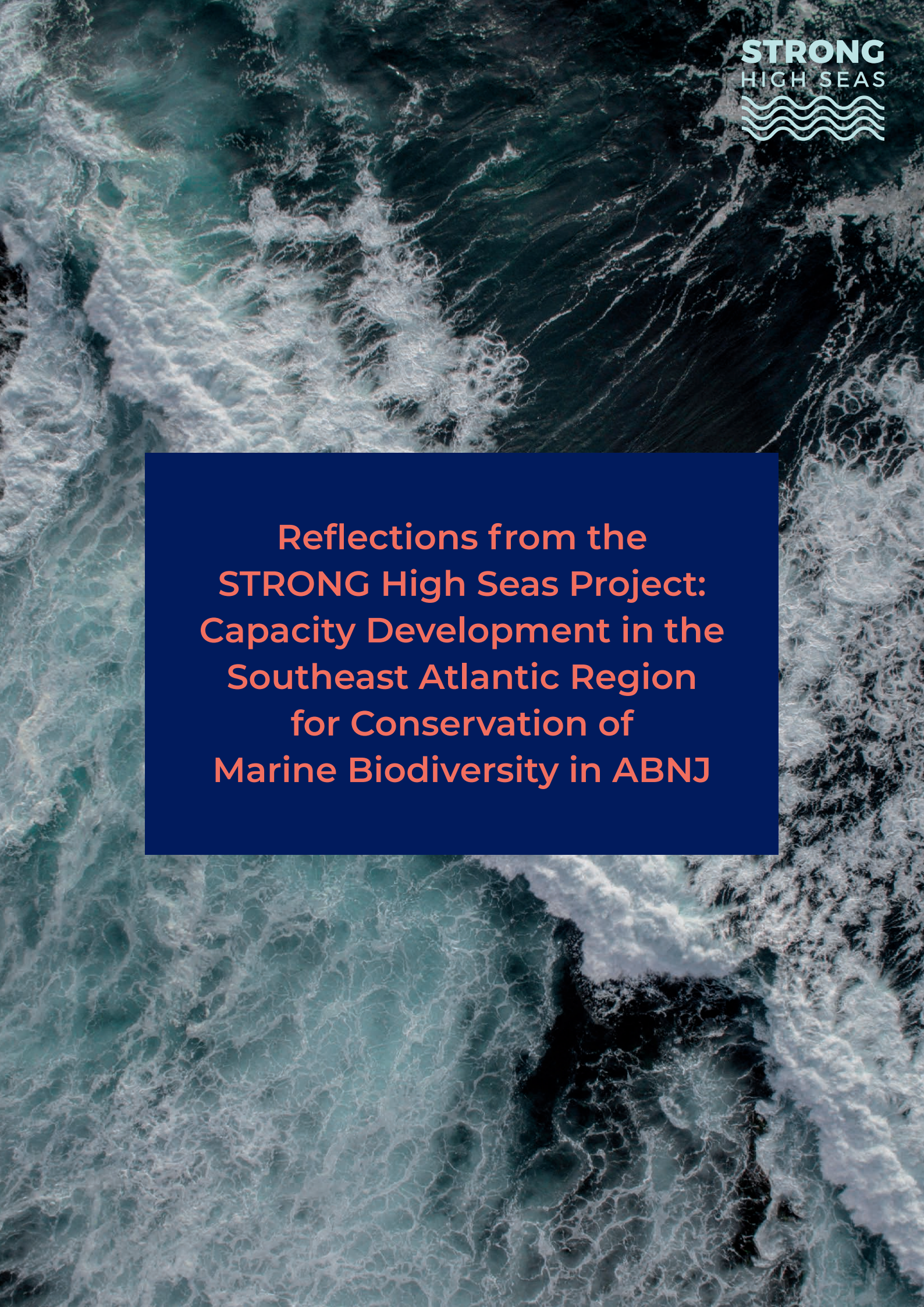


STRONG HIGH SEAS

Reflections from the STRONG High Seas Project: Capacity Development in the Southeast Atlantic Region for Conservation of Marine Biodiversity in ABNJ

Citation

Hampton, S., Packeiser, T., Boteler, B., Durussel, C., Jackson, L., Reflections from the STRONG High Seas Project: Capacity Development in the Southeast Atlantic Region for Conservation of Marine Biodiversity in ABNJ, STRONG High Seas Project, 2022.

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Supported by:

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

based on a decision of
the German Bundestag

PROG
Partnership for Regional
Ocean Governance

The STRONG High Seas project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI; www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

The STRONG High Seas project contributes to the work of the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG), a partnership hosted by UN Environment, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), and TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability.

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www.prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas/

DOI: 10.48481/iass.2022.016

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Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Carolina Hazin (BirdLife International) and Ruth Fletcher (UNEP WCMC).

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List of Abbreviations

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
BMUV	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
DOSI	Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zones
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GOBI	Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOM	Integrated Ocean Management
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PROG	Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
SID	Small Island Developing States
STRONG High Seas	Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas Project
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the report

In 2017, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), together with the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG), launched the project 'Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas' ('STRONG High Seas'). This five-year project aims to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) in the context of the current negotiations towards an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). In particular, the project seeks to enhance ecosystem-based and cross-sectoral management measures, focussing on the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic regions.

Capacity development is a key component of the project's objectives. This includes developing capacity to implement conservation and management measures in ABNJ and developing capacity of States to effectively participate in international negotiations. This document reflects the STRONG project's efforts to support capacity development in the regions, recognising that it has a limited time span and scope.

1.2 Scope and objectives of the report

This report will put the STRONG High Seas project interventions in context of existing training initiatives that are being undertaken in the region and the capacity needs assessment which is also reported on here. The initiatives undertaken by the STRONG High Seas project were taken with the philosophy of information exchange and co-creation of knowledge and catered to regional specific needs. It is targeted towards policy and decision-makers as well as other stakeholders working on issues of ocean governance and interested in strengthening capacities needed for regional ocean governance, particularly in the Southeast Atlantic region. The report aims to inform decision-makers at national and regional levels about the longer-term capacity needs related to ABNJ and possible avenues for addressing capacity gaps.

1.3 About this report

This report was prepared as part of the STRONG High Seas project, based on a series of stakeholder surveys and experience gathered through various workshops held in the Southeast Atlantic region, as well as on literature surveys and expert opinion. The report was reviewed by multiple experts to validate findings and ensure robust content.

This report is part of a series of reports covering issues of ocean governance with a focus on the ABNJ of the Southeast Pacific and the Southeast Atlantic regions and builds on previous reports published by the STRONG High Seas project. Further project reports cover the legal and institutional framework applicable to ABNJ, the ecological state and the socioeconomic importance of ABNJ in the project regions, options for management and conservation measures for conservation of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, and considerations for integrated ocean management. These reports are available through the STRONG High Seas project website[1].

Following this introductory chapter, Chapter 2 provides relevant context with regards to ocean governance in areas beyond national jurisdiction, the ongoing negotiations towards a new

[1] https://www.prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas/

agreement under UNCLOS and related capacity development needs and approaches. Chapter 3 presents a short summary of the surveys undertaken by the STRONG High Seas project with regards to capacity needs in the Southeast Atlantic region and Chapter 4 is a summary of the corresponding capacity development efforts undertaken as part of the STRONG High Seas project. Chapter 5 provides reflections and recommendations for future capacity development activities beyond the scope of the project and highlights lessons learned through the five years of this project. Additional background information is provided in the Annexes.

2. Context

2.1 Ocean governance in areas beyond national jurisdiction

Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) are those areas of the ocean for which no one nation has sole responsibility for management, and where all nations need to act collectively as stewards of ocean health fo current and future generations. In all, ABNJ make up about 50 percent of the surface of our planet and comprise around 64 percent of the surface of the ocean.

Marine biodiversity in ABNJ is threatened by intensifying human activities such as fishing and other types of marine harvesting, shipping, and pollution, with impacts on human wellbeing worldwide. Increases in anthropogenic CO_2 emissions have resulted in rising ocean acidity, declining oxygen levels, warming waters and shifting ocean currents. The connectivity between ABNJ and coastal waters means that impacts on marine ecosystems in ABNJ will also have impacts on marine ecosystems closer to shore, and vice versa, and, in turn, socio-economic systems of (coastal) States and communities.

The existing governance framework applicable to ABNJ is fragmented and subject to a range of legal and regulatory gaps, rendering it insufficient to address the increasing threats to marine biodiversity in ABNJ. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides rules governing uses of the ocean and its resources but does not comprehensively specify how States should conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in ABNJ. A host of regional and sectoral agreements were developed both before and after UNCLOS came into force in 1994, leading to a patchy governance framework. Moreover, there is a lack of coordination and cooperation among the numerous multilateral agreements and organisations both at the regional and global level.

2.2 Envisaged BBNJ Agreement

Facing the apparent threat of loss and further degradation of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, a window of opportunity to address any legal and regulatory gaps in the governance framework opened in 2017 when formal negotiations for a new international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of ABNJ were launched by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).[2]

In its resolution 72/249 of 24 December 2017, the UNGA decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), under the auspices of the United Nations, to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ, with a view to developing the instrument ('BBNJ Agreement').

The UNGA further decided that the IGC shall meet for four sessions of a duration of 10 working days each. The first session was convened from 4 to 17 September 2018, the second session from 25 March to 5 April 2019 and the third session from 19 to 30 August 2019. The fourth session, which was postponed, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, took place from the 7 to 18 March 2022.

In accordance with UNGA resolution 72/249, the IGC is addressing the topics:

(i) marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits,

(ii) measures such as area-based manage ment tools, including marine protected areas,

(iii) environmental impact assessments, and

[2] https://www.un.org/bbnj/

(iv) capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

In addition to the four elements set out above, during negotiations of the IGC several cross-cutting issues have been identified that also need to be addressed in the BBNJ Agreement, including, e.g., institutional arrangements and financial resources.

The inclusion of capacity building and the transfer of marine technology as one of the four elements of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement has several objectives[3], including to:

- assist States Parties, in particular developing States Parties, in implementing the provisions of the Agreement, to achieve its objectives,
- enable inclusive and effective participation in the activities undertaken under the Agreement,
- promote/encourage/ensure access to marine technology by and the transfer of marine technology for peaceful purposes to developing States Parties for the attainment of the objectives of the Agreement,
- increase, disseminate and share knowledge on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ,
- develop the marine scientific and technological capacity of States Parties with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ,
- ensure that developing States Parties have: (i) access to, and benefit from, the scientific information resulting from the collection of/access to resources in ABNJ, in particular marine genetic resources; (ii) access to, and that their special requirements receive consideration in, the sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources and in marine scientific research; (iii) collection of/access to marine genetic resources and their utilization; (iv) research capabilities relating to marine genetic resources and products, processes and other tools; (v) the capacity to develop, implement, monitor and manage, including to enforce, any area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; (vi) the capacity to conduct and evaluate environmental impact assessments.

The incorporation of obligations, commitments, and provisions on capacity building in multilateral agreements is not a new feature in environmental governance. UNCLOS, most International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the various agreements/declarations arising from the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) all explicitly include provisions for capacity building. Under existing UNCLOS provisions, States are already obliged to (Durussel et al., 2008):

- assist in technical and scientific personnel training,
- facilitate the participation of developing countries in international programs,
- promote programs of scientific, educational, technical, and other assistance,
- assist in preparing environmental assessments,
- supply necessary equipment and facilities,
- cooperate internationally and provide international funding for ocean research and development,
- provide advice on and develop facilities for research, monitoring, educational and other programs,
- enhance equipment manufacturing capacity, and
- assist in minimizing effects of major pollution incidents.

[3] NB that these objectives are also still subject to ongoing negotiations of the IGC; see draft BBNJ Agreement at https://undocs.org/en/a/conf.232/2020/3 (accessed on 28 January 2021)

In consequence, a multifaceted architecture for capacity development has evolved. However, so far little attention has been directed to developing specific capacities relevant or even required for the elaboration of policies and regulations for and the management of human activities in ABNJ. The conclusion of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement therefore offers an eminent opportunity to direct capacity development efforts accordingly.

2.3 Developing capacities for regional ocean governance in ABNJ of the Southeast Atlantic region

2.3.1 Terminology

The terms capacity building and capacity development are often being used interchangeably. However, a publication by the Development Co-operation Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD-DAC) stated in 2006 that the phrase 'capacity development' is used advisedly in preference to the traditional 'capacity building'. The 'building' metaphor suggests a process starting with a plain surface and involving the step-by-step setting up of a new structure, based on a preconceived design. Yet, experience suggests that capacity is not successfully enhanced in this way (OECD/DAC 2006).

Capacity: the ability of people, organisations, and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully (OECD/DAC 2006).

Capacity development: the process by which people, organisations and society unleash, strengthen, create, adapt, and maintain their capacity over time (OECD/DAC, 2006).

Capacity building: a long-term and continuing process by which individuals, organisations, institutions, and societies develop abilities to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve objectives (UNESCO, 2006).

Hence, even though the term 'capacity building' is commonly used in the context of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement, 'capacity development' is the preferably used term in STRONG High Seas project reports.

2.3.2 Pathways for capacity development

Following the definition for 'capacity development' provided by the OECD/DAC (2006), capacity development efforts may address three distinct levels:

(i) individual capacity,

(ii) organisational capacity, and

(iii) societal capacity.

Pathways to increased capacity depend on circumstances and starting points (e.g., type of job, range of professional duties and national needs), types of results desired (e.g., professional degree, mastering of specific skills, public awareness) and the discipline or disciplines involved (e.g., science, law, policy, interdisciplinary). There are many different pathways available, which include individual pathways, as well as institutional and societal pathways (Cicin-Sain et al., 2018).

Table 1: Pathways for capacity development (adapted from Cicin-Sain et al., 2018)

Individual Capacity Development	Institutional Capacity Development	Societal Capacity Development
Formal Education	Strategy for Development	Public Awareness
Networking Exchanges and Dialogues	Supportive Learning Environment	Public Education
Continuous Professional Development and In the Job Training	Financial Mechanisms	
Online Learning and Resources	Institutional Policy Support	

2.3.3 Relevant capacities in the context of the BBNJ Agreement

The Policy Brief on Capacity Development as a Key Aspect of a New International Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (Cicin-Sain et al., 2018)[4] describes capacity development and technology transfer as the 'enabler' of the other elements of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement (i.e., marine genetic resources and questions on the sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tool, including marine protected areas; and environmental impact assessments) and essential to their effective implementation once the BBNJ Agreement is adopted and ratified.

Capacity development efforts should aim to achieve the effective implementation of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement by all States by strengthening their ability to fulfil their rights and obligations. Ultimately, capacity development will support the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, as well as the ability of all States to participate in a sustainable ocean economy (Cicin-Sain et al., 2018).

The policy brief, mentioned above, identified a broad spectrum of capacities and skills which will likely be required by States and other relevant actors to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in ABNJ in compliance with the BBNJ Agreement, including capacities and skills to:

- participate in global and regional cooperation,
- develop national legislation, policies, and institutional arrangements for the new Agreement,
- participate in enforcement,
- undertake marine scientific research and participate in research collaborations,
- build national research and development capacities,
- undertake management of marine ecosystems in accordance with an ecosystem approach and using tools such as marine spatial planning and marine protected areas,
- evaluate environmental impact assessments, and
- support national and local efforts towards a healthy and resilient ocean and sustainable economies and livelihoods.

Thus, the skills required are broad, and encompass legal, policy, scientific and marine management capacities (Cicin-Sain et al., 2018). While dedicated assessments at national and regional levels are recommended to provide up-to-date information about specific capacity needs in specific countries and regions, considering the scope and content of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement, the following list provided by the policy brief is a reasonable overview of fundamental issues to be addressed by any capacity development efforts related to ABNJ and the BBNJ Agreement:

- area-based management tools, including marine protected areas,
- environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments,
- marine genetic resources,
- marine scientific research and monitoring,
- effective legal and policy frameworks, and
- effects of climate change on ABNJ and areas within national jurisdiction.

It is important to note that different countries and regions have different circumstances, cultures, institutions, and experiences that need to be taken into account and build upon when identifying relevant needs-based capacity development activities.

Furthermore, many countries expressed the need for capacity development to effectively participate in the negotiations leading up to the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement.

[4] https://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/projects/strenghtening-capacity/en/

Awareness about biodiversity of ABNJ, the value thereof, existing as well as potential pressures and impacts, the applicable governance framework as well as existing and possible approaches and tools for ocean governance is a fundamental prerequisite for effectively engaging in negotiations of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement and its implementation. Beyond a limited number of specialised experts, such awareness in general is still low, both among policy-makers and more widely with the public. Correspondingly, awareness and understanding of issues related to ABNJ, especially for decision-makers, policy-makers, negotiators, and legal experts at the national level, was one of the key capacity development needs identified in the assessment undertaken by the Global Ocean Forum (2017).

Responding to this need and with a view to support the conclusion of a comprehensive BBNJ Agreement and to enable its effective implementation, the STRONG High Seas project has invested efforts to both (i) raise/enhance awareness and strengthen capacities of relevant (State) actors in charge of negotiations of the BBNJ Agreement, and (ii) raise/enhance awareness and strengthen capacities of relevant (State) actors who will/could be in charge of implementing the provisions of the BBNJ Agreement and – more generally – ocean governance in ABNJ.

Effective implementation of the BBNJ Agreement will eventually depend on individual, institutional and societal capacities for improved and well-coordinated action of the responsible entities in charge of management at national, regional, and global levels.

2.4 Existing efforts in capacity development

There is an existing and impressive 'architecture' already in place on capacity development and technology transfer, emanating from UNCLOS and subsequently implementing agreements, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and ensuing conferences (e.g. World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002; United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, and the UN conference in 2015 leading to the Sustainable Development Agenda), as well as in related agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement (Cicin-Sain et al., 2018).

Accordingly, a multitude of actors is engaged in a range of capacity development initiatives, including United Nations bodies and agencies, international organisations, regional seas conventions and action plans, national development cooperation agencies, non-governmental organisations, foundations, and academic institutions, collectively contributing to improved conservation and management of biodiversity in ABNJ.

Given the connectivity among coastal areas, exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and ABNJ, and the commonalities of scientific and management approaches, any initiative which contributes to developing capacity for managing the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources – be it from a legal or governance perspective, scientific research, or the development and use of various management tools – could be supporting capacity development for ABNJ.

While there has been considerable growth of activities related to capacity development on ABNJ in recent years – likely due to the start of official negotiations of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement – the number of activities specifically dedicated to ABNJ remains limited, with many of them being part of broader training programmes in ocean policy, governance, or science. Most of the efforts are focused on training at the individual level rather than at the institutional and societal levels. Furthermore, funding and coordination among the various efforts is limited (Cicin-Sain et al., 2018).

Each region has its own unique environmental, institutional, political, and capacity context, which often includes an established institutional structure(s) for regional cooperation on managing the marine environment and its resources. In this context, many regions often have regional policies, programmes, and initia-

tives that bring together countries to undertake area-based management, including creating marine protected areas, and to manage fisheries resources. While noting that many of these existing institutions already engage in capacity development, it seems appropriate to consider strengthening also the role of these regional frameworks in the coordination of capacity development activities, preferably contributing to a common regional vision. An overview of regional initiatives for the Southeast Atlantic region is contained in Annex 2.

2.5 The Abidjan Convention and marine biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

At the 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) (March 2015, Cairo), the African Ministers agreed on the Cairo Declaration, including the following operational paragraph: "8. To reiterate our support for the regional seas programmes in Africa as regional platforms for the implementation of the Africa Integrated Marine Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on Ecosystem-based Management Approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters". Both the Abidjan[5] and Nairobi Conventions[6] have subsequently initiated discussions on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

2.5.1 Abidjan Convention Conference of the Parties (COP): Decision and ABNJ Working Group

The COP is the highest body within the Abidjan Convention and meets every two to three years. The meeting is the opportunity for States to discuss and vote upon draft decisions which will guide the Convention's future priorities and work program of its participating States for the environmental management and protection of the Southeast Atlantic region.

In 2014, at the 11th COP Meeting of the Abidjan Convention, Decision CP. 11/10 on Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Marine Biodiversity of the Areas Located beyond National Jurisdiction was adopted. This decision:

- Requested Contracting Parties to recognise the importance of the preservation and sustainable use of areas located beyond national jurisdictions.
- Urged Contracting Parties to strengthen marine scientific research and decision-making capacity in relation to ABNJ.
- Exhorted Contracting Parties to participate in and contribute to the ongoing process related to ABNJ within the UN system.
- Requested the Secretariat to establish a working group to study all aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

The Secretariat, with assistance from the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG), subsequently held a scoping workshop: "Supporting the development of regional initiatives for ABNJ in the Abidjan Convention Region" in Mahe, Seychelles, in June 2015 at which the Terms of Reference and Work Programme for the Working Group were discussed (UNEP, 2016). This also led to the development of the STRONG High Seas Project to support the work of the Working Group.

In addition the subject of marine diversity in ABNJ has been the subject of a number of COP Decisions:

- Decision CP 12.1: Work Program 2017–2020 of the Abidjan Convention COP 12 in 2017 requests the Secretariat to include ABNJ, amongst others, in the 2020–2023 Work Program.
- Decision CP 12/12: Conservation and sustainable use of the marine biodiversity of areas located beyond national jurisdictions reiter-

[5] The Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region.

[6] The Nairobi Convention is part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, and is a partnership between governments, civil society and the private sector.

ated some of the points made in Decision CP. 11/10, although it did not refer to the Abidjan Convention Working Group.

- Decision CP 13/13: Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological Diversity of Marine Areas beyond Domestic jurisdictions (ABNJ)

Passing this resolution, in COP13, demonstrates a clear commitment from member States of the Abidjan Convention to remain active and continue to engage with issues concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of ABNJ in the Southeast Atlantic region, building upon resolutions passed during the Convention's COP11 (CP11/10) and COP12 (CP12/12). In this thirteenth meeting of the Abidjan Convention COP, member States committed to:

- Recognize the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, considering ecological connectivity and their socio-economic importance to the region.

- Urge participating States to cooperate and coordinate with global, regional, sub-regional and sectoral bodies for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ.

- Encourage participating States to continue their participation in and contribution to the process of finalizing an internationally legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ currently being negotiated under the United Nations.

- Urge participating States to strengthen marine scientific research and capacity at the national and sub-regional levels for informed decision making with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ.

- Welcome the progress made in the Convention's Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group on ABNJ, and its cooperation with partners, including the STRONG High Seas project, as well as extend the mandate of this working group to continue its efforts.

Scientific findings and ongoing research by the STRONG High Seas project indicate that continued and coordinated efforts in the form of e.g., pursuing cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation, establishing new or enhancing existing conservation and management measures, and strengthening research and capacity development for informed decision making remain critical for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. And it was agreed that it was essential for African countries to take part in the BBNJ Agreement discussions, and to increase technology transfer and capacity development efforts.

3. Capacity needs for regional ocean governance in ABNJ of the Southeast Atlantic region

3.1 Overview of surveys conducted

It is of importance for the STRONG High Seas Project that interventions are based on needs, relevant and targeted to the Southeast Atlantic region. For that purpose, a survey was developed to analyse the capacity needs in the region, which was circulated to a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- The country focal points of the Abidjan Convention
- Attendees of the 2019 STRONG High Seas Dialogue Workshop in Cape Town, which included representatives of regional organisations, academics, NGOs, and government officials
- Social media – Shared by STRONG High Seas and IOI-SA on Twitter and Facebook

The questionnaire was sent to between 150 and 200 individuals with the option of either completing the survey online or returning completed copies via email. Twenty responses were received. The questionnaire was also made available to participants at the second STRONG High Seas Dialogue Workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2019 where fifteen additional responses were received. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Annex 4.

Responses were received from 35 individuals from 15 of the 22 countries in the Southeast Atlantic region as well as two regional organisations, the Benguela Current Commission and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO). In most cases, these included individuals from national governments, although not necessarily the designated National Focal Points for the Abidjan Convention. Responses were also received from academics and research institutions.

The results of the assessment – together with information on existing training opportunities – were used to develop activities to be undertaken during the STRONG High Seas Project and are included here to inform decision-makers at national and regional levels about the longer-term capacity needs related to ABNJ and possible avenues for addressing capacity gaps. The survey was conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore do not capture the increased appetite and availability of virtual events in the pandemic and post-pandemic environment. More detail on the responses to the surveys can be found in Annex 2.

3.2 Summary of results

The majority of respondents indicated that a lack of capacity was a hindrance to the ability of their country to both participate in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations and to contribute to the conservation and management of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. The majority also indicated that they had not participated in any relevant capacity development initiatives and were not aware whether others from their country had done so. Even where they had, they regarded it as insufficient. Most respondents were also uncertain as to whether their governments or other funders provided any support for capacity development on this topic. A summary of the recommended priority interventions are included below.

3.2.1 Short-term interventions

The key priorities identified by the capacity needs assessment survey included building political will, research capacity, technology transfer, and management capacity. The recommendations from the survey focused on two key areas:

- **High Level Seminar:** Building political will amongst political leaders and decision makers by raising their awareness of marine biodiversity in ABNJ.

- **Regional Short Course:** Building management capacity on marine biodiversity in ABNJ (introduction to concepts and value) aimed at middle and senior managers, primarily in national governments in the region.

3.2.1.1 High-level seminar

It was recommended that a high-level seminar on marine biodiversity in ABNJ be scheduled as part of the Ministerial Segment of the programme for the next Abidjan Convention COP. It should cover:

- Introduction to the concept of marine biodiversity in ABNJ
  - Definition/s
  - Importance – connectivity to coastal waters
  - Potential value of ABNJ resources in the context of the Blue Economy
- Brief overview of the negotiations/ elements of the future agreement.

  A policy brief could be developed and launched at the seminar as a take-away for those attending. A report from the ABNJ Working Group could also be included in the programme.

3.2.1.2 Regional short course on marine biodiversity in ABNJ

It was recommended that a 2-day introductory short course on ABNJ and the BBNJ Agreement negotiations be developed. It should target middle to senior officials of the national governments of all countries in the Southeast Atlantic (i.e., a combined course for English/French/Portuguese speaking countries with simultaneous translation). Preference should be given to the National Focal Points of the Abidjan Convention although the course could also be opened to others at their own cost.

3.2.2 Longer-term capacity development

In the longer term, capacity developing should include more specific and in-depth training as well as the development of awareness-raising and educational material on ABNJ. Some of this is beyond the scope of the STRONG High Seas Project but it is recommended that it should cover:

- Legal matters regarding ABNJ;
- In-depth training on area based management tools;
- Courses on deep-sea biodiversity;
- Scientific research and technology transfer through collaborative programmes.

It was recommended that awareness raising and educational materials to be developed should include:

- Brochure/flyer on ABNJ for the public
- Primer/policy brief for politicians/decision-makers
- Modules on ABNJ for inclusion in academic courses on e.g., ocean governance
- Material for inclusion in curricula at secondary educational institutions.

3.3 Reflections

Although the survey had a lower number of responses than desired to be fully representative of the region, it provided valuable feedback on the understanding of issues around marine biodiversity in ABNJ in the Southeast Atlantic region. It should be noted that in some cases, given the limited awareness of the topic, stakeholders might not have felt capacitated to comment on the survey questions at the start of the project. Ongoing feedback from stakeholders and experts also guided the themes of project capacity development initiatives. One of the key outcomes of the survey is the acknowledgement

that there needs to be a multifaceted approach to capacity development and awareness raising on the topic.

The results of the survey and feedback received from stakeholders were used to guide the project activities within the expertise of the project team, the timeframe, budget and expected outputs of the project. The recommendation of a high-level seminar was incorporated into the Dialogue Workshops. A two-day capacity development workshop in Cape Town in 2019 and the virtual workshop series focused on specific issues for more in-depth discussions as recommended in the survey. In order to create more general awareness about marine biodiversity in ABNJ and the negotiations taking place in New York, the project developed awareness raising material, more details on these and the other project activities are outlined in chapter 4.

4. Capacity development in the context of the STRONG High Seas project

4.1 Introduction

Based on the needs assessment outlined in the previous chapter, the STRONG High Seas project planned a series of capacity development events within the specific deliverables of the project. At the regional level, decision-makers require improved knowledge and understanding about the gaps, challenges and opportunities in the legal and governance framework; current status of, as well as key pressures and threats on biodiversity; the links between marine biodiversity in ABNJ and human wellbeing; as well as possible options for the management of high seas biodiversity and the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of these management approaches. At the same time, coordination and cooperation between key stakeholders in the regions facilitates improved design, implementation and durability of cross-sectoral management approaches.

The project carried out transdisciplinary scientific assessments to provide decision-makers, both in the target regions and globally, with improved knowledge and understanding on high seas biodiversity. The project aimed to engage with stakeholders from governments, private sector, science, and civil society to develop together, based on the scientific work, ecosystem-based, cross-sectoral approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific.

4.1.1 Goals of the STRONG High Seas project

- Development of targeted measures aimed at strengthening integrated/cross-sectoral governance of ABNJ at multiple scales
- Promotion of cross-regional cooperation and global-regional interaction
- Development of targeted measures, based on the ecosystem approach, to support the above
- Development of capacity to implement conservation and management measures in ABNJ
- Development of capacity to participate in international negotiations
- Identification/development of tools and best practices for:
  - monitoring, control and surveillance
  - integrated ocean governance in ABNJ
- Promote stronger role for regional approaches in international ABNJ negotiations.

4.2 Overview of project activities

The project aimed to develop capacity through a series of annual Dialogue Workshops; targeted training programs and the dissemination of policy briefs and reports generated by the project to key stakeholders. The activities of the project have also been adapted to account for travel restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project took a multifaceted approach to developing capacity within the region, focussing on creating awareness of ABNJ, generating synthesis reports, prioritising knowledge exchange, stakeholder engagement and dialogue. A concerted effort was made to connect experts and stakeholders within each region and develop wider global networks of experts with an interest in the sustainable management of ABNJ.

The project team presented the project work and the importance of marine biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction when opportunities arose, for example at the annual IOI-SA Course in Ocean Governance[7], the IOI international alumni CPD training event[8], the Rhodes Business School MBA program[9], the Biennale of Luanda[10] and other ad hoc occasions. Although these short interventions only provide a brief introduction to the topic, they create awareness in new audiences[11].

4.2.1 Stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange

Dialogue workshops brought together global and regional stakeholders and experts for discussion and knowledge exchange – five of these were run during the project. The workshops were an opportunity to disseminate the latest project outputs and to get expert input and identify priority areas for future work. The workshops were also an opportunity for cross-regional exchange with the second dialogue workshop being run in partnership with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat partners and the fifth dialogue workshop including the Southeast Pacific region.

Dialogue Workshops

Abidjan | 27 – 28 June 2018 Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic
Cape Town | 10 – 12 June 2019 Science for Solutions: Bringing stakeholders together to improve ocean planning and governance in ABNJ of the Southeast Atlantic and Western Indian Ocean
Virtual | 16 – 17 February 2021 Enhancing the Knowledge Base for Cross-Sectoral Management and Ocean Governance in ABNJ of the Southeast Atlantic
Virtual | 16 – 17 November 2021 The Role of Regional Cooperation efforts for the High Seas of the Southeast Atlantic
Virtual | 29 – 31 March 2022 Towards Integrated Ocean Management of the High Seas: Lessons Learnt for Regional and Global Action

Capacity development workshops were designed to be an opportunity for discussions with experts on topics that were highlighted during the survey and other discussions with stakeholders in the region. After the second dialogue workshop, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2019, the workshops were moved online because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although this decreased the opportunities for informal networking, it allowed for a wider audience to be able to participate without cost implications.

[7] http://ioisa.org/course-in-ocean-governance/
[8] https://www.ioinst.org/ioi-alumni/alumni-cpd/
[9] https://www.ru.ac.za/businessschool
[10] https://www.unesco.org/biennaleluanda/2021/en
[11] See https://www.prog-ocean.org/blog/category/strong-high-seas-news/ for news of various events and presentations

Capacity Development Workshops

Cape Town | 27 – 28 November 2019
Marine Biological Diversity in ABNJ Workshop

Virtual | June 2021 – January 2022
- An introduction to the United Nations Law of the Sea and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction negotiations
- Understanding the Ecology and human pressures in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and Area-based Management Tools (including Marine Protected Areas)
- The Socio-economic importance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and Environmental impact Assessments (EIA) in the context of ABNJ
- Understanding Marine Genetic Resources
- Conservation and Sustainable Use or resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Capacity development programmes were organised on the side-lines of the BBNJ Agreement negotiations at the United Nations in New York. State representatives from the project regions (Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific regions) were invited to take part in the negotiations and attend side events and expert workshops that were organised by the STRONG High Seas project together with global and regional experts. These programmes also provided an opportunity for Ministry of the Environment representatives of the Southeast Atlantic region, who are typically not directly involved in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations, to network with colleagues from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of negotiating the future BBNJ Agreement.

Side event at Intergovernment Conference

New York | 3 September 2018
Capacy Developing Working for BBNJ Negotations

New York | 8 September 2018
High Level Expert Meeting – Building a STRONG High Seas Treaty: What is the role for regional ocean governances?

New York | 25 March 2019
Strong Side Event at IGC2 – Building on and Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance

New York | 30 March 2019
High-Level Expert Meeting – Towards an Effective High Seas Treaty Building on and Strenghening Regional Ocean Governance

New York | 25th August 2019
Strong High Seas at IGC3

New York | 25 August 2019
Developing Capacities for Regional Ocean Governance: Marine Genetic Recources and Area Based Management Tools

4.2.2 Knowledge dissemination and sharing

Several reports were developed by the STRONG High Seas project team, in collaboration with regional and global experts to synthesise knowledge on various topics, including:

- Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas: Opportunities and Challenges to Improve the Legal and Institutional Framework of the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific
- Regional Ocean Governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward
- Ecological Baselines of the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific: Status of Marine Biodiversity and Anthropogenic Pressures in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Options for Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Human Activities in the Southeast Atlantic Region
- Strengthening High Seas Governance Through Enhanced Environmental Assessment Processes
- Report on Socio-Economic Importance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

A website, the purpose of which is to share information on marine biodiversity in ABNJ and ocean governance issues with key stakeholders (scientists, NGOs, international organisations: Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, International Seabed Authority, etc.), was developed for the Southeast Atlantic region. The website includes all reports and policy briefs developed by the project team and various fact sheets[12] that summarise each of the main outputs from the STRONG High Seas project including:

- The Abidjan Convention and COP Decisions on ABNJ
- Ecological Baselines for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Ecosystem-based Management
- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
- Legal and Institutional Framework for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Regional Ocean Governance

The website is designed to include background information about marine biodiversity in ABNJ, written in an accessible way with links to other resources and is available in English and French:

- English: http://highseas-abidjanconvention.org/home?language_content_entity=en
- French: http://highseas-abidjanconvention.org/fr/accueil

The STRONG High Seas Project has hosted online seminars for the wider dissemination of information around Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic, Marine Genetic Resources: Developing Capacity for Ocean Governance, Towards a Better Management of Western African Marine Resources: the Role of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, and Strengthening Monitoring control and surveillance through a High Seas Treaty. Recordings of these seminars are available online.

In addition to the formal activities organised by the STRONG High Seas Project, an informal, virtual "Helpdesk" was organised in October 2020. Government representatives who are members of the Abidjan Convention working group on ABNJ had an opportunity to sign up for a 30-minute informal meeting with representatives from the STRONG High Seas project and Abidjan Convention Secretariat to discuss and answer questions related to ABNJ governance in the region and the BBNJ Agreement negotiations.

[12] http://highseas-abidjanconvention.org/fact-sheets and https://www.prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas/

4.2.3 Public awareness

Public awareness around marine biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction is limited but can go a long way to creating an enabling environment for positive policy outcomes. The project and its partners are active on social media. The STRONG High Seas Project has engaged a wider audience by publishing articles in various online forums including:

- Deep-Sea Life Newsletter Issue 13 (pp. 21–22) available at Deep-Sea Biology Society (DSBS) and Indeep
- Deep-Sea Life Newsletter Issue 14 available at Deep-Sea Biology Society (DSBS): Article by Lewis Kihumba, Ben Boteler, Carole Durussel: Taking Stock of STRONG High Seas Project two years on (online) (01/2020)
- Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI): Newsletter Summer 2020, page 21 (06/2020)
- Conservation | mag: Article by Lewis Kihumba on Earth's High Seas: A Frontier in Need of Governance (08/2020)
- Liberian Observer: Article by Lewis Kihumba on "African States are Critical in Advancing Ocean Governance" also available at Modern Ghana, the Patriotic Vanguard and Media Guinee (French) (08/2020)
- BirdLife Africa: Newsletter December 2020, Issue 3, page 8 (English / French) (12/2020)
- BirdLife Africa: Newsletter June 2021, Issue 4, page 9 (English / French) (06/2021)
- High Seas Alliance – Treaty Tracker: STRONG High Seas Project / Study on Socio-Economic Importance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (06/2021)
- Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI): Newsletter Summer 2021, page 19 (06/2021)
- Boots on the Ground Podcast on Ocean Governance: Episode 1 (with Dr. Shannon Hampton, IOI); Episode 2 (with Carolina Hazin, BirdLife International); Episode 3 (with Dr. Carole Durussel and Ben Boteler, IASS); Episode 4 (with Abou Bamba, UNEP Abidjan Convention Secretariat) (06/2021)
- Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative (IKI)/International Climate Initiative: Article on Protection and sustainable use of the world's oceans (06/2021)
- Modern Ghana: Article by Lewis Kihumba on How countries can contribute to ocean governance in Africa also available at Enviro-News Nigeria (12/2021)
- UNEP: December Newsletter (12/2021)

4.3 Reflections

The events designed for the STRONG High Seas project had to be adapted to account for travel restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although this reduced the number of in-person events, it did allow for larger and more diverse audiences for online workshops or dialogues. This approach meant that the participation of focal points and key stakeholders was not necessarily guaranteed.

Events in the Southeast Atlantic region were organised in collaboration with the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, which resulted in most of the key contact points being in the countries' equivalent of environmental departments and therefore not necessarily directly involved in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations taking place at the United Nations in New York. And yet, the implementation of management initiatives will, most likely, be done through these departments. These are therefore key stakeholders that will need to consider the integrated ocean management of ABNJ in the Southeast Atlantic region in the future. The side events organised during the Intergovernmental Conferences provided an opportunity for bringing together representatives from the Environmental Departments with their colleagues from International Affairs.

5. Reflections from the STRONG High Seas project capacity development activities to strengthen regional ocean governance in ABNJ

The following are reflections on and recommendations for developing capacities for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ gained through the course of the STRONG High Seas project. These lessons learned aim to be a resource for other initiatives seeking to design and implement similar capacity development activities, while it does not provide an exhaustive overview of all possible considerations.

- **Capacity development programmes should be based on the needs indicated by and requests of the target audience.** This helps to ensure that the selection of topics and the design of activities (i.e., programme) is targeted towards addressing gaps in knowledge or understanding of those individuals, organisations, or societies the programme is intending to support. However, given the diverse nature and complexity of ocean governance in ABNJ and the fact this is not yet widely known as a subject area, capacity development programmes most likely cannot be based on requests from participants alone. Further reflection and review from programme organisers and experts will be needed to ensure that the broad range of relevant issues – of environmental/ecological, scientific, technical, legal, socioeconomic, and political nature – are adequately covered.

- **There is no one-size-fits-all approach to designing and implementing capacity development programmes for ocean governance in ABNJ.** Capacity development programmes should make all efforts to ensure that the content and programme design are relevant and appropriately tailor-made for the targeted audience. This is especially the case for the topic of ocean governance and ABNJ, which might be viewed as 'far from people's minds' and potentially challenging to make tangible. Programme design should draw on regional experts and examples so that the specifics of a region are included within the design of a programme and participants can connect with its content and during exchange and discussions.

- **It is important to consider the scope (i.e., broad vs narrow coverage of topics) of capacity development programmes and what can reasonably be covered or implemented within a limited timeframe and with limited resources when designing initiatives.** In the context of the STRONG High Seas project, the complexity of ocean governance in ABNJ and considering the different backgrounds and levels of knowledge of participants made it challenging to dive deeply into specific thematic fields and topics. Thus, it was deemed better to offer participants a programme that covered a broad range of topics considered essential to ocean governance in ABNJ to provide for an initial understanding of key issues.

- **Capacity development programmes should consider the timing of relevant policy processes and tailor their efforts and interventions towards contributing to policy discussions.** Regarding ocean governance and ABNJ, the negotiations for the envisaged BBNJ Agreement during the STRONG High Seas project meant that the programme focussed primarily on facilitating a broad understanding of scientific, legal, and governance content. Towards the end of the project, topics more specific to management or implementation of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement were considered. It is therefore important that topics build on each other. Uncertainty about the outcome of policy processes, such as the BBNJ Agreement ne-

gotiations, creates challenges in addressing potential future knowledge requirements of individuals and organisations/institutions without knowing future or potential roles in implementing policy or legal frameworks and agreements.

- **Language and cultural are crucial aspects to consider in the planning of capacity development events.** Capacity development programmes for ocean governance in ABNJ will potentially involve individuals across many cultures and languages, especially when taking a regional perspective such as in the STRONG High Seas project. It is therefore important to ensure the use of direct interpretation to enable participants to take part in their preferred language, that the language used is not too specialised or that it is well explained, and that interpreters have the knowledge of specialised language used or have been prepared adequately ahead of the programme. This will be important to the success of organised events, whether face-to-face or online, and help to ensure the successful exchange and transfer of information. It is also important to consider the demands upon a project that these considerations create, and ensure adequate resources are available.

- The benefits of organising capacity development programmes in face-to-face settings are well known, including opportunities for networking or one-on-one interventions and in-depth discussion and exchanges among participants on critical and/or complex topics. However, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the benefits of utilising online formats became apparent and include reaching larger audiences in a more cost-effective and more flexible manner as well as enabling programmes to be delivered over longer periods of time (e.g., over several weeks or months), thus allowing participants to engage in topics or issues between work commitments. **Mixing both approaches in a relevant and effective programme design can be a successful way to utilise the benefits from both options and enable a deeper learning experience for participants.**

- Awareness raising and general knowledge building on issues of ocean governance and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ remained an important objective throughout the STRONG High Seas project. **The starting point for any capacity development programme should be based on the existing level of knowledge and experience of the target participants.** Ocean governance in ABNJ is a relatively specialised field, which includes diverse, and complex topics, and therefore has a relatively small number of individuals working directly on the subject. Particularly when working with government institutions and actors, capacity development programmes should be prepared for a high rotation of individuals due to changes in posts and staff members. This will require that capacity development programmes are designed to ensure that individuals joining a programme have access to additional or introductory information on topics previously discussed in the programme.

- **Capacity development programmes can benefit from identifying and supporting key changemakers within a programme.** Such changemakers can be important to help champion knowledge sharing and ensure that it is taken up or further distributed within their institutions, and beyond. This way, these individual changemakers can act as multipliers for institutional or organisational capacity as well as act as knowledge brokers once a capacity development programme has concluded.

- **A regional vision, which highlights long-term needs (e.g., future roles, etc.) of key actors and institutions, can be important to create a targeted capacity development programme to proactively develop capacity where gaps exist.** Without such a coordinated vision, regional capacity development programmes will not be able to provide a fully targeted and systematic plan to support progress towards this vision.

- **Capacity development activities within regions should be coordinated** when covering the same or similar topics, such as the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. Coordination and cooperation across different capacity development programmes, enables initiatives to benefit from e.g., reaching broader audiences, access to learning material and regional experts, exchanging on lessons learned, or designing complementary and therefore more targeted programmes.

- **A repository of relevant information, including learning material, can support capacity development programmes by ensuring participants and their organisations have continued access to relevant material beyond the life of an individual project.** Such a platform could also act as a place where actors and stakeholders could ask questions or reach out for advice to others on specific questions. The discussions spurred by such online inquires could benefit multiple actors focusing on similar topics within their own work. In the long-term, with respect to ocean governance and ABNJ and the implementation of the envisaged BBNJ Agreement, the planned 'clearing house mechanism' could act as a platform for dissemination of information related to capacity development.

Annex 1: Brief overview of some of the existing global and region capacity development Initiatives for sustainable management and conservation in ABNJ

Regional Seas Programmes

The Regional Seas Programmes play an important role in the implementation of relevant parts of UNCLOS, especially Part XII on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment, and, given the connectivity between coastal ecosystems and ABNJ, are likely to have an important role in the implementation of the future BBNJ Agreement currently under negotiation.

Relevant activities under the Regional Seas Programmes, which do include ABNJ within their geographic scope[13], are primarily related to the management and reduction of marine and coastal pollution and the establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which are partly or wholly within the ABNJ covered within their area of competence.

In addition, several other Regional Seas Conventions have initiated activities to consider extending their areas of competence in response to the developments around ABNJ (UNEP, 2016). In the case of the Abidjan Convention this comprises the establishment of a working group which was addressed in the previous chapters.

Regional Fisheries bodies

Regional Fisheries bodies play an important role in facilitating cooperation amongst Member States in the implementation of international fisheries agreements. Some of these bodies have a purely advisory role, while Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) can adopt legally binding management measures. Most fishing in ABNJ is managed at the regional level through the Member States of RFMOs (Durussel et al., 2018). Most regional fisheries bodies are also required to assist developing States in the fulfilment of their legal obligations.

In the Southeast Atlantic region there are four fisheries bodies whose scope includes ABNJ including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT); the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT); the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) and the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) (Durussel et al., 2018). Of these, ICCAT, CCSBT and SEAFO are RFMOs, while CECAF is an advisory body. All of these organisations play a role in capacity developing.

SEAFO is a partner of the Common Oceans ABNJ Deep Seas Project, and the SEAFO Secretariat, together with representatives of some of its member countries (Angola, Namibia, and South Africa) have been involved in several training events organised by the ABNJ Deep Seas project, including training on:

- The Implementation of International Policy and Legal Instruments Related to Deep-Sea Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- ABNJ Deep Seas Project Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
- SEAFO Observer training
- SEAFO Port inspection training.

[13] The OSPAR Convention (NE Atlantic), CCAMLR (Antarctic), Barcelona Convention (Mediterranean), Noumea Convention (South Pacific and the Lima Convention (Southeast Pacific)

UNESCO-IOC

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO's Capacity Development Strategy 2015 – 2021 identifies the "deep sea" as an emerging ocean science issue. The IOC-Africa Sub Commission covers Africa and the Adjacent Island States. IOC-Africa aims to promote scientific research and understanding of the ocean and coastal environment and resources, and provide the science base necessary for the development of the Blue Economy in Africa as outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063 ("The Africa We Want"), and the 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategic Plan of Action (AIMS2050).

Capacity development is an important component of the IOC-Africa work plan with the following priorities identified:

- Development of an IOC-Africa Capacity Development portal
- Continuous professional development for marine scientists from the region
- Strengthening and development of regional training centres
- Strengthening ocean science programmes in African Universities (including development of curriculum), improvement of linkages between centres of excellence and universities, and provision of equipment for research.
- Mentorship and programmes targeting youth and female scientists
- Organize training courses and workshops on the following topics: Operational oceanography, Ocean modelling and forecasting, Marine biodiversity, Marine spatial planning, and Identification of Harmful Algal Blooms
- Establishment of an IOC-AFRICA Group of Experts on Capacity Development and Awareness to assist in the development and coordination of relevant activities.

DOALOS – Nippon Foundation Training Programme

The United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) together with the Nippon Foundation were running 'Training Programs to Reinforce Capacity in the Context of the Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction' (Cicin-Sain et al., 2018).

The Common Oceans Program

The Common Oceans ABNJ Program (Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ) was a five-year GEF-FAO Program that was initiated in 2014 (FAO, 2017). It was being implemented in close collaboration with UNEP and the World Bank with executing agencies ranging from RFMOs, national governments, the private sector, and NGOs. It included a project designed to strengthen global capacity to effectively manage ABNJ (The GEF/FAO/GOF Capacity Development Project).

In addition to the Common Oceans ABNJ Capacity Project, other projects under the Common Oceans Program also contribute to capacity development for participants from developing countries and small island developing States (SIDs) including the ABNJ Tuna Project and ABNJ Deep Seas Project.

Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI)

The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI) is a union of experts from across disciplines and sectors formed to develop new ideas for sustainable use and management of deep-ocean resources. DOSI has a Working Group which focuses on awareness and developing capacity, especially in developing nations in whose waters many deep-water seabed resources are located. Activities include:

- Develop and hold short courses on deep-ocean stewardship for public, private and civil sector representatives;
- Develop an online video library of deep-ocean settings and organisms;
- Write a 'Deep-Ocean Stewardship for Beginners' publication;
- Develop and compile an on- and offline searchable bibliography of deep ocean science and projects;
- Develop a deep-ocean citizen science platform;
- Facilitate the establishment of regional centres of expertise for deep-ocean science and stewardship, targeting regions such as Africa, the southwest Pacific, and Latin America.

iAtlantic

iAtlantic is a European Horizon 2020 project which started in mid-2019 and will run until 2023. It includes capacity developing and policy components, and an 'integrated assessment of Atlantic marine ecosystems in space and time' – including research cruises.

The capacity developing component[14] of iAtlantic work will be facilitated through a programme of training courses, technical workshops, seminars, and hands-on knowledge transfer activities throughout the project. The iAtlantic capacity developing programme will revolve around 5 key themes:

- Transfer of technologies, facilities, and experimental techniques
- Researcher mobility (seagoing opportunities; researcher exchange)
- Analytical techniques, dataset manipulation and integration
- Policy and governance
- Transferable skills.

International Ocean Institute – Southern Africa

The International Ocean Institute runs a 'Course in Ocean Governance for Africa' which includes a section on ABNJ. As the situation develops with the BBNJ Agreement, this will be updated with the latest information available. The course caters to all practitioners in ocean governance from across Africa and runs annually for four weeks. In 2021 IOI-SA and IOI-Canada collaborated on a 'Continuing Professional Development' training for IOI global alumni, that covered new and emerging issues including marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

MAMI WATA Project

The MAMI WATA project "Enhancing Marine Management in West, Central and Southern Africa through Training and Application" run until the end of 2021 and was working in and with African countries to further develop their capacities for Integrated Ocean Management (IOM). Recognising the importance of healthy marine and coastal ecosystems for human well-being and development, the project applied tools and strategies to improve the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity in countries along the African Atlantic coast.

Capacity development was a core aspect of the MAMI WATA project through training workshops, expert and practitioner exchange, knowledge sharing and online learning in the Southeast Atlantic region. The capacity development activities were designed to create stronger and more connected networks between the countries, institutions, and stakeholders. The activities were undertaken in partnership with regional and global initiatives and made use of existing solutions and practical experience. http://mamiwataproject.org/cap-development/. Although the MAMI WATA project did not specifically cover ABNJ, much of the capacity developing is relevant.

[14] Information provided by AJ Smit, UWC.

Annex 2: Survey of capacity needs for the Abidjan Convention region

Survey results:

Awareness of ABNJ

The majority of the respondents were aware of ABNJ issues and were of the opinion that their colleagues were also informed on the subject. On the other hand, only 58% felt that decision-makers in their countries were aware of ABNJ, while the majority (94%) felt that the general public are not. See Table 1 below for a summary of responses.

Issues identified as being important included governance of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, sustainable use of resources, access and benefit sharing, marine pollution, IUU fishing, fisheries development, understanding of the economic value, marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, access to technology, oil and gas exploitation and geoengineering.

Table 1: Levels of awareness of ABNJ issues

Response / Target group	Yes	No	Some	No response
Respondents	**29**	**5**		**1**
Decision-makers	**17**	**12**	**1**	**5**
Colleagues	**22**	**10**	**1**	**2**
General public	**1**	**31**	**1**	**2**

Legal/policy framework

Of the responses that were received, the following numbers indicated that the respondent's countries had legislation and/or policies on (although there was some discrepancy when there were multiple responses from the same country):

- Integrated Coastal Management – 20
- Conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity – 26
- Fisheries management – 30
- Marine Spatial Planning – 10.

In terms of participation in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations, the responses were sometimes contradictory both from individual respondents and particularly where there was more than one respondent from a single country. Moreover, information obtained from the Abidjan Convention Secretariat suggested that despite the responses, some additional countries had participated in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations with support from the Regional Leaders Programme (Common Oceans) and/or the DOALOS training. If nothing else, this suggests a general lack of awareness of national activities around ABNJ even amongst government officials.

Factors preventing participation in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations include:

- Lack of awareness
- Lack of funding

Blue Economy

Respondents from all countries indicated that they are actively promoting the concept of the Blue Economy with oil and gas, other mineral resources and fisheries being seen as the most important resources. Countries highlighted the economic potential of marine genetic resources. Shipping, biodiversity, pollution, tourism, marine protection, aquaculture, harbour development and mangrove and coastal ecosystem protection were also identified as important to individual respondents.

Management Tools and Approaches

Based on the survey results, MPAs, Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are the most commonly used environment management tools in the region. However, it should be noted that since some of the tools are linked to particular sectors – for example, Special Areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) are linked to shipping – the responses are likely to be biased by the expertise of the individual respondents. This is also reflected in the fact that responses from different individuals from the same country differed in some cases.

Regarding the use of the Ecosystem Approach, most countries indicated that it is used in fisheries and/or coastal management. However, none of the respondents provided a formal definition of the term.

Scientific Research and Technology Transfer

Most respondents provided the names of research organisations/institutions in their countries which are engaged in scientific research on marine ecosystems and/or resources. However, for 9 of the 16 countries, this does not include research related to ABNJ. Those that are looking at ABNJ are undertaking research on Deep Sea Biodiversity, Genetic Marine Resources and Management Tools. Fisheries or living marine resources use was the most frequently identified priority, followed by biodiversity studies. More general research priorities identified included:

- Sustainable Resource Management (including baseline assessments)
- Climate Change (ocean acidification)
- Ecosystem and Species Research (e.g., Coastal Zone, Marine Mammals)
- Oil and Gas and other mineral resources (including pollution associated with these)
- Connectivity of ABNJ and EEZ
- Marine Protected Areas
- Pollution
- Blue Economy
- Over population
- Legal and regulatory framework.

Only a few of the respondents identified collaborative research initiatives and, in most cases, these involved collaboration within the country concerned. However, some of the broader collaborations identified included the African Network on Ocean Acidification, the Office of Scientific and Technical Research Overseas (ORSTOM) of the French Institute for Research Development (IRD), and the Fridtjof Nansen (Norwegian research vessel).

The few comments on technology transfer were vague, and most respondents were unaware of the IOC-UNESCO Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology for ABNJ activities.

Data Acquisition and Information Management

Respondents from 9 of the responding countries indicated that they had some form of coastal/ocean monitoring in place including:

- water quality monitoring (6 countries),
- ocean observation systems (9 countries),
- coral reef monitoring (3 countries),
- seagrass monitoring (1 country) and
- general biodiversity monitoring (1 country).

Most of these countries also have information management systems in place in the form of Ocean and Coastal Information Systems (10 countries) and/or Clearing House Mechanisms (7 countries).

Priorities for Capacity Developing

As can be seen from Table 2 below, most of the areas proposed for capacity developing were important, with developing the awareness/understanding of decision-makers receiving the highest rating. There appeared to be a misunderstanding regarding the question related to prioritisation of capacity developing in the use of management tools (i.e., those listed in a previous question). Some participants listed all tools, while others did not complete this question at all. Of those that did identify priorities, Marine Spatial Planning, Environmental Impact Assessments, and the Ecosystem Approach were mentioned. In addition, under "other", areas identified for capacity developing included integrated ocean/coastal management, ecosystem management, industry capacity development, research and policy development. It was also proposed that marine biodiversity in ABNJ and ocean governance in general, be included in curricula of both secondary and tertiary educational institutions.

Other types of constraints – in addition to those related to human resources – included:

- Financial resources (x16)
- Political will (x6)
- Knowledge of ABNJ (x3)
- Lack of research and technical resources (x2)
- Data and information Availability (x2).

Table 2: Summary of responses on priorities for capacity developing.

Type of capacity developing		Very Important	Medium importance	Limited importance
Building political will	Decision makers	25	25	8
	General public	8	8	10
Legal/ enforcement capacity	Drafting of policy/laws	15	15	5
	Compliance & enforcement	16	16	7
Management capacity	Management tools	20	20	7
	Ecosystem approach	17	17	5
Research capacity		20	20	7
Technology transfer		18	18	6

Approach to Capacity Developing

Respondents were requested to indicate which approaches to capacity developing they felt would be most useful. The responses are summarised in the Table 3 below.

Table 3: Summary of responses to capacity developing options

Option	# of votes
Short course on ABNJ/BBNJ (Introduction to concepts and value) at the regional level	**32**
A High-Level Seminar on ABNJ/BBNJ aimed at raising awareness of political leaders in the region	**32**
Short course/s on relevant management tools at the regional level	**31**
Policy dialogue at the regional level	**28**
A primer/policy brief on ABNJ aimed at decision makers	**27**
Public awareness raising through social media	**26**
Public awareness raising through traditional media	**25**
An academic course on ABNJ/BBNJ	**23**
Massive Online Open Course	**18**
Webinars	**15**

Annex 3: STRONG High Seas activities

Dialogue Workshops

↗ Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic – Dialogue Workshop 1, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire 27–28 June 2018

The first Dialogue Workshop was held in Abidjan in June 2018. The workshop was attended by 37 stakeholders including representatives from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Togo and Senegal as well as global and regional organisations, academia and NGOs. The workshop was an opportunity for participants to engage with the topic, discuss the status of the negotiations, share interests and challenges for global and regional ocean governance as well as foster exchange and build new networks. Capacity developing workshops, covering key issues of the BBNJ Agreement negotiations, were identified as important for Abidjan Convention member States and as a key requirement to enable ministry representatives involved in the BBNJ process to actively take part and shape the BBNJ discussions and negotiations.



↗ Science for Solutions – Joint Dialogue Workshop 2, Cape Town, South Africa, 10 – 12 June 2019

The second Dialogue Workshop was an opportunity for collaboration with the ABNJ Deep Seas Project. A Joint Workshop – Science for Solutions: Bringing Stakeholders Together to Improve Ocean Planning and Governance in ABNJ of the Southeast Atlantic and Western Indian Ocean – was held in Cape Town with 86 participants from the Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention regions, science, academia, and NGOs. It was organised back-to-back with a Collective Meeting of the Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention on the 12th of June and a meeting of the ABNJ Working Group of the Abidjan Convention on the 13th of June. The workshop was an opportunity for sharing products of both projects and discussing issues and challenges facing Africa's involvement in marine biodiversity in ABNJ issues. While many African states lack national ocean governance institutional structures, it is hoped that these could more easily be developed once strong regional and global structures are in place.



↗ Enhancing the Knowledge Base for Cross-Sectoral Management and Ocean Governance in ABNJ of the Southeast Atlantic – Dialogue Workshop 3, Online 16–17 February 2021

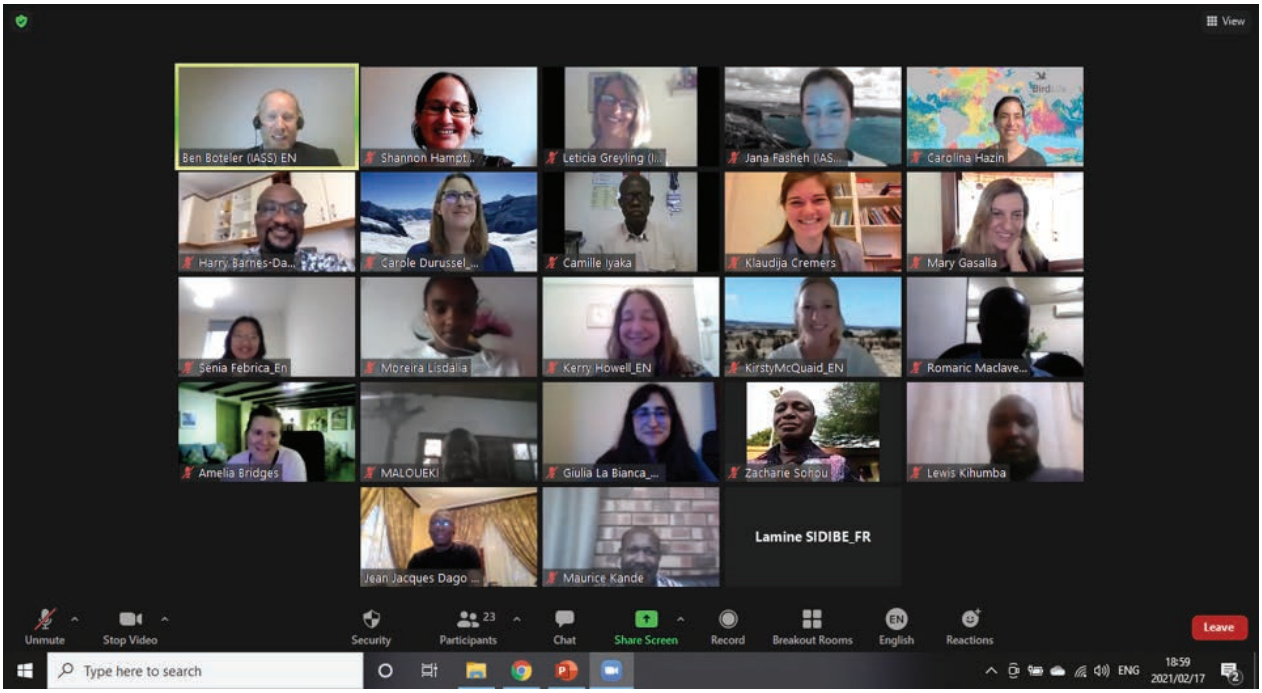
The STRONG High Seas project along with its partner, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, organised the third Dialogue Workshop 'Enhancing the Knowledge Base for Cross-Sectoral Management and Ocean Governance in ABNJ of the Southeast Atlantic'. The workshop brought together, online, more than 40 participants from member States of the Abidjan Convention as well as global and regional organisations, scientific institutions.

The Dialogue Workshop offered a space for Abidjan Convention member States, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, sectoral organisations, academia, and civil society to present their work and discuss critical aspects relevant to marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), particularly to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in these areas (BBNJ).

Participants emphasised the current and potential future role of the Abidjan Convention and its Secretariat as a key convener of States and for coordinating efforts in the Southeast Atlantic region.

Workshop participants highlighted that there is a strong need for African States and stakeholders of the Southeast Atlantic region to enhance efforts regarding the ongoing BBNJ Agreement negotiations and issues related to ABNJ. To support this, awareness raising, and political engagement are essential through all areas of society.

There is also an important need for initiatives, such as the STRONG High Seas project, to continue to support capacity-developing efforts in African States and help to enhance their participation and role in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations and in ABNJ issues more broadly.



↗ The Role of Regional Cooperation efforts for the High Seas of the Southeast Atlantic – Dialogue Workshop 4 Online, 16 – 17 November 2021

The Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention and the STRONG High Seas project brought together more than 50 participants from national governments as well as global and regional organisations, regional scientific institutions, academia, the private sector, and NGOs for the fourth dialogue workshop. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop was held online.

Under the title 'The Role of Regional Cooperation Efforts for the High Seas of the Southeast Atlantic', the workshop provided a setting for States and stakeholders to exchange regarding lessons learnt and best practices as well as challenges and potential points for increased collaboration in ocean governance, particularly regarding the conservation of marine biodiversity in ABNJ.

While COVID-19 has caused a delay in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations, there remains significant opportunities for States and stakeholders, including in the Southeast Atlantic region, to be involved. Workshop participants highlighted that there is a strong need for African States and stakeholders of the Southeast Atlantic region to enhance efforts regarding the ongoing BBNJ Agreement negotiations and issues related to ABNJ, including considerations for the future implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. To support this, awareness raising, and political engagement are essential through all areas of society.



↗ Towards Integrated Ocean Management of the High Seas: Lessons Learnt for Regional and Global Action – Dialogue Workshop 5, 29–31 March 2022

The workshop provided a setting for States and stakeholders from the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific regions, and beyond, to identify key actions for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

In particular, the workshop built on scientific findings from the STRONG High Seas project and reflections from key experts to suggest and discuss targeted actions to:

- ↗ Foster multi-stakeholder cooperation both between governance levels and across sectors to support the successful implementation of the future agreement on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement);
- ↗ Underpin ongoing as well as identify new regional initiatives and actions to enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration to underpin conservation efforts, such as through area-based management tools, in support of global goals; and
- ↗ Identify key areas of convergence with the implementation of the future BBNJ Agree-

ment across issues, such as climate change, blue economy, deep-seabed mining, post-2020 CBD framework, where collaborative efforts are necessary to address cross-cutting challenges and underpin joint action.

Side Events during IGC negotiations

- **Capacity Developing Working for the BBNJ Agreement Negotiations, New York, USA, 3 September 2018**

Ministry representatives and UN negotiators from the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic were brought together for this workshop which focused on the BBNJ Agreement negotiations and the relevance of regional ocean governance to delivering this international instrument. A total of 21 participants from three countries in the Southeast Atlantic were present: Nigeria, Guinea and Gabon.

The workshop focused on:

- Prepare for the BBNJ Agreement negotiations in terms of what they would entail and what could be expected;
- Contribute to a better understanding of the BBNJ Agreement negotiations in terms of the opportunities and challenges of the negotiations of an international instrument on BBNJ for the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic regions;
- Highlight the importance, opportunities and challenges of regional ocean governance approaches for the implementation of a future BBNJ agreement under UNCLOS;
- Provide a networking opportunity for participants from different regions and countries and ensure mutual learning
- High-Level Expert Meeting – Building a STRONG High Seas Treaty: What is the role for regional ocean governances – 8 September 2018

The STRONG High Seas project, together with German Government, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, hosted a high-level expert meeting alongside the first meeting working towards a new high seas treaty. Sixty-five participants gathered in an informal setting to discuss the role and contribution of regional and sectoral ocean governance in developing and underpinning the implementation of a strong high seas agreement.

The first of three substantive sessions of the meeting and focused on regional efforts to strengthen management of ABNJ, discussing a wide range of experiences – highlighted the Abidjan Convention States gave a review of various area-based planning tools.

In the second session, participants turned towards how regional and sectoral governance mechanisms could support an effective international instrument. Contributions explored both the challenges for effective governance within the fragmented current framework, as well as provided some thoughts on how to overcome these and integrate existing mechanisms into a new agreement. The second session provided some food for thought on integrating existing mechanisms into a new agreement.

In the final session of the day a varied panel of speakers provided insight into ongoing processes that could strengthen governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), including activities of the CBD, efforts to reduce or eliminate harmful subsidies, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi.

- STRONG Side Event at IGC2 – Building on and Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance – 25 March 2019

The side event presented the ongoing work of the STRONG High Seas project and provided an informal space for a discussion of how regional and sectoral governance mechanisms can underpin an ambitious and effective international treaty, which will in turn provide further sup-

port for regional initiatives. While delegations and observers to the Intergovernmental Conference have been considering the possible role and contributions of existing organizations, they are yet to converge on a consensus regarding the modalities for effectively building on and fostering cooperation with existing governance mechanisms.

↗ High-Level Expert Meeting – Towards an Effective High Seas Treaty: Building on and Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance – 30 March 2019

The STRONG High Seas project, together with German Government, hosted a high-level expert meeting alongside the second meeting of the International Governmental Conference working towards a high seas treaty. It brought together approximately 30 experts for an informal discussion regarding the legal and institutional framework of a new agreement, in particular options for the establishment of MPAs and promoting coherence of AMBTs under a new agreement.

In the first and second session participants engaged in a lively and open discussion on the possible modalities for designation and implementation of marine protected areas and other management tools in the high seas, as well as how a new treaty could provide for effective oversight and enforcement. They highlighted the range of existing initiatives underway to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and management of high seas biodiversity, noting both the success stories and challenges. Potential options for the proposal and designation of protections were discussed, including the possible role for regional and sectoral organizations, with participants highlighting the need for solid scientific mechanisms, stakeholder participation, and clear obligations on States to cooperate and coordinate on conservation and sustainable use.

In the last round the role and tools for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) were considered. It was noted as a key factor in ensuring the effectiveness of a future treaty. Participants described a wide range of technological and policy tools that are available, as well as many existing organisations that have a mandate to conduct MCS activities. They also highlighted that transparency could be a guiding principle for strengthening MCS of the high seas, implemented through enhanced reporting, data sharing and capacity building.



- Developing Capacities for Regional Ocean Governance: Marine Genetic Resources and Area-Based Management Tools, New York, USA, 25 August 2019

The STRONG High Seas project, together with Germany, the Secretariats of the Abidjan Convention and Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) hosted a workshop for 40 participants from international organisations, academia and NGOs titled on the side-lines of the third session of negotiations for an international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (IGC 3) in New York, USA.

Capacity Development Workshops

- Marine Biological Diversity in ABNJ Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa, 27-28 November 2019

Participants from the western coast of Africa met, for a two-day capacity developing workshop on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). The workshop was the first of two sessions planned for the Southeast Atlantic region, organized under the STRONG High Seas Project, by the International Ocean Institute – African Region, in collaboration with BirdLife International.

The workshop aimed to bring together representatives from the Abidjan Convention countries, with an interest in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations that are taking place in New York. It focused on providing an understanding of the structure and contents of the negotiations, as well as the relevance for African States, and how they can contribute to the negotiations at a national and regional level. There were participants representing South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Gabon, Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Liberia.

The first day of the workshop focused on the importance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and how ocean resources and ecosystem health are inherently connected across borders. The participants were brought up to speed on the history of the BBNJ Agreement negotiations and encouraged to realise the importance of Africa's role in the negotiations. It was lucky happenstance that the new draft of the negotiation text was released at the end of the first day. This allowed for discussion on the text on day 2, and room for questions on how to engage effectively in the process given that there are still many points requiring resolution in the text.

The presentations covered the following topics:

- Introduction to the High Seas
- The STRONG Project – an introduction
- Introduction to the BBNJ Agreement negotiations
- South Africa and the African Group's perspective
- ABNJ and the Southeast Atlantic Region
- The Abidjan Convention and marine biodiversity in ABNJ



↗ Virtual Capacity Development Series

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided that the second thematic capacity development workshop should take place as a series of virtual workshops. We acknowledge that online events can drain energy and it is more difficult to concentrate to over extended periods, therefore, to cover the content, we split the workshop across five sessions. The virtual series was designed to encourage discussion and engagement with the experts:

↗ An introduction to the United Nations Law of the Sea and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction negotiations (June 2021)

↗ Understanding the Ecology and human pressures in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and Area-based Management Tools (including Marine Protected Areas). (August 2021)

↗ The Socio-economic importance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) in the context of ABNJ (October 2021)

↗ Understanding Marine Genetic Resources (November 2021)

↗ Conservation and Sustainable Use of resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (January 2022)

The series was designed to provide the participants with tools and knowledge to share with their colleagues and across national departments to help the countries of the Southeast Atlantic to enhance ocean governance in the region and implement the BBNJ treaty in their national context after its ratification.

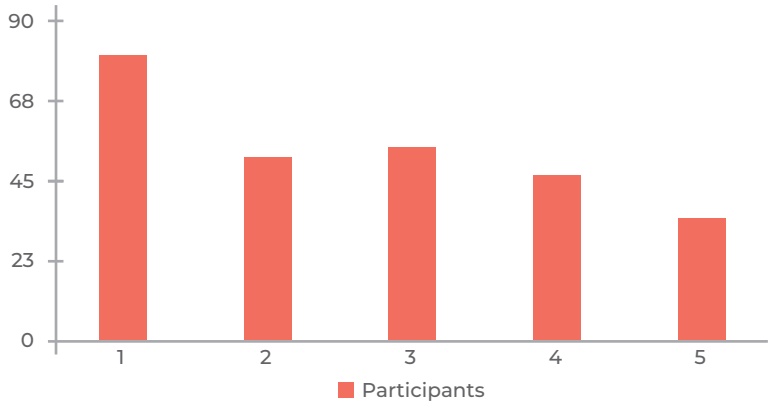


Figure 1: The virtual capacity workshop series occurred over 5 events from June 2021 to January 2022. The figure shows the number of people participated in the virtual event (red).

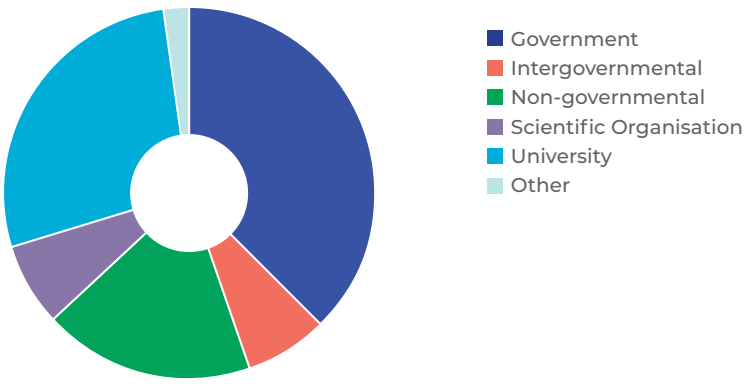


Figure 2: Proportion of participants from different sectors across all events in the virtual capacity development workshop series.

Annex 4: Questionnaire used in STRONG High Seas Southeast Atlantic capacity needs survey

Survey on Capacity Development Needs for ABNJ/BBNJ

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.

I. Personal details

a. Name (preferred but optional):
b. Country:
c. Ministry/department/organisation/institution:
d. Does your organisation operate regionally or nationally?
e. Job title & brief job description (main responsi bilities in relation to ocean governance):
f. Contact details (e-mail and telephone – pre ferred but optional):

II. 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:

a. Are you personally familiar with the concept of ABNJ?

Yes **No**

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

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

Yes **No**

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

Yes **No**

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

Yes **No**

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

None **All** **Some**

(please list which):

III. Legal/policy framework

a. Does your country have a policy/legislation on:

↗ Integrated Coastal Management?

Yes **No**

↗ The conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity?

Yes **No**

↗ Fisheries?

Yes **No**

↗ Marine Spatial Planning?

Yes **No**

If yes for any of the above, please provide details:

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

Yes **No**

If yes, please provide details:

c. Is your country a Contracting Party to UNCLOS?

Yes **No**

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

Yes **No**

If yes:

- Which Ministry is representing your country at the negotiations?
- Have the representatives participated in the training (organised by DOALOS or other organisations) on BBNJ issues to prepare for the BBNJ Agreement negotiations?
- Does your country have an Inter-Ministerial Coordinating structure at which issues related to the BBNJ Agreement negotiations can be discussed (in preparation for the negotiation sessions)?
- Are issues related to the BBNJ Agreement negotiations currently being discussed with other relevant stakeholders in your country?
- Are issues related to the BBNJ Agreement negotiations being discussed with other relevant countries in your region and/or in relevant regional fora? (In addition to Abidjan Convention meetings).

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

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

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

Yes **No**

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

IV. Blue economy

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

Yes **No**

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

- Oil and gas
- Other mineral resources
- Fisheries
- Marine genetic resources
- Other? e.g.:

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

Yes **No**

If yes, please provide details:

V. Management tools and approach

a. There are a variety of management tools which are used in the management of nation-

al 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:

- ↗ 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? Please specify.

b. 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.?

Yes **No**

If yes, please provide text:

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

- ↗ Fisheries management
- ↗ Coastal management generally

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

Yes **No**

If yes, please provide details:

VI. Scientific research and technology transfer

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

Yes **No**

If yes, please list:

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

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

Yes **No**

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

d. If yes, in which field/s is the research:

- ↗ Genetic Marine Resources
- ↗ Deep sea biodiversity
- ↗ Use of management tools
- ↗ Other? Please specify:

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

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

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

VII. Data acquisition and information management

a. Does your country/organisation have ongo-

ing observation/ monitoring programmes in place which generate data on marine and coastal resources and ecosystems? E.g.:

- Participate in Ocean Observation Systems
- Water quality monitoring programmes
- Coral reef monitoring programmes
- Other? E.g.:

b. 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.

- Ocean and Coastal Information System
- Clearing House Mechanism
- Other? E.g.

VIII. Priorities for capacity development

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

- Participate in the BBNJ Agreement negotiations?

Yes **No**

- Contribute to the conservation and management of BBNJ?

Yes **No**

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

Yes **No**

If yes, please provide details:

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

Yes **No**

If yes, please specify:

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

e. Which of the following would you regard as a priority for capacity development in relation to ABNJ/BBNJ? Indicate all which are applicable and mark as *** = Very Important; ** = Medium importance; * Limited importance.

- Building political will through awareness and understanding of ABNJ amongst:
  - Decision-makers
  - General public
- Legal/enforcement capacity development
  - Drafting of policy/legislation
  - Compliance and enforcement
- Management capacity development
  - Management tools
  - Ecosystem approach
  - Other?
- Research capacity
- Transfer of technology
- Other? E.g.:

f. Which of the management tools listed in section V above would be priorities for training? Specify:

g. 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?

IX. What type of capacity development approach/es do you think would be most useful? Tick all that are applicable.

- ↗ 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
  - ↗ Social Media
- ↗ Other? E.g.:

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

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Published by

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ViSdP

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April 2022

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Federal Ministry of Education and Research
FONA Research for Sustainability
LAND BRANDENBURG Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur

About the STRONG High Seas project

The STRONG High Seas project is a five-year project that aims to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Working with the Secretariat of the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS; Permanent Commission for the South Pacific) and the Secretariat of the West and Central Africa Regional Seas Programme (Abidjan Convention), the project will develop and propose targeted measures to support the coordinated development of integrated and ecosystem-based management approaches for ocean governance in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). In this project, we carry out trans-disciplinary scientific assessments to provide decision-makers, both in the target regions and globally, with improved knowledge and under- standing on high seas biodiversity. We engage with stakeholders from governments, private sector, scientists and civil society to support the design of integrated, cross-sectoral approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific. We then facilitate the timely delivery of these proposed approaches for potential adoption into the relevant regional policy processes. To enable an interregional exchange, we further ensure dialogue with relevant stakeholders in other marine regions. To this end, we set up a regional stakeholder platform to facilitate joint learning and develop a community of practice. Finally, we explore links and opportunities for regional governance in a new international and legally-binding instrument on marine biodiversity in the high seas.

Project duration: June 2017 – May 2022
Coordinator: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
Implementing partners: BirdLife International, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), International Ocean Institute (IOI), Universidad Católica del Norte, WWF Colombia, WWF Germany
Regional partners: Secretariat of the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention
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Partners of the STRONG High Seas project: