices on MCS for DSF globally produced and disseminated to all stakeholders.	<u>Activity 1: (Global/pilot areas) Review global successful practices in MCS and existing MCS systems</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describing and assessing the efficacy of the MCS systems implemented by the bodies that manage deep sea fisheries, review MCS systems in other fisheries and identify practices that may have applicability for deep-sea fisheries. [PMU, with consultant Ms Sarah Lenel]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize and facilitate a workshop involving South Africa, Cook Islands, Seychelles, Mauritius, Namibia and Angola to review and evaluate of the effectiveness existing MCS systems and practices in these counties and identify activities to strengthen MCS and compliance in the SEAFO and SIOFA regions. <p><i>it is envisaged that additional activities relating to the above work will take place after it is completed. These include: the development and implementation of plans and activities to strengthen MCS and compliance; and the possible future organization and facilitation of a workshop/s involving the above countries to share experiences.</i></p>
<p><i>Target 69. An MCS action plan designed and adopted by the management body or flag states in one pilot region.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 2: (pilot areas) Consider options for strengthened MCS and compliance and develop or revise MCS action plan(s) accordingly.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible activities following on from activity 1 above Support to training of Cook Island Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) compliance officers working in the deep sea fisheries. This also links to the review and strengthening of policy and legal frameworks under output 1.1.3. It is envisaged that this activity will be documented with a view to replicating it in other target countries [PMU]. <p><i>MMR is establishing a Compliance Observer program to train Cook Islanders and other Pacific Island professional Observers to undertake Compliance Observing work on Cook Islands flagged fishing vessels in the High Seas. The first requirement is to deploy Observers to satisfy the new 100% Observer coverage requirement for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement under CMM 2016/01, and to offer the opportunity for Cook Islands Authorised Officers to increase the capacity of MMR to monitor and audit compliance with flag state requirements. A first cohort of up to six Observers will require a specialist training course in Nelson, New Zealand to gain certified skills in trawl gear and methods, Cook Islands and international fisheries law, species identification, conversion factors, supervision and verification of scientific data collected by fishing crews, and management of compliance operations on deepwater factory trawler vessels. This program is currently under design to be delivered by April or May 2017 for commencement of 100% coverage from July 2017 on Cook Islands flagged vessels. The course will be designed by MMR Offshore Division staff to meet the specific needs of the Cook Islands as a distant water flag state.</i></p>
<p>Output 3.1.5: Options for improved management measures for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation, - including: i) encounters with vulnerable species/habitats, (ii) spatial management tools, and (iii) fishing operations aimed at mitigating adverse impacts on sensitive habitats and ecosystems - developed and disseminated. This will include pilot activities in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Atlantic.</p>	
<p><i>Target 70. Implementation plans for testing two agreed management measures are developed.</i></p> <p><i>Target 71. At least two improved management measures have been tested and disseminated.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: (Global/regional) Experimental testing and trial implementation of improved management measures, indicators and thresholds.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See activities for targets 38 and 46. Development of a check list for the evaluation of exploratory fishing applications [SEAFO and PMU]

Component 4: Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning.**Component 4 - Outcome 4.1: Efficient area-based planning tools and good practices based on ecosystem-based management practices are made available to competent authorities**

72. Existing ABNJ approaches are shared with three RSPs, other than project areas of intervention (by mid project)
73. Existing ABNJ approaches are shared with RSP coordination group, to reach all eighteen RSPs, and related, relevant competent authorities (by project end).
74. Two selected project areas of intervention are engaged in developing area-based planning tools (by mid project)
75. Two selected project areas of intervention have developed and tested area-based planning tools within a planning process (by project end)

Output 4.1.1: Adaptation and further development of available area-based planning tools addressing deep-sea ecosystems in ABNJ and connected EEZs.

Target 76. Three available area-based planning tools are reviewed for applicability to the ABNJ and deep-sea ecosystem planning.

Activity 1: Review and outlook of area-based planning.

- Finalise for publication: Institutional arrangements and legal instruments in SE Pacific and WIO
- Ongoing — review of area-based planning (ABP) tools and their applicability to deep sea ABNJ
- Synthesis report - Drawing together the findings from the reviews undertaken in Output 4.1.1 Activity 1 and 4.1.2. Activity 1., a synthesis report will be done to suggest appropriate area-based planning approaches in the two pilot regions based upon each regional context, utilizing suitable experiences of area-based planning approaches in ABNJ and applicable area-based planning tools.

Target 77. Three available area-based planning tools are reviewed and developed for applicability to the ABNJ and deep-sea ecosystem planning.

Activity 2: Development of area-based planning tools and technologies for ABNJ application in regional pilot areas.

- Complete the above review on connectivity of ABNJ with EEZs
- Identify the relevant data needed for the tool

Output 4.1.2: Knowledge and experiences sharing from the Northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean concerning deep-sea marine ecosystems and area-based planning.

Target 78. Four case studies concerning planning processes in the ABNJ, are gathered and analysed.

Activity 1: Collate and communicate lessons learned and experiences in area-based planning processes to regional policy makers and key regional authorities.

- Completion of the review of regional area-based planning (ABP) approaches in ABNJ.

Target 79. Four case studies concerning planning processes in the ABNJ, are gathered and analysed and shared in knowledge transfer workshops in the two selected areas of intervention.

Component 4 - Outcome 4.2: Area-based planning in ABNJ is incorporated into the regional marine planning processes in selected regions through partnerships between competent authorities

Target 80. Area-based planning has been discussed in one selected area of intervention, with identified sectoral stakeholders and policy makers (by mid project)

Target 81. Area-based planning has been discussed in two selected areas of intervention, with identified sectoral stakeholders and policy makers (by project end)

Output 4.2.1: Testing of area-based planning tools in the selected regions.

Target 82. Area-based planning tools are described and demonstrated in one area of intervention.

Activity 1: Regional pilot area engagement, stakeholder analysis, governance and area-based planning capacity assessment.

- No work planned

Target 83. Area-based planning tools are described and demonstrated in two areas of intervention.

Activity 2: Undertake participatory area-based planning in the pilot regions to test ABNJ area-based planning tools

- Two regional workshops will be held in the second half of 2017, one in each of the pilot regions (South-East Pacific and Western Indian Ocean). These workshops will be the forum for further developing the methodology and tools for area-based planning in collaboration with the two pilot regions. The workshops are supported by CPPS and the Nairobi Convention.
- Identify potential areas where the tool may be tested through a regional prioritization process.

Output 4.2.2: Science-based and policy relevant advice on area-based planning and management applied in regional deep-sea ecosystem planning processes in the selected test regions with engagement of relevant stakeholders and through the partnership between competent authorities.

Target 84. Competent authorities, regional experts and policy makers have been engaged in discussions regarding area-based planning in one area of intervention.

Activity 1: Carrying out workshop with policy makers.

- No work planned

Target 85. Competent authorities, regional experts and policy makers, are engaged in planning processes in two selected regions and the experience and lessons learned are captured for future capacity building.

Component 5: Project monitoring and evaluation.**Component 5 - outcome 5.1: Project implementation conducted with adaptive results-based management, supported by M&E, including transmission of lessons learned via the IW-Learn Program.**

Outcome targets:

Target 86. Adaptive results based management system in place and lessons learned shared through IW: Learn and the Common Oceans Portal (by mid project)

Target 87. Adaptive results based management system in place and lessons learned shared through IW: Learn and the Common Oceans Portal (by project end)

Output 5.1.1: Website established which is compatible with IW-Learn program and contributes to ABNJ Program portal.

<p><i>Target 88. Website set up completed under Common Oceans Portal intervention.</i></p> <p><i>Target 89. This website has provided continued and updated information to stakeholders through quarterly updates.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Setting-up of website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing updating of website.
<p><i>Target 90. Two representatives from the pilot regions and 1 project staff supported to participate in one IW Conference.</i></p> <p><i>Target 91. Two representatives from the pilot regions and 1 project staff supported to participate for each IW Conference.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 2: IW-Learn activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions expected to be made to the GEF International Waters Science Conference and the Annual Large Marine Ecosystem consultation meeting.
<p><i>Target 92. Two experience notes prepared and published.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 2: IW-Learn activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft experience notes, in coordination with the Capacity Project.
Output 5.1.2: Project monitoring system operating and systematically providing information on progress in meeting project output and outcome targets.	
<p><i>Target 93. Project specific M&E system set up updates.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Setting-up of monitoring system</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> completed

<p><i>Target 94. There is a project-specific M&E system set up and fully operational.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 2: Operation and maintenance of monitoring system</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSC meeting • FAO Project task force meeting held in August to review project progress..
<p>Output 5.1.3: Timely biannual PPRs available for adaptive results-based management.</p>	
<p><i>Target 95. PPRs have been produced biannually and according to standards.</i></p> <p><i>Target 96. PPRs have been produced biannually and according to standards.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Preparation of PPRs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Progress Reports to be produced for July to December 2016, January to June 2017. • A GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) produced for the period July 2016 to June 2017.
<p>Output 5.1.4: Midterm and terminal evaluation carried out and reports available.</p>	
<p><i>Target 97. Midterm review completed.</i></p> <p><i>Target 98. Midterm and terminal reports have been produced according to schedule and standards.</i></p>	<p><u>Activity 1: Carrying out of evaluations.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate the mid-term evaluation in Q3-4.

The *Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea Living Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* Project (ABNJ Deep Seas Project for short) is a five year project supported by the Global Environment Facility, and implemented jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Environment Programme. The UNEP project component is executed through the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre.

The Project is designed to enhance sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach. It brings together over 20 partners who work on deep-sea fisheries and conservation issues in the ABNJ globally. The partnership includes regional organizations responsible for the management of deep-sea fisheries, Regional Seas Programmes, the fishing industry and international organizations. The Project aims to:

- strengthen policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas;
- reduce adverse impacts on VMEs and enhanced conservation and management of components of EBSAs;
- improve planning and adaptive management for deep sea fisheries in ABNJ; and
- develop and test methods for area-based planning.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project started in September 2015 and is one of four projects under the GEF Common Oceans Programme. More information is available from www.commonoceans.org

