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Survey on Capacity Development Needs for ABNJ/BBNJ

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

A Survey on Capacity Needs for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in the Abidjan Convention Area

Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) are those parts of the oceans which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any individual country (i.e. outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone which countries are entitled to claim under international law). ABNJ comprise 64% of the oceans and include both the water column (the High Seas) and the seabed, ocean floor and subsoil thereof (The Area). They play a key role in the biogeochemical cycles that regulate oxygen and carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and hence, global climate. Moreover, although much of the ABNJ remains unexplored, it is believed to contain vast energy and mineral resources as well as significant biological/genetic resources (UNGA, 2005).

The IKI STRONG High Seas Project, coordinated by Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and implemented in collaboration with various partners, aims to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ /BBNJ) and is focused on two regions: the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic regions (i.e. Abidjan Convention Area)

The capacity development component of the IKI STRONG High Seas Project in the Abidjan Convention Area is being led by the International Oceans Institute (IOI-SA). The first step in this component is to undertake an assessment of the relevant capacity development needs of the stakeholders in the region. The outcomes of this survey will then guide the development and delivery of subsequent awareness-raising and capacity development activities under the auspices of the project. IOI-SA would therefore like to invite you – as a representative of your country or organisation - to participate in this survey by completing questionnaire. Most of the questions can be answered on a yes/no basis and it is anticipated that it will take some 30 minutes to complete the basic survey. However, if you are able to provide more detailed information, that would be most welcome and would contribute to ensuring that your ABNJ-related capacity development needs are met.

NOTE: This survey is aimed at a variety of stakeholders from national government to regional governance structures, non-governmental organisations, research institutions and academia. The questions are therefore relatively wide-ranging and may not all be pertinent to every respondent. Please therefore only answer those which are applicable to your situation.

B Personal Details

B.1 Name (preferred but optional)

* B.2 Country

B.3 Ministry/department/organisation/institution

B.4 Does your organisation operate regionally or nationally?

B.5 Job title & brief job description (main responsibilities in relation to ocean governance):

B.6 Contact details (e-mail and telephone – preferred but optional):

C Awareness/ Understanding

Political support for ABNJ/BBNJ is dependent on awareness and understanding of the links between coastal waters and ABNJ, and the potential socio-economic benefits thereof. Given that it is a relatively new issue, there is likely a need for awareness-raising initiatives aimed at building such political support. In this context:

* C.1 Are you personally familiar with the concept of ABNJ?

at most 1 choice(s)

Yes

No

C.2 If yes, which issues related to ABNJ/BBNJ do you think are most important?

C.3 Are decision-makers (e.g. politicians, senior government officials) in your country familiar with the concept of ABNJ?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

C.4 Are others in your organisation familiar with the concept of ABNJ?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

C.5 Are the general public in your country familiar with the concept of ABNJ?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

C.6 Which of the above do you think have a reasonable understanding of the importance of ABNJ to your country?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No
- Some

C.7 If "Some", please list which:

D Legal and Policy Framework

D.1 Does your country have a policy/legislation on

between 1 and 4 choices

- Integrated Coastal Management
- The Conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity
- Fisheries
- Marine Spatial Planning

D.2 If yes for any of the above, please provide details

D.3 Has your country taken a formal decision to be actively involved in the discussions on BBNJ and do you have a strategy in this regard?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

D.4 If yes, please provide details

D.5 Is your country a Contracting Party to UNCLOS?

at most 1 choice(s)

UNCLOS - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

- Yes
- No

D.6 Is your country participating in the negotiations for a new ABNJ/BBNJ agreement under UNCLOS?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

If yes:

D.7 Which Ministry is representing your country at the negotiations?

D.8 Have the representatives participated in the training (organised by DOALOS or other organisations) on BBNJ issues to prepare for the BBNJ negotiations?

D.9 Does your country have an Inter-Ministerial Coordinating structure at which issues related to the BBNJ negotiations can be discussed (in preparation for the negotiation sessions)?

D.10 Are issues related to the BBNJ negotiations currently being discussed with other relevant stakeholders in your country?

D.11 Are issues related to the BBNJ negotiations being discussed with other relevant countries in your region and/or in relevant regional fora? (In addition to Abidjan Convention meetings).

D.12 If no, what is preventing your country from participating in the negotiations (please tick as many as are appropriate)?

between 1 and 4 choices

- Lack of interest
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of funding to attend negotiations
- Low priority

D.13 Is your organisation participating in the discussions/negotiations towards a new ABNJ/BBNJ agreement (at national, regional or international levels)?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

D.14 If yes, please provide details (e.g. national/regional etc.):

E Blue Economy

E.1 Is your country actively promoting/developing a Blue Economy strategy?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

E.2 If yes, which of the following resources are considered as priorities?

between 1 and 5 choices

- Oil and Gas
- Other mineral resources
- Fisheries
- Marine Genetic Resources
- Other

E.3 If other, please elaborate

E.4 Is your organisation playing a role in the development of the Blue Economy?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

E.5 If yes, please provide details

F Management Tools and Approach

F.1 There are a variety of management tools which are used in the management of national coastal waters/ areas but which could also be used in the management of ABNJ/BBNJ. Which of these are already in use in your country/region – tick all that are appropriate:

between 1 and 9 choices

- Area-based management approaches/marine spatial planning
- Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (UN-Food and Agricultural Organisation)
- Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (International Maritime Organisation)
- Special Areas (IMO-MARPOL)
- Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (International Seabed Authority)
- Marine Protected Areas (national or regional)
- Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs – Convention on Biological Diversity)
- Environmental Impact Assessment/Risk Assessment
- Other

F.2 If other, please specify

F.3 The ecosystem approach is expected to be a core feature of the approach to managing BBNJ under the new agreement. Does your country have a definition of the ecosystem approach in any of your legislation, strategies etc.?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

F.4 If yes, please provide text:

F.5 The ecosystem approach is expected to be a core feature of the approach to managing BBNJ under the new agreement. Does your country have a definition of the ecosystem approach in any of your legislation, strategies etc.?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

F.6 If yes, please provide details

F.7 Is the ecosystem approach utilised in your country in relation to:

- Fisheries Management
- Coastal Management, Generally

F.8 Has your organisation been involved in the implementation of the ecosystem approach?

- Yes
- No

F.9 If yes, please provide details

G Scientific research and technology transfer

G.1 Are there institutions/organisations in your country undertaking scientific research on marine resources and/or ecosystems?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

G.2 If yes, please list

G.3 What are the key national priorities for research on marine resources and/or ecosystems?

G.4 Are any of the institutions/organisations listed above undertaking research on ABNJ/BBNJ?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

G.5 If yes, please specify the name/s of the institution/s:

G.6 If yes, in which field/s is the research?

between 1 and 4 choices

- Genetic Marine Resources
- Deep Sea Biodiversity
- Use of management tools
- Other

G.7 If other, please specify

G.8 Are some or all of the research initiatives part of collaborations? If yes, please provide details of collaborating institutions

G.9 Do any of them involve the transfer of technology? If yes, please specify.

G.10 Are you aware of the IOC-UNESCO Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology for ABNJ activities?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

H Data Acquisition and Information Management

H.1 Does your country/organisation have ongoing observation/ monitoring programmes in place which generate data on marine and coastal resources and ecosystems? E.g.:

between 1 and 4 choices

- Participate in Ocean Observation Systems
- Water quality monitoring programs
- Coral reef monitoring programs
- Other

H.2 If other, can you please provide examples

H.3 Does your country/organisation have a system/s in place for the management of information pertaining to marine/coastal resources and ecosystems and their management? If yes, please provide details

between 1 and 3 choices

- Ocean and Coastal Information System
- Clearing House Mechanism
- Other

H.4 If other, can you please provide examples

I Priorities for Capacity Development

Is capacity a constraint in terms of your country's ability to:

I.1 Participate in the BBNJ negotiations?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

I.2 Contribute to the conservation and management of BBNJ?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes
- No

I.3 Have you – or other individuals from your country/organisation – participated in capacity development activities on ABNJ/BBNJ in the past?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Yes

No

I.4 If yes, please provide details

I.5 Does your country/organisation offer any type of support for capacity development in ABNJ/BBNJ?

at most 1 choice(s)

Yes

No

I.6 If yes, please provide details

I.7 Do you or your country/organisation receive support in some way in issues related to ABNJ/BBNJ? (E.g. foreign funding, research projects, etc.)

I.8 Which of the following would you regard as a priority for capacity development in relation to ABNJ /BBNJ?

Building political will through awareness and understanding of ABNJ amongst DECISION MAKERS	
Building political will through awareness and understanding of ABNJ amongst GENERAL PUBLIC	
Legal/enforcement capacity development - DRAFTING OF POLICY/LEGISLATION	
Legal/enforcement capacity development - COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	
Management capacity development - Management Tools	
Management capacity development - Ecosystem Approach	

Management capacity development - Other	
Research Capacity	
Transfer of technology	
Other	

I.9 If other, please expand

I.10 Which of the management tools listed in section above would be priorities for training? Specify

I.11 What other constraints do you think would impact on your country/organisation's ability to be involved in the conservation and sustainable use of ABNJ/BBNJ?

J What type of capacity development approach/es do you think would be most useful?

J.1 Tick all that are applicable

between 1 and 10 choices

- Short course on ABNJ/BBNJ (Introduction to concepts and value) at the regional level
- Short course/s on relevant management tools at the regional level (specify which tool/s)
- A High Level Seminar on ABNJ/BBNJ aimed at raising awareness of political leaders in the region
- A primer (policy brief) on ABNJ/BBNJ aimed at decision-makers
- Policy dialogue at the regional level
- An academic course on ABNJ/BBNJ
- Massive Online Open Course
- Webinars

Public awareness raising initiatives - Traditional Media

Public awareness raising initiatives - Social Media

J.2 Other suggestions?

J.3 PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS BELOW.