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Report of the Inception Workshop: Deep-Sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach Project (2022-2027)

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Abstract	<p>FAO convened the Inception Workshop of the Deep-Sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach Project (2022-2027) in Rome, from the 24 to the 26 January 2023. The meeting was organized in hybrid format.</p> <p>The Workshop discussed the Project setup, and its overall framework within the Common Oceans Program. Furthermore, the Workshop discussed the Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Committee.</p> <p>This paper provides a report of the discussions and presentations of the Workshop.</p>

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**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean**

**Report of the Inception Workshop:
Deep-Sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach Project (2022-2027)
24 - 26 January 2023, Rome (hybrid meeting)**



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABNJ	areas beyond national jurisdiction
CTA	Chief Technical Officer
DSF	deep-sea fisheries
EAF	ecosystem approach to fisheries
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCP	Global Coordination Project
GCU	global coordination unit
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GSC	Global Steering Committee
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICFA	International Coalition of Fishers Associations
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUU fishing	illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
KMC	knowledge management and communication
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
PFD	Program Framework Document
PMU	project management unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RFMO	regional fisheries management organization
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
SIOFA	South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SIODFA	Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fisheries Association
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization

TORs	terms of reference
UN	United Nations
VME	vulnerable marine ecosystem

1. Introduction

The Executive Secretary of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Miguel Bernal, welcomed the participants present at the meeting, as well as those joining virtually. He noted the importance of the *Deep-Sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach* project (from here on, “the DSF project” or “the project”) in supporting sustainable fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and reducing impacts on other species co-existing in the ecosystems where these fisheries occur. He also stressed that the project is designed to reach its potential through the collaboration with partners, who are the driving force behind the future management and sustainable utilization of living marine resources in the ABNJ.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters Technical Officer for FAO, Lorenzo Galbiati, presented the FAO GEF Unit’s operations with GEF and the responsibilities for FAO in implementing the DSF Project. He noted that GEF has modified its operational procedures by grouping projects into programs that aim to centralize the implementation process and improve knowledge management in related regions and sectors.

The participants introduced themselves (see Annex 1: List of Participants) and noted that many were active in the first phase of the project and were looking forward to future collaboration. All partners of the project were present at the meeting, with the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America participating virtually. Several participants joined only for specific sessions.

The DSF Project Manager and Chief Technical Advisor, Eszter Hidas, welcomed the participants to the workshop, and informed that the inception workshop would aim to:

- Introduce the objectives, key outputs and activities, and the governance structure of Phase II of the DSF project
- Discuss and possibly adopt terms of reference for the Project Steering Committee (PSC)
- Discuss and agree on the annual workplan and budget for the first year of implementation of the DSF project
- Discuss the knowledge management and communications strategy of the DSF project
- Communicate the monitoring and evaluation requirements of the DSF project

She noted that the meeting would have half-day sessions on the first and third days of the workshop that would deal with general issues to support project management and the responsibilities of partners; while the full-day session on the second day of the workshop would go through the outcomes, outputs and activities of the project in detail, and provide participating partners the opportunity to provide input to the design of the project’s work. The agenda was presented to, and adopted by, participants (see Annex 2: Agenda). The list of documents prepared for the meeting were shared with participants in advance, the most relevant of which are also included in the Annexes of this report.

2. The Big Picture

The Global Coordinator of the Common Oceans Program (from here on “the Program”), Viktoria Varga Lencses, presented the overall logic of the Program and how the different child projects contribute to this (see Annex 3: Common Oceans Program). She explained that the Program operates through the Global Coordination Project (GCP) that supports Program coordination and monitoring, knowledge management and communications, and innovative private sector engagement in the ABNJ. The four other child projects include:

- Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (Tuna Project)

- Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach (Deep-sea Fisheries Project)
- Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Cross-Sectoral Capacity Project)
- Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea (Sargasso Sea Project)

Throughout its five years (2022-2027), the Program will:

- Strengthen frameworks, processes and incentives for more effective governance and adaptive management,
- Improve the capacity for participating States to more effectively implement integrated management based on the ecosystem approach,
- Support better coordination, collaboration and partnerships between the fisheries sector and other stakeholders and relevant initiatives, and
- Improve awareness and understanding of the challenges and solutions to sustainable use of ABNJ.

The project's DSF consultant, Tony Thompson, then presented the process used to develop the project document of the DSF Project, in collaboration with partners. He explained that the DSF Project follows on from the *Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* project, which was part of the Phase I of the Common Ocean Program. The DSF project document was developed in a participatory manner in consultation with project partners. The earliest meetings concerned the development of the Program's *Theory of Change* in December 2018 and April 2019 and the invitation for potential partners to express interest in joining one or more of the five respective child projects. The DSF Project document was then reviewed by partners at an *Inception workshop* in August 2020³, and finalized at a *Validation workshop* in September 2021⁴. The project document was first submitted to GEF Secretariat in February 2022 for comments and then re-submitted in March 2022. The GEF approved the project in July 2022⁵, and published the project document⁶.

Finally, Ms. Hidas presented a summary of the DSF Project. She explained that the project is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and executed by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), in collaboration with co-financing partners⁷. The project aims to ensure that DSF in the ABNJ are managed under an ecosystem approach that maintains demersal fish stocks at levels capable of maximizing their sustainable yields and minimizing impacts on biodiversity, with a focus on data-limited stocks, deepwater sharks and vulnerable marine ecosystems.

The DSF project focuses on four key areas of work:

Component 1 – Governance – strengthening and implementing regulatory frameworks

Component 2 – Strengthening effective management of DSF

Component 3 – Improving understanding and management of cross-sectoral interactions with DSF

³ [cb2909en.pdf \(fao.org\)](#)

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0554en/cc0554en.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10623>

⁶ https://publicpartnershipdata.azureedge.net/gef/GEFProjectVersions/04af037f-61b1-ea11-a812-000d3a337c9e_CEOEndorsement.pdf

⁷ General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA), International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America.

Component 4 – Knowledge management, communication and M&E

The project has an elaborate theory of change, which was also presented (See Annex 4: Theory of Change). The commitment to a collaborative approach with project partners and with other projects under the Program was emphasized and is considered essential to the successful outcomes of the Program and project. Further background information on the DSF Project can be found in the project document⁴.

Discussion

It was highlighted that the name of the DSF project can be misleading in that there are shallower areas in the ABNJ and deeper areas in EEZs. The FAO DSF Guidelines⁸ describes DSF as having the following characteristics: (i) the total catch (everything brought up by the gear) includes species that can only sustain low exploitation rates; and (ii) the fishing gear is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations. It was clarified that while the DSF Project recognizes that there are areas with different characteristics in the ABNJ, for the purposes of this project it will work on fisheries that operate on, or close to the seafloor at depths below 200 m.

There was an inquiry whether there is a compendium of published outputs from Phase I of the DSF project and other projects from the first phase of the Program. It was highlighted that these are available on the Common Oceans website⁹, which includes many other resources from the Common Oceans Program.

3. DSF Project Management

Ms. Hidas presented the governance structure and institutional arrangements of the DSF project (See Annex 5: Institutional Arrangements). She explained that FAO is the Implementing Agency (IA) and has overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results of the project. FAO provides project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy, and provides oversight and monitoring to ensure that the DSF Project is executed according to the project document and any amendments are approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

Within FAO, the DSF Project has a:

- Budget Holder (BH), Dr Manuel Barange, who will provide oversight over day-to-day project execution;
- Lead Technical Officer (LTO), Mr Marcelo Vasconcellos, who will provide oversight/support to the project's technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
- Funding Liaison Officer (FLO), Mr Lorenzo Galbiati, who will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements; and
- Project Task Force (PTF), composed of the BH, LTO, FLO, and other selected technical members, who will provide technical support and guidance to the project

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is the project's Executing Agency (EA) with the overall executing and technical responsibility for running the DSF Project so that it achieves its targets as provided in the results framework.

GFCM's responsibilities as the EA include to:

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/3/i0816t/i0816T.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/en/>

- Establish and support the Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU has been operationalized, and is composed of a full-time Project Manager, a part-time communications expert, a part-time M&E expert, and operational support. The main function of the PMU is to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plan and budget (AWP/B).
- Act as Secretariat for the Project Steering Committee (PSC);
- Ensure that the project is executed according to the agreed work plan and budget;
- Review and submit required reporting obligations to the IA, including half-yearly expenditure reports and annual Project Implementation Report (PIR);
- Ensure all procurement is done in compliance with Agency standards;
- Recruit consultants;
- Issue Letters of Agreement
- Communicate with and disseminate information to the Partners and other stakeholders

The DSF Project is guided by a Project Steering Committee (PSC). Draft ToRs for the PSC were circulated to participants prior to the meeting. These were discussed in detail and participants were requested to provide comments by Friday 10 March 2023. The adopted ToRs for the PSC are included in Annex 6.

4. Review of Project Activities and Outputs

Ms Hidas provided a brief overview of the components, outcomes, outputs and targets of the DSF project. She explained that the technical work of the project is organized around three main components representing broad areas of work. Component 1 concerns the uptake of international instruments and relates to governance, Component 2 concerns the scientific aspects of DSF management, and Component 3 concerns cross-sectoral interactions with DSF. Component 4 was presented very briefly as it concerns mostly project management, monitoring and evaluation.

Ms Hidas provided a brief overview of the outcomes and outputs of each component, and explained that these would be discussed in detail on day 2 of the workshop (see Section 5 below). She also explained that each outcome and output is linked to a set of targets, which were necessary to develop during project design and which are used to monitor the success of the project. While output level targets are directly linked to project activities, outcome level targets are outside of the direct control of the project but represent aspired real change that the project aims to contribute to by the end of the project period.

Ms Hidas also highlighted minor proposed changes to the project document by the PMU, which included a shift of activities related to gender and decent work from Outcome 2.2 (related to improving science-based fisheries management) to Outcome 1.1 (related to wider adoption, enforcement and compliance with international obligations).

Discussion

Some participants inquired about the nature of the project's numerical targets at the outcome level and if these would be actively pursued by the project. It was explained that the outcome level targets are beyond project control but represent aspired changes to be achieved with the support of the project, and were a GEF/FAO requirement to be included in the project document. It was agreed that public communication around these numerical targets would be done with caution due to possible perceived sensitivities.

Several participants commented on the fact that no environmental organizations have been included as formal partners of the DSF Project, which is a contrast to the first phase of the DSF project and the Program. There are several different reasons for this, the most significant being that these

organizations were invited to join the second phase of the Program and all projects during the initial theory of change programmatic workshops, but none came forward to seek partnership with the DSF Project. Further, and unlike the first phase of the DSF project and the Program, the second phase is not supported under the GEF Biodiversity focal area, only the International Waters focal area, likely providing less overlap with the work of environmental organizations. Nevertheless, the DSF project remains open to collaborate with environmental organizations, and particularly under Component 3 of the project focused on cross-sectoral interactions.

5. Workplan & Budget for Year 1

Ms Hidas and Mr Thompson provided a detailed overview of the priority activities envisaged for year 1 of the project under each outcome/output of the project. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and make comments, including indicating in which activities they have specific interests to collaborate.

Participants raised a number of important points in the resulting discussion. General points raised, relevant to more than one outcome, have been reflected under Agenda Item 4. Points specific to a particular outcome are included below. A summary of the first year's consolidated work plan is provided under Agenda Item 6.

Outcome 1.1: Adoption and enforcement of, and compliance with, international obligations relating to sustainable fisheries

This outcome aims to promote wider adoption and enforcement of, and compliance with, international obligations relating to sustainable fisheries (stocks and impacts). The indicators of success are:

- RFMOs/States have adopted new measure that improve the management of data-limited stocks and/or reduce impacts on bycatch species
- RFMOs/States have improved their MCS
- RFMOs agree to implement gender equality and decent work frameworks

The gender equality and decent work indicators were moved from output 2.2.3 as it was deemed a better fit with activities under this outcome. The individual outputs under this outcome include:

- Output 1.1.1: Gaps in regional obligations to (i) manage fish stocks and (ii) reduce fisheries impacts on biodiversity identified (updated) and corrective measures proposed
- Output 1.1.2: Measures to address national legal and regulatory gaps in international legally binding and voluntary instruments including FAO voluntary guidelines related to fisheries management
- Output 1.1.3: Gaps in existing capacity to strengthen compliance and enforcement identified and training provided

Discussion

There were significant discussions around the inclusion of developing countries under this outcome since they are an important focus of support for both GEF and FAO. It was clarified that the scope of the DSF project is DSF in the ABNJ, and there are very few if any developing countries involved in these fisheries. The project will primarily work with those countries that are directly connected to DSF either through operating fishing vessels or receiving landings via designated ports, which are mostly developed countries. However, opportunities to engage with developing countries that are members of, and therefore influencing decision-making in, the deep-sea RFMOs will be explored,

particularly by providing capacity development opportunities under Outputs 1.1.2, 1.1.3 and possibly other outputs, as deemed appropriate.

Some participants stressed the importance of gender equality in the workplace and decent work conditions as important topics that the project should address, while others questioned whether it was appropriate to address these issues with RFMO partners, considering that these are rather national, Contracting Party responsibilities. Through further discussions it was agreed that both gender equality and decent work conditions are relevant issues to all partners of the project, and therefore should be addressed by the project. The main entry points for these activities will be to review the uptake of relevant international instruments at regional/national level, and to proactively target training of women for tasks related to land-based compliance through RFMOs. It was also noted that international instruments operate through States and that RFMOs act as a forum for their Contracting Parties to hold discussions.

Industry representatives supported the uptake of ILO obligations for decent work conditions as this is linked to combatting IUU fishing, which the project could facilitate and support. Industry representatives also noted that they were not listed as partners to the work under Component 1 on governance and MCS. This was mainly because the international obligations operate through States, however, it was agreed that industry should indeed be included in these activities, and particularly under Output 1.1.3 on MCS.

It was underscored that any studies published under this outcome should not score RFMO performance.

Finally, it was suggested to add reference to monitoring in the title of output 1.1.3, for a matter of completeness.

Outcome 2.1: Effective decision-making strengthened to increase sustainability and reduce impacts

This outcome aims to promote frameworks or similar tools that allow for better communications between RFMO management and science committees including formal requests for advice from management committees and improved drafting of advice from scientific committees. The last output is to develop a web sharing platform where developers and practitioners can exchange information on new technologies that support the work of onboard observers. The indicators of success are:

- RFMOs having effective frameworks for precautionary approach (PA) and ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF)
- RFMOs improve cooperation with fishing industry including mechanisms of receiving guidance from the fishing industry
- New technologies used by observers with sustainable web-based platform

The individual outputs are:

- 2.1.1 – Frameworks to improve science-management interface and exchange strengthened
- 2.1.2 – Frameworks to improve industry contributions to sustainable DSF
- 2.1.3 – Platform for sharing new and innovative technologies for improved monitoring, reporting and information sharing developed

Discussion:

Participants, especially from the industry, were interested in the future developments of the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries, which are a focus of output 2.1.1

but are also a common theme throughout the project. It was agreed that the application of these two approaches was important and that they were currently being implemented differently among regions and fisheries. The project will work with both these frameworks to share approaches being used among RFMOs and to ensure that these are suitably applied to promote sustainable fisheries and minimize impacts. The PA and EAF are also strongly represented in the Tuna Project and joint activities are expected on these topics. It was agreed that a preliminary study in the first year of the project should take stock of how RFMOs are currently applying PA and EAF, and what challenges they are facing in their application.

Participants highlighted the value of the project in exploring clear paths of communication, and formalized forums, for industry input into RFMO discussions. It was also noted that there is increasingly growing shortages of fisheries managers and scientists and that this makes the role of industry in supporting the management of fisheries more important.

Finally, it was noted that the project aims to support the use of new technologies under several outputs. Discussion points included the need for these by onboard observers, but more generally in the use of data that is, or that can be, collected and shared by industry. There was cautious support for the use of camera systems for more extensive electronic monitoring (i.e. beyond that simply used by observers to support their data collection duties). Participants noted that there were wider considerations in using cameras beyond data collection and many of the restrictions for their use are more legal and rights-based in nature. It was clarified that the project's main support in this area of work would be limited to assisting onboard observers with their duties and that there was no intention to enter into electronic monitoring in a wider context. However, this can be reviewed as the project progresses.

Outcome 2.2: Advice supporting science-based fisheries management improved

This outcome supports science-based activities to improve the quality of the advice made by scientific committees. The first output looks at ecosystem overfishing aspects of EAF from the multi-species, mixed fisheries management perspective. This has advanced particularly in the northwest Atlantic but is relevant globally especially when considering the maintenance of suitable predator/prey (piscivores and planktivores) ratios throughout the oceans. This is the only work that includes small pelagic species and climate change effects. The second output is undertaken in partnership with ICES and aims to work with data collection and stock assessment of the so-called data-limited species with a focus on alfonso and armourhead. The final output looks at socio-economic aspects of managing deepwater fisheries and the losses that occur when stocks are fished to levels below that which provides a maximum yield.

It is also planned to work with the Norwegian research vessel in the Indian Ocean to collect acoustic information on deepwater fish species and on benthic habitats. It is hoped that this work can operate in partnership with industry involving comparisons of the information that can be collected by research vessels and commercial fishing vessels. This is to support exploratory fishing protocols and encounter protocols during fishing operations.

The indicators of success are:

- RFMOs with TAC management measures that include scientific advice from productivity models.
- Alfonso and armourhead stocks with improved assessments and reference points
- Economic dimensions of DSF assessed including losses due to stock $B < B_{msy}$

The individual outputs are:

- Output 2.2.1 – Ecosystem and stock productivity models developed to support scientific advice (including demersal and small pelagic species and climate change effects)
- Output 2.2.2 – Support provided to RFMOs for improving catch recording (retained and discarded) and scientific advice on data-limited stocks
- Output 2.2.3 - Selected issues related to the economic dimensions of DSF assessed including losses due to stock $B < B_{msy}$
- Outputs 2.2.2 & 2.3.2 – Nansen work in Indian Ocean

Outcome 2.3: DSF impacts on biodiversity quantified, assessed and managed

This outcome looks at monitoring and, where needed, reducing impacts resulting from bottom fishing on deepwater sharks and on VMEs. Most of the RFMOs have adopted measures to report all retained and discarded shark catches, but it seems that in general only the landed species of commercial value are fully recorded. It is not clear if vessel observers are recording catches and not forwarding the information to Secretariat or finding it challenging to record discarded catches. Identification is problematic and it is hoped that new technologies developed under output 2.1.3 will help observers.

The project's work on VMEs and bottom fishing measures is also challenging and has been divided into four distinct activities. Like many aspects of the DSF Project, they target difficult areas of work where support and knowledge sharing are required. Activity 1 concerns methods used to identify VMEs by research or commercial vessels. Activity 2 is a review of the implementation of the DSF Guidelines and is almost complete following financial support from the extension of the first phase. Activity 3 concerns monitoring the status of VMEs to see if fisheries measures are helping to increase the biodiversity of benthic ecosystems – this is particularly challenging and though important has not really been undertaken owing to the difficulties and expense of surveying benthos at depths of 200-2000 m. The final activity aims to map DSF by stock and gear type in support of marine spatial planning as and when required. Currently, the only “maps” that RFMOs tend to openly publish are the areas subject to bottom fisheries (the existing bottom fishing areas or footprint) and the VME closures. There are other seasonal or temporal closures often protecting certain life history stages of commercial fish species, but these are not added to biodiversity maps that tend to be the current focus.

The indicators of success are:

- RFMOs with effective measures reducing incidental deepwater shark mortality.
- RFMOs with full monitoring of vessel positions and gear deployment in DSF and available for use by scientific committees to estimate fishing effort and assess risks to vulnerable species such as VMEs or deepwater sharks.

The individual outputs are:

- Output 2.3.1 Impacts of DSF on deepwater sharks assessed and mitigation proposed
- Output 2.3.2 – Identification of VMEs and understanding of gear-specific SAIs from bottom fisheries improved

Outcome 3.1: Improved integration of cross-sector activities to maintain biodiversity and resource sustainability

This outcome within Component 3 addresses cross-sectoral interactions with DSFs. The first output is scientific and identifies which threats from the non-fisheries sector are likely to have significant adverse impacts on DSF. Currently there is little spatial overlap between fisheries and other sectors

in the ABNJ, but with the advent of seabed mining and the increased likelihood of the establishment of marine protected areas in the ABNJ it is plausible that such interactions will occur. There are links with output 2.3.2 especially the mapping of DSF.

The second output is more of a management issue and concerns developing frameworks or possible entry points where cooperation among sectors may be initiated. At present, and with the ongoing BBNJ negotiations, it seems likely that more inclusive and transparent impact assessments may be the best “voluntary” entry point.

The indicators of success are:

- RFMOs with mechanisms developed in collaboration with relevant sectoral agencies to mitigate and manage cross-sectoral impacts to DSF

The individual outputs are:

- Output 3.1.1: Interactions with sustainable DSF from other sectors operating in the deep seas identified and information made available; and
- Output 3.1.2: Frameworks to better mitigate and manage cross-sector interactions with DSF developed.

Discussion:

Participants noted that the advisory committee that will be established under the cross-sectoral Component 3 part of the project will require wide representation and include members from outside of the project’s immediate partners. The project supported this and noted that it will be necessary to ensure success of this component.

6. Consolidated Year 1 (2023) Workplan and Budget

The general DSF project approach is to undertake some form of participatory scoping study for most of the activities to identify current work in the regions. This is often coordinated by project consultants. This study is then shared with partners and a plan is made for follow-up activities. The DSF Project, compared to the first phase, would like to work more with managers and scientists who participate in RFMO committees, in addition to working with the Secretariats. Further, the project would like to work more closely with the fishing industry and support their continued cooperation with RFMO managers and scientists. The DSF Project would also like to support more innovative activities, within the guidelines provided by GEF and FAO; though this will only be at a planning stage in the first year.

Table 1 provides a list of the activities planned for 2023, which is here taken as the first year of the project. In most cases, the follow-up work arising from the Inception meeting will initially be contact with the RFMOs Secretariats and other partners. Not all outputs will start in 2023. The DSF Project is always open to discussions from partners.

Table 1. DSF Project work plan for 2023.

Output	Year 1 Activity
OUTPUT 1.1.1 - Gaps in regional obligations to (i) manage fish stocks and (ii) reduce fisheries impacts on biodiversity identified (updated) and corrective measures proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop scope and data collection framework •Questionnaire/interviews/desktop research •Workshop

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Draft report
OUTPUT 1.1.2 – Measures to address national legal and regulatory gaps in international legally binding and voluntary instruments including FAO voluntary guidelines related to fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Profiling of DSF – flag States, fleet characteristics •Consider results of Output 1.1.1 •Discuss/choose target countries
OUTPUT 2.1.1 - Frameworks to improve science-management interface and exchange strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Desktop study, including interviews with partners where necessary; •Virtual workshop •write draft report on frameworks to improve science-management interface and share with partners
OUTPUT 2.1.2 – Frameworks to improve industry contributions to sustainable DSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Desktop review/interviews with RFMO Secretariats •Virtual workshop •Report on current practices and future directions
OUTPUT 2.1.3 – Platform for sharing new and innovative technologies for improved monitoring, reporting and information sharing developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop DGroups interface for knowledge sharing •Concept note for populating DGroups site. •Follow-up with interested developers, users, scientists, and managers.
OUTPUT 2.2.1 – Ecosystem and stock productivity models developed to support scientific advice (including demersal and small pelagic species and climate change effects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize concept note of symposium •Seek interest from partners to co-organize symposium •Establish organizing committee • •Select venue and develop programme
OUTPUT 2.2.2 – Support provided to RFMOs for improving catch recording (retained and discarded) and scientific advice on data-limited stocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Discussions with ICES and RFMOs to ensure data sharing and collaborative assessment. •Agree on ToRs, and develop contract between FAO and ICES. •Discussions with FAO/IMR Nansen programme
OUTPUT 2.3.1 - Impacts of DSF on deepwater sharks assessed and mitigation proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Study on current methods and protocols to record deepwater sharks by observers. •Virtual workshop (link with new technologies)
OUTPUT 2.3.2 – Identification of VMEs and understanding of gear-specific SAIs from bottom fisheries improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Consultant to draft publication on methods used to identify known or likely VMEs; •Finish DSF Guidelines review of implementation draft for publication; Present final version to RFMOs/Industry for comments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Discussions starting with RFMOs about mapping fisheries and stock distributions
OUTPUT 3.1.1 – Interactions with sustainable DSF from other sectors operating in the deep seas identified and information made available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establish advisory committee
OUTPUT 3.1.2 - Frameworks to better mitigate and manage cross-sector interactions with DSF developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establish advisory committee

7. Potential areas of joint effort with the Tuna project

The Project Manager and Chief Technical Advisor for the Tuna Project, Mr Kim Stobberup, provided a brief presentation of the objectives and activities of the Tuna Project. The Tuna Project is structured to follow the Common Ocean Theory of Change and so has work areas that are similar to those of the DSF Project. The tuna project works closely with its many executing partners who are contracted to undertake specific work. The Tuna Project document can be consulted online on the GEF website¹⁰.

A number of potential joint activities between the Tuna and DSF Projects were identified during project development. These are listed in Annex O of the DSF Project Document and provided in this report in Annex 7. Ms. Hidas and Mr. Stobberup will explore in more detail, in the first year of implementation of the projects, the mechanisms through which joint activities will be undertaken.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project’s monitoring and evaluation officer, Ms. Kathrin Hett, gave a brief overview of the reporting requirements of the project, highlighting that the 6-monthly project progress reports (PPR) submitted to FAO would be compiled by the PMU, but the yearly project implementation review (PIR) reports submitted to GEF, covering the period from July to June, would be compiled by the PMU with inputs on co-financing from all co-financing partners (see Table 2).

Table 2 – Project reporting requirements

Report	Frequency	Focus	Contribution
Project Progress Report (PPR)	6-monthly Covering Jan-June & July-December	Work plan implementation, progress towards outputs and outcomes	PMU
Project Implementation Review (PIR)	Yearly July-June	Progress towards outcomes and objectives Co-financing	PMU with inputs on co-financing from all co-financing partners

Ms. Hett provided some brief guidance on the co-financing information to be provided by co-financing partners to the PIR. She highlighted that:

- The request for the co-financing report will be sent out by the PMU via email
- The level of detail to be provided by co-financing partners should be the same as in the original co-financing letter

¹⁰ https://publicpartnershipdata.azureedge.net/gef/GEFProjectVersions/a2c5e2e1-56b1-ea11-a812-000d3a5c09ae_CEOEndorsement.pdf

- No detailed calculations need to be provided, but the methodology for the calculation should be known, in case an evaluator requests this information
- Additional information on activities carried out through co-financing can be provided.

Finally, Ms Hett highlighted the key monitoring and evaluation events of the project, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Key monitoring and evaluation events of the project

Event	When?	Responsibility	Contribution
Mid-term review	Once, at mid-term	Budget Holder	All partners
Terminal evaluation	Once, at the end of the project	FAO's Office of Evaluation	All partners

9. Knowledge Management & Communications

The project's knowledge management and communications (KMC) consultants, Ms Emelie Martensson and Mr Maarten Roest, provided an overview of the Common Oceans Program's KMC approach, followed by the draft KMC strategy specific to the DSF project, which was circulated to participants ahead of the workshop. They explained that it is envisaged that each child project of the Common Oceans Program handles its own KMC activities within an environment where harmonized action ensures that efforts are part of the bigger whole. Results, lessons learned, experiences and best practices of child projects will be translated into a cohesive narrative about joint progress towards goals and objectives of the program.

The Global Coordination project (GCP) will enable coordinated action and cohesive messaging, while supporting child projects to deliver effective outreach at project level. KMC activities will be coordinated through the program's KMC Working Group. The GCP will develop a Common Oceans Program style guide, including a visual identity for the program, and provide guidelines for logo use, layouts and templates for standard publications, presentations and other promotional materials.

The DSF project's KMC strategy outlines the target audience, key messages, and KMC activities of the project, as well as the channels and mechanisms for communication, the roles and responsibilities of the project, the human and financial resources, and the reporting requirements. Partners were asked to provide comments and feedback on the draft KMC Strategy by 10 February, but no comments were received. The adopted KMC Strategy is included in Annex 8. KMC priorities for the first year of the project will be to finalize the KMC strategy and prepare a work plan that will guide the implementation of the KMC activities. Some participants noted the need, in this second phase of the Program, to ensure better coordination and communication among the child projects, and particularly between the DSF and tuna projects, highlighting that this is the primary role of the GCP. It was emphasized that active engagement is necessary in this regard, establishing mechanisms that allow projects to discuss and learn from one another. Ms Hidas explained that the intention was certainly to deliver on this, notably through the Program coordination meetings (to be held bimonthly), regular coordination between the Tuna and DSF project CTAs, and eventually, the establishment of working groups on specific thematic areas of common interest between the two projects.

Some participants remarked that the process for drafting communications products at the program vs project level is unclear. It was explained that the rules and procedures on logo use and drafting of communications products had not been fully developed yet. These will be developed in the first few months of 2023, and presented to the Project Steering Committee for comment.

10. Any other business

Ms. Hidas sought guidance from partners on the process for the approval of the terms of reference (TORs) of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). It was agreed that partners would review the TORs and provide comments via email. The deadline for comments was eventually set at 10 March 2023. The adopted TORs are included in Annex 6.

Ms Hidas also sought confirmation that the participants attending the workshop (both in-person and virtually) should be considered the PSC focal points for their respective organizations.

Finally, the dates and venue of the first PSC meeting was discussed. It was agreed that, likely, this first meeting should not be needed until early 2024, but that partners would be consulted mid-2023 in case there is a change in opinion in this regard.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

**Deep-Sea Fisheries Project
Inception Workshop
24-26 January 2023, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy
List of Participants**

Organization	Name	Title	Email
Common Oceans Program	Viktoria Varga Lencses	Senior Fishery Officer, Common Oceans Program	Viktoria.VargaLencses@fao.org
	Kathrin Hett	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Common Oceans Program	Kathrin.Hett@fao.org
	Alejandro Anganuzzi	Programme Coordinator (retired)	alejandro.anganuzzi@gmail.com
	Gwyneth Byrd	Programme Assistant, Common Oceans Program	Gwyneth.Byrd@fao.org
	Maarten Rienk Roest	Communications Specialist, Common Oceans Program	Maarten.Roest@fao.org
	Emelie Mortensson	Knowledge Management Consultant, Common Oceans Program	Emelie.Martensson@fao.org
DSF Project	Eszter Hidas	Project Officer, Common Oceans Program, Deep-Sea Fisheries Project	Eszter.Hidas@fao.org
	Anthony Thompson	Deep-Sea Fisheries Expert, Common Oceans Program, Deep-Sea Fisheries Project	Anthony.Thompson@fao.org
	Sarah Fagnani	International Fisheries Policy and Legal Expert, Common Oceans Program, Deep-Sea Fisheries Project	Sarah.Fagnani@fao.org
Tuna Project	Kim Stobberup	Project Officer, Common Oceans Program, Tuna Project	Kim.Stobberup@fao.org
FAO	Vera Agostini	Deputy Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division	Vera.Agostini@fao.org
	Blaise Kuemlangan	Chief of Development Law Services	Blaise.Kuemlangan@fao.org
	Marcelo Vasconcellos	Fishery Resources Officer, Assessment and Management Unit	Marcelo.Vasconcellos@fao.org
	Marc Taconet	Senior Fishery Officer, Information and Knowledge Management Unit	Marc.Taconet@fao.org
	Merete Tandstad	Senior Programme Coordinator, Nansen Programme	Merete.Tandstad@fao.org

	Steven Ciocca	Programme Officer, Divisional Support and Project Cycle Unit	Steven.Ciocca@fao.org
	Buba Bojang	Legal Officer, Development Law Service	Buba.Bojang@fao.org
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	Deborah Catena	Fishery Officer, Nansen Programme	Deborah.Catena@fao.org
	Andrea Lazzari	Programme Officer, Divisional Support and Project Cycle Unit	Andrea.Lazzari@fao.org
	Edoardo Mostarda	Fisheries and fish biodiversity expert, Nansen Programme	Edoardo.Mostarda@fao.org
GFCM	Miguel Bernal	Executive Secretary	Miguel.Bernal@fao.org
	Fuensanta Candela	Senior IUU Fishing Consultant	Maria.CandelaCastillo@fao.org
	Nicola Ferri	Fishery Officer	Nicola.Ferri@fao.org
	Ziad Samaha	Fishery specialist for environment-related issues	Ziad.Samaha@fao.org
ICES	Anne Cooper	Professional Officer for Fisheries and Aquaculture Advice	anne.cooper@ices.dk
ICFA	Ivan Lopez	Representative	ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com
NAFO	Brynhildur Benediktsdottir	Executive Secretary	bbenediktsdottir@nafo.int
NEAFC	Darius Campbell	Executive Secretary	Darius@neafc.org
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NPFC	Robert Day	Executive Secretary	rday@npfc.int
	Alexksandr Zavolokin	Science Manager	azavolokin@npfc.int
SEAFO	Lizette Voges	Executive Secretary	lvoges@seafo.org
SIODFA	Ross Shotton	Executive Secretary	R_Shotton@hotmail.com
SIOFA	Marco Milardi	Science Officer	marco.milardi@siofa.org
SPRFMO	Craig Loveridge	Executive Secretary	cloveridge@sprfmo.int

Annex 2 – Agenda

**Deep-Sea Fisheries Under the Ecosystem Approach
Inception Workshop
24-26 January 2023, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy
Hybrid format**

Tuesday 24 January

Time	Item
13:30-14:15	I. Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Opening remarks: Miguel Bernal; Lorenzo Galbiati ii. Introduction of participants iii. Presentation of the objectives of the meeting
14:15-15:00	II. The Big Picture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Introduction to the Common Oceans Program – the overall program logic and how the different projects contribute to this ii. Development of the DSF Pro Doc, links to phase I of DS project and GEF iii. Overview of the DSF Project – Objectives, Components of Work, Theory of Change
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:15	III. DSF Project Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Governance and the institutional arrangements ii. Project Management Unit (PMU) – introduction to the team iii. Project Steering Committee – explain key functions and discuss composition, introduce draft TORs for discussion
16:15-17:00	IV. Review of Project Activities and Outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Presentation of the activities and outputs of the DSF project, allocated budget, results framework & targets
19:00-21:00	Workshop dinner (optional)

Wednesday 25 January

Time	Item
09:00-17:00	V. Workplan & budget for Year 1

	i. Presentation and discussion of year 1 activities (as per detailed schedule below)
09:00-10:30	Adoption and enforcement of, and compliance with, international obligations relating to sustainable fisheries (Outcome 1.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of priority activities for year 1 • Discussion
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Effective decision-making to increase sustainability and reduce impacts (Outcome 2.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of priority activities for year 1 • Discussion
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	Advice supporting science-based fisheries management (Outcome 2.2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of priority activities for year 1 • Discussion
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:15	DSF impacts on biodiversity (Outcome 2.3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of priority activities for year 1 • Discussion
16:15-17:00	Integration of cross-sector activities to maintain biodiversity and resource sustainability (Outcome 3.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of priority activities for year 1 • Discussion

Thursday 26 January

Time	Item
09:00-09:30	VI. Consolidated Year 1 Workplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Presentation of consolidated priorities and timelines for year 1 activities
09:30-10:00	VII. Potential areas of joint effort with the Tuna project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Presentation of the Tuna project ii. Discussion on possible joint activities
10:00-10:30	VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reporting requirement to FAO and GEF Secretariat ii. Reporting on in-kind contributions
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	IX. Knowledge Management & Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Program vs. project level KMC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. Visibility guidelinesiii. DSF KMC strategyiv. Key priorities for year 1 of the project
12:00-12:30	X. Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Next steps regarding the Project Steering Committee (PSC) TORsii. Nomination of PSC Focal Pointsiii. Dates and venue of first PSC meeting
12:30	End of workshop

Annex 3 – Common Oceans Program

Common Oceans Program (2022-2027)

**A partnership for sustainability and biodiversity in the
ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction**

Program Brief, November 2022

Introduction

The Common Oceans Program is a global partnership funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), promoting sustainable fisheries and conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Program brings together the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), regional fisheries management organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia.

The first phase of the Common Oceans Program took place from 2014-2019 with a budget of USD 50 million, and USD 223 million in co-financing. The second phase of the Program was endorsed at the GEFs 58th Council meeting with a budget of USD 26.7 million, and over USD 310 million in co-financing from 65 partners. It was launched in July 2022 with an inception workshop, and its projects are due to start implementation in succeeding months.

This paper presents an overview of the second phase of the Program (2022-2027), including key activities of the five child projects, and its expected outcomes.

Background

The ABNJ, including the commonly called High Seas, are those areas of ocean for which no one nation has the specific or sole responsibility for management. Instead, the responsibility is shared by all interested States through several intergovernmental organizations. The ABNJ make up 40 percent of the surface of our planet, 64 percent of the surface of the oceans and nearly 95 percent of its volume. They also border or encompass sections of most of the world's Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) that extend beyond national jurisdictions.

Their complex ecosystems, which include the water column and seabed seamounts, hydrothermal vents, deep-sea trenches and submarine canyons, and oceanic ridges, support high biodiversity in some places, particularly the benthic environment. They are often at great distance from coasts making sustainable management of their natural resources and biodiversity conservation especially challenging.

The Program

The second phase of the Common Oceans Program was developed to demonstrate and promote more comprehensive processes and integrated approaches to the sustainable use and management of the ABNJ. Building on the results and lessons from the first phase, the Program aims to:

- Strengthen frameworks, processes and incentives for more effective governance and adaptive management, particularly of fisheries, in ABNJ;
- Improve the capacity for participating States to more effectively implement integrated management based on the ecosystem approach in the ABNJ (and considering their connectivity to coastal waters), including addressing science-based decision-making compliance and enforcement issues, and mitigation of environmental impacts;
- Support better coordination, collaboration and partnerships between the fisheries sector and other stakeholders and relevant initiatives with interests in ABNJ to promote more coherent integrated multi-sectoral action on ABNJ issues;
- Improve awareness and understanding of the challenges and solutions to sustainable use of ABNJ and encourage wider support and increased investment to address threats to, and sustainable management of the ABNJ.

Child Projects

The Program consists of five child projects – two global projects that will promote more sustainable management of tuna and deep-sea fisheries, a third project that seeks to build capacity to improve cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination on key ABNJ issues at global level, and a fourth project that examines multi-sectoral governance (stewardship) in a pilot area – the Sargasso Sea. A fifth project, the Global Coordination Project, will ensure effective coordination, communication, partnerships, lesson learning and knowledge management between the other child projects and support innovative financing initiatives for sustainable use of ABNJ resources across the Program.

In particular, the new phase of the program works towards, by implementing the activities of its projects but also by seeking synergies and by defining joint actions, the following:

- **Improving tuna and deep-sea fisheries management**, to ensure that these species are fished more sustainably, by mobilizing its global partnership and strengthening regulatory frameworks and positive incentives in support of responsible fisheries management and biodiversity conservation.
- **Forming a collaborative stewardship**, to demonstrate how cooperation and partnership can play a leading role in sustaining and restoring the productivity and health of the Sargasso Sea's ecosystem.
- **Developing capacity in regional and national organizations**, to improve cross-sectoral collaboration on ocean issues such as mitigation of cumulative impacts of human, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, seabed disturbance, pollution, and climate change.

Table 1. Description of the projects

Project	Components	Key activities
Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (Tuna Fisheries Project)	Component 1. Strengthened management of tuna fisheries	-Ensure that all major tuna stocks are fished at sustainable levels advancing the use of harvest strategies.
	Component 2. Strengthened MCS to improve fisheries data,	-Promote the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in tuna regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).

	<p>compliance with CMMs and to tackle IUU fishing</p> <p>Component 3. Reduction of environmental impacts of tuna fisheries</p> <p><i>Component 4. Knowledge Management, Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation and Gender Mainstreaming</i></p>	<p>-Promote sustainable fishing practices with incentives such as better market conditions for sustainably sourced fishery products.</p> <p>-Make enforcement of fisheries regulations more efficient with training in monitoring, control and surveillance.</p> <p>-Improve compliance with fishing regulations by promoting innovative tools like electronic monitoring and traceability systems.</p> <p>-Decrease bycatch by improved monitoring of catches of sharks, rays, cetaceans and seabirds and promoting best practices in bycatch mitigation techniques and alternative gear.</p> <p>-Lower environmental impacts by advocating the adoption of ocean-friendly fishing devices.</p>
<p>Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach (Deep-sea Fisheries Project)</p>	<p>Component 1. Governance - strengthening and implementing regulatory frameworks</p>	<p>-Promote adoption and compliance with international fisheries obligations to improve management of deep-sea fish stocks and reduce impacts on bycatch species in over 3 billion hectares of marine habitats – about 3 times the size of Europe.</p> <p>-Ensure that an additional 25 % of deep-sea stocks – around 50 000 tonnes of catch - come from sustainably managed stocks by 2027 by supporting science-based fisheries management with improved catch monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>-Improve measures to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) from the impact of bottom fishing on 42 million hectares – 35 % of the total VME areas – currently closed to bottom fisheries.</p> <p>-Promote effective deep-water shark conservation measures.</p>
	<p>Component 2. Strengthening effective management of DSF</p>	
	<p>Component 3. Improving understanding and management of cross-sectoral interactions on DSF</p>	
	<p><i>Component 4. Knowledge management, communication and Monitoring & Evaluation</i></p>	
<p>Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Cross-Sectoral Capacity Project)</p>	<p>Component 1. Building and strengthening capacity for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to improve sustainable use and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ in two pilot regions</p>	<p>-Develop a training program for key officials from regional and national organizations on cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination on ABNJ issues.</p> <p>-Establish effective knowledge exchange mechanisms for well-informed decision-making on ABNJ issues</p> <p>-Increase understanding on the new international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).</p>
	<p>Component 2. Improving sectoral and cross-sectoral knowledge management on and public awareness of ABNJ in the pilot regions)</p>	

	<i>Component 3. Monitoring & Evaluation</i>	
Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea (Sargasso Sea Project)	Component 1. Improved knowledge base to support a collaborative, adaptive ecosystem-based stewardship approach	<p>-Conduct an ecosystem diagnostic analysis (EDA) for the Sargasso Sea, the first ever on a high seas’ ecosystem, in order to provide a baseline to guide long-term collaborative monitoring and stewardship.</p> <p>-Develop a strategic action programme (SAP) to lay out how conservation aims can be achieved, including a budget to support an ecosystem-based governance approach in the Sargasso Sea.</p> <p>-Capture and disseminate lessons learned to strengthen stewardship in other ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).</p>
	Component 2. Development of a strategic action programme for addressing threats and strengthening stewardship through collaboration and conservation of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem	
	Component 3. Partnerships and cooperation for the sustainability of the natural resources of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem	
	<i>Component 4. Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation</i>	
Global Coordination Project	Component 1. Program coordination, monitoring and adaptive management	<p>-Ensure efficient program-wide coordination and monitoring of the projects, and foster coherence and consistency among all child projects.</p> <p>-Provide knowledge management and communication support to outreach and capacity building, and ensure that lessons learned through the child projects are collated and disseminated to target stakeholders.</p> <p>-Enable private sector to engage and invest in collective action to address “global” or “ABNJ wide” sustainability issues.</p>
	Component 2. Knowledge management, communications and outreach, and capacity building for effective and integrated sustainable use of the ABNJ	
	Component 3. Innovative private sector engagement in the ABNJ	

Program goal and expected outcomes

The objective of the Program is to contribute to the “sustainable use of ABNJ natural living resources and strengthened biodiversity conservation in the face of a changing environment’, with the long-term vision of achieving a healthy ecosystem structure and function in the ABNJ with coordinated multi-sectoral processes providing support to address impacts and ensure a sustainable supply of ecosystem goods and services including socio-economic benefits to human populations.

From 2022-2027, the Program will deliver GEF objectives and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while considering ongoing processes such as the new BBNJ Agreement and complementing other initiatives, including the GEF multi-country LME approach and Regional Seas Programs.

Table 1. Program components and expected immediate outcomes

Program component	Program outcome
Component 1. Strengthening frameworks, processes and incentives for more effective fisheries governance and management in ABNJ	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy and legal frameworks, incorporating obligations and good practices to support sustainable use of ABNJ resources harmonized, integrated and implemented. 2. Fisheries management processes to enhance responsiveness to uncertainty under changing conditions strengthened. 3. Incentives and deterrents to promote compliance with existing regulations further developed, strengthened and adopted.
Component 2. Improving capacity to manage fisheries sustainably in ABNJ	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional and individual knowledge, skills and tools to apply EAFM in ABNJ strengthened. 2. Quality and availability of technical/scientific information to support evidence-based decision-making on fisheries governance, investment and management in ABNJ strengthened. 3. Capacity built to develop and enforce management measures related to ABNJ living resources to help reduce IUU fishing. 4. Innovative technological solutions for sustainable use of ABNJ living resources further developed, promoted and deployed.
Component 3. Improving stakeholder coordination and engagement in multi-sectoral processes addressing governance and management of ABNJ	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sector mandates, roles and responsibilities related to ABNJ clarified and promoted (awareness raised) and sector-specific impacts and ecological connections better understood 2. Cross-sectoral technical knowledge sharing and coordination improved
Component 4. Improving knowledge and Knowledge Management and lesson learning for more informed decision-making among stakeholders to support sustainable utilization of ABNJ	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality and availability of information on ABNJ (challenges and solutions) for decision-makers, civil society and private sector investors improved. 2. Information exchange mechanisms and new knowledge management systems developed or strengthened to support awareness-raising and more transparent coherent decision-making. 3. Effective on-going Program Monitoring and Evaluation.

Partnership

The Program will be implemented in collaboration between three GEF Agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNEP) – and the GEF Secretariat. A wide array of partners will participate in the execution of activities, including twelve tuna and deep-sea Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), as well as for example, Conservation International (CI), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), International Whaling Commission (IWC), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), International Pole and Line Foundation

(IPNLF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pew Charitable Trust/The Ocean Foundation (TOF), Sargasso Sea Commission, Global Ocean Forum (GOF), and GRID Arendal. A complete list of partners for each of the projects can be found in Table 2.

Table 2. Program partners

Project	Type	GEF Agency/ Implementing Agency	Partners (executing and co-financing)
Tuna Fisheries Project	Technical	FAO	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), BirdLife International (BLI), Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), Conservation International (CI), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), INFOPECSA, International MCS Network (IMCSN), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), International Seafood Sustainability Trade Association (ISSA), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), International Whaling Commission (IWC), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Ocean Outcomes, Pew Charitable Trust/The Ocean Foundation, Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Pacific Community (SPC), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Deep-Sea Fisheries Project	Technical	FAO	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), Sealord, Southern Indian Ocean Deepwater Fisheries Association (SIODFA), Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
Cross-sectoral Capacity Project	Technical	UNEP	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI) of Xiamen University, Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CRMES), Duke University, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Global Ocean Forum (GOF), GRID-Arendal, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), National University of Singapore, French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC/PIFSS), Ocean Hub, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), Northern Catholic University in Chile, University of Portsmouth, University of Queensland, University of South Pacific <i>Representatives from Pilot Region Member States will be involved throughout each project activity and will participate in regional-</i>

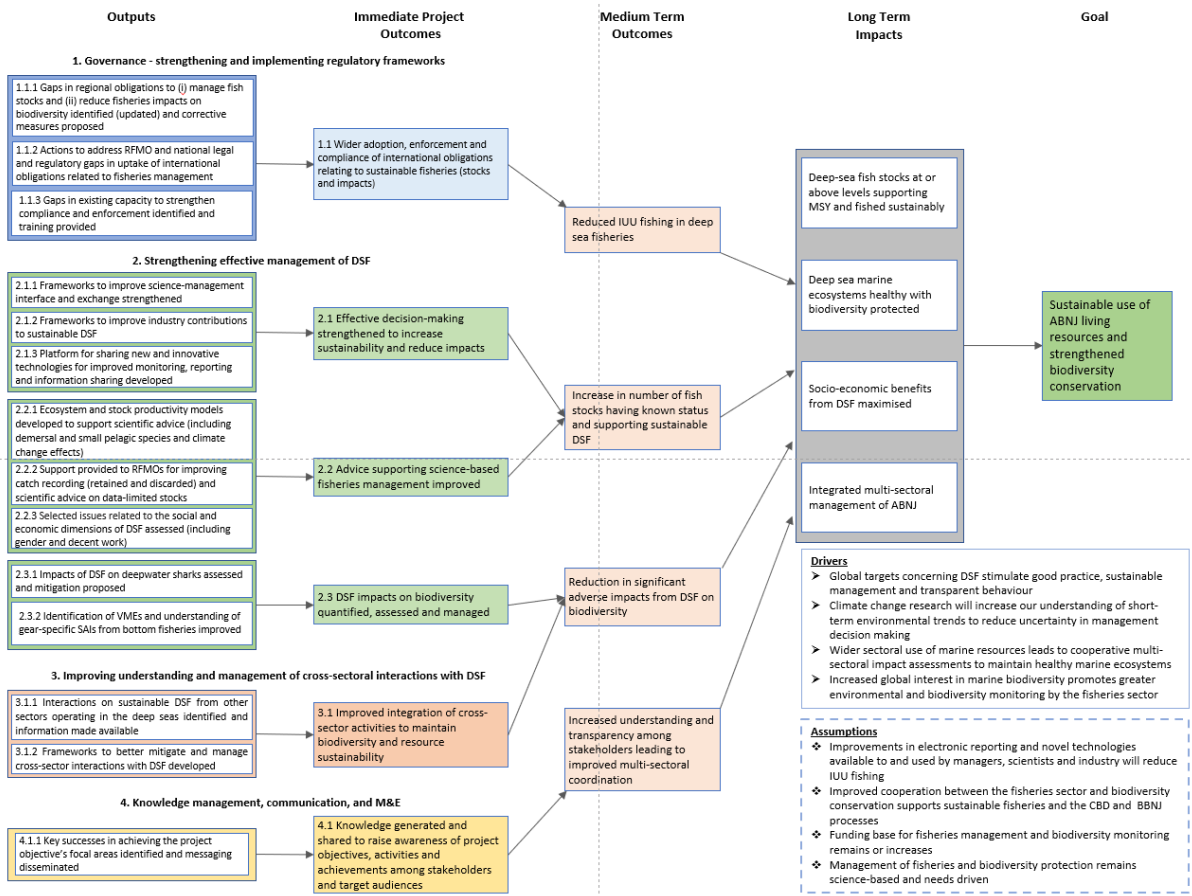
Project	Type	GEF Agency/ Implementing Agency	Partners (executing and co-financing)
			<i>level coordination across their relevant ministries, engaging with executing partners via CPPS and PIFS.</i>
Sargasso Sea Project	Technical	UNDP	Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences, Duke University, Edinburgh University, Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Global Fishing Watch, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, Mar-Viva Foundation, NOAA, Sargasso Sea Commission, Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO), World Maritime University
Global Coordination Project	Coordination	FAO	Conservation International (CI), World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Program budget

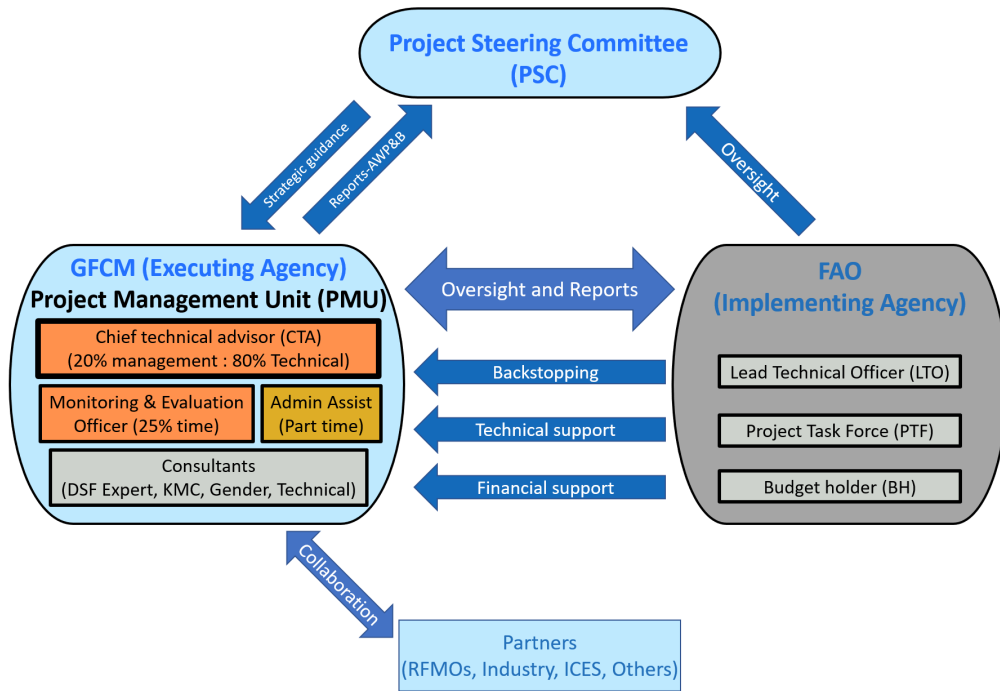
Table 3. Program outcomes

Child Project	GEF ID	GEF Agency	GEF Grants	Co-Financing	Total Project Budget
Tuna Fisheries Project	10622	FAO	14,378,000	198,318,354	212,696,354
Deep-sea Fisheries Project	10623	FAO	4,437,156	52,803,000	57,240,156
Cross-sectoral Capacity Project	10697	UNEP	2,500,000	22,165,273	24,665,273
Sargasso Sea Project	10620	UNDP	2,652,294	33,030,866	35,683,160
Global Coordination Project	10626	FAO	2,752,294	10,256,256	13,008,550
Totals:			26,719,744	316,573,749	343,293,493

Annex 4 – Theory of Change



Annex 5 – Institutional Arrangements



Annex 6 - Terms of Reference: Project Steering Committee (PSC)

Deep-Sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach Project Steering Committee Draft Terms of Reference

1. Role and composition of the Project Steering Committee

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will comprise representatives of the implementing agency (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; FAO), the executing agency (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; GFCM), as well as from each of the co-financing partners¹¹. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat will be invited to participate as an observer. Other institutions active in deep-sea fisheries (DSF) may also be invited to participate as observers.

The PSC will be the ultimate decision-making body with regard to strategies and issues affecting the achievement of the project's objectives.

Specifically, the members of the PSC will be responsible for:

- oversight and review of technical activities carried out under the Project;
- review and report on the progress towards the project's objectives and their contribution to the overall programmatic objectives;
- assessment of the progress in the implementation of the Project in accordance with timelines and goals stated in the Results Framework, including review of the project Theory of Change assumptions;
- taking consensus-based strategic decisions and recommendations when guidance is required by the Deep-sea Fisheries Project Management Unit (PMU);
- a review of the narrative that links the impacts of the activities, outputs and outcomes of the Project in particular in relation to their contribution to the programmatic objective;
- ensure timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support and engagement with project partners;
- assess effectiveness of the knowledge management and communication;
- review sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication;
- approval of the project's Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B);
- enhance synergies between the project and other ongoing initiatives related to the GEF International Waters Focal Area;
- ensure full coordination of the project with the entire Common Ocean Program; and
- review and provide comments on the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR), and independent external evaluations and audits, as well as advise on any other issues that would be brought to its attention by the PMU.

2. Meetings of the PSC

¹¹ General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA), International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America

The PSC meetings will normally be held annually (“regular meetings”), but the Chairperson will have the discretion to call additional meetings (“special meetings”) if necessary. Meetings of the PSC will not necessarily require physical presence and could be undertaken virtually. Invitations to a regular PSC meeting shall be issued no less than 60 days in advance of the date fixed for the meeting. Invitations to special meetings shall be issued no less than 30 days in advance of the meeting date. Meetings are valid even in the absence of some members of the PSC, provided that quorum is reached.

3. Agenda of PSC meetings

A provisional agenda will be drawn up by the PMU and sent to members and observers following the approval of the Chairperson. The provisional agenda will be sent no less than 30 days before the date of the regular meetings. A revised agenda including comments received from members will be circulated five working days before the regular meeting date. The Agenda of each regular meeting shall include:

- a) The election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson;
- b) Adoption of the agenda;
- c) A report by the Project Manager on project activities during the inter-sessional period;
- d) A report and recommendations from the PMU on the proposed Annual Work Plan and Budget for the ensuing period;
- e) Reports that need PSC intervention;
- f) Consideration of the time and place (if appropriate) of the next meeting;
- g) Any other matters as approved by the Chairperson.

The agenda of a special meeting shall consist only of items relating to the purpose for which the meeting was called.

4. The Secretariat

The PMU will act as the Secretary to the PSC and be responsible for providing PSC members with all required documents in advance of PSC meetings, including the draft Annual Work Plan and Budget. The PMU will prepare written reports of all PSC meetings and be responsible for logistical arrangements relative to the holding of such meetings.

5. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

A Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will be elected from amongst PSC members at the beginning of each regular meeting. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will serve up to the subsequent PSC regular meeting. The new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall thus assume office at the beginning of the regular meeting in which they are elected. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson can be re-elected.

6. Functions of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The Chairperson shall exercise the functions conferred on him/her elsewhere in these Rules, and in particular shall:

- a) Declare the opening and closing of each PSC meeting;

- b) Direct the discussions at such meetings and ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions;
- c) Rule on points of order;
- d) Subject to these Rules, have complete control over the proceedings of meetings;
- f) Ensure circulation by the Secretariat to PSC members of all relevant documents;
- g) Sign approved Annual Work Plan and Budgets and any subsequent proposed amendments submitted to FAO,
- h) In liaison with the PSC Secretariat, be responsible for determining the date, site (if appropriate) and agenda of the PSC meeting(s) during his/her period of tenure, as well as the chairing of such meetings.

The Vice- Chairperson shall exercise the functions of the Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence or at the Chairperson's request.

7. Decision-making

Members of the PSC shall take decisions by consensus.

8. Reports and recommendations

At each meeting, the PSC shall approve report text that embodies its views, recommendations, and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views. A draft report shall be circulated to the Members as soon as possible after the meeting for comments. Comments shall be accepted over a period of 20 days. Following its approval by the Chairperson, the Final Report will be distributed and posted in the DSF project sharefolder as soon as possible after this.

9. Official language

The official language of the PSC shall be English.

10. Amendments to the Terms of Reference

The PSC may adopt amendments to these Terms of Reference, in accordance with decision-making procedures set out in point 7.

Annex 7 – Areas of collaboration with the Tuna Project

DSF Project	Tuna II Project
Output 1.1.3: Gaps in existing capacity to strengthen compliance and enforcement identified and filled.	Output 2.1.1: Four MCS related training courses and compliance support missions developed or expanded and delivered. Output 2.1.2: Monitoring processes for compliance reviewed in tuna and non-tuna RFMOs to identify drivers of compliance rates and measures to improve compliance in member states.
Output 2.1.1: Frameworks to improve science-management interface and exchange strengthened following an ecosystem and precautionary approach	Output 1.2.1: Support to development of EAFM including climate change in five t-RFMOs.
Output 2.1.2: Frameworks to improve industry contributions to sustainable DSF	Output 3.3.3: At least ten best practice mitigation techniques disseminated to fishers through direct interaction with harvesters and processors.
Output 2.1.3: Uptake of new and innovative approaches and technologies for improved monitoring, reporting and information sharing piloted and introduced	Output 2.1.2: Monitoring processes for compliance reviewed in tuna and non-tuan RFMOs to identify drivers of compliance rates and measures to improve compliance in member states. Output 3.3.1: Two new technologies and materials for reducing bycatch interactions developed.
Output 2.2.1: Stock productivity models developed and advice generated and tested (including demersal and small pelagic species and climate change effects)	Output 1.1.1: Scientific and technical capacity for further development of harvest strategies for tuna species is strengthened Output 1.2.1: Support to development of EAFM including climate change in five t-RFMOs
Output 2.2.2: Low-yield and data-limited stocks assessed and managed	Output 2.2.1: Regional standards and support for establishing electronic systems to improve fisheries monitoring and tools in support of traceability developed and tested for possible upscaling.
Output 2.2.3: Selected issues related to the social and economic dimensions of DSF assessed (including gender and decent work)	Output 4.1.4: Gender is mainstreamed in the project activities and management
Output 2.3.1: Impacts of DSF on deepwater sharks assessed and mitigation proposed	Output 3.1.1: Improved monitoring of catches in six countries for more consistent fishery and biodiversity management of sharks and rays. Output 3.3.2: At least three monitoring and management systems to quantify and mitigate bycatch strengthened.
Output 4.1.1: Key successes in achieving the project objective’s focal areas identified and messaging disseminated	Output 4.1.1: Knowledge products developed and shared through available knowledge sharing platforms and processes to facilitate exchange of lessons learned, best practices, and expertise generated during project implementation organised. Output 4.1.2: Communication products developed, including information packages, tools and approaches and shared through appropriate channels including

	relevant knowledge-sharing platforms to reach targeted audiences.
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Annex 8 – KMC Strategy

Common Oceans Deep-sea Fisheries Project Draft Knowledge Management & Communications Strategy

Version 1
January 2023

Introduction

The marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) are generally perceived as remote, and the public and political awareness of the challenges they face is low, even in coastal States where the economic and ecological connectivity between coastal waters and high seas regions demand policies

and action, for example to ensure seamount fisheries are sustainable and vulnerable ecosystems protected.

The Deep-sea Fisheries Project of the Common Oceans Program is committed to making deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ more sustainable and reducing their impacts on the marine environment.

Knowledge management and communications (KMC) efforts will allow the Project to increase awareness and knowledge among stakeholders, the public, the private sector and civil society of the complex challenges facing deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ and of solutions to strengthen regulatory frameworks, improve deep-sea fisheries management and reduce its impact on the environment and biodiversity.

Strategy

KMC are integral parts of the Common Oceans Deep-sea Fisheries Project (the 'Project'), contributing to the Program goal to achieve sustainable utilization and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, and more specifically, the Project aim to ensure that deep-sea fisheries are sustainably managed while minimizing their impacts on the marine environment.

The KMC efforts will be guided by the recommendations from the GEF-5 Common Oceans ABNJ Program's terminal evaluation, which underlined the need for a coordinated approach, allowing individual projects to handle their own KMC activities, while ensuring harmonized and coherent action across the Program and building a narrative about progress toward the program's objectives within the framework of the program's theory of change, incorporating the achievements of the individual projects.

Objectives

This strategy aims to guide KMC activities of the Project through cohesive and coordinated messaging, targeting well-defined audiences by using tools, channels and mechanisms that maximize their impact and contribution to the program's goals. More specifically, this includes:

- Producing high-quality information on sustainable deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ and making it available to key audiences, including future signatories of the BBNJ agreements, to ensure well-informed policy and public choices in support of sustainable management of deep-sea resources in the ABNJ.
- Documenting and disseminating best practices in areas of work of the Project, such as compliance with international fisheries obligations, science-based fisheries management, or the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), to foster the uptake of knowledge generated among key stakeholder groups.
- Facilitating knowledge sharing and learning in support of awareness raising and informed decision making on key issues related to sustainable use of deep-sea resources in the ABNJ.

Approach

This strategy builds on the KMC activities, experiences and lessons learned from the first phase of the Project, and will be aligned with relevant priorities, policies and strategies of FAO, GEF and the partners involved.

During the first phase of the Project, there was no structured KM mechanism for the effective harvesting and dissemination of the knowledge produced, and the communication activities were not targeted to reach key stakeholder groups such as the deep-sea Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs) and their members, that both benefit and contribute to achieve Project objectives. Furthermore, there were limited interactions between the various projects in the program, which impeded possible synergies and cohesive messaging.

Guided by these lessons learned, the Project will be guided by a coordinated programmatic approach to ensure coherence, harmonized action and linkages among the program and its child projects. This will promote a two-way interaction between the Program and child projects to enable coordinated and cohesive awareness-raising at the Program level, while allowing effective communication and outreach at Project level.

Target audiences

An overview of the target audiences for KMC activities and the communication goals for each target group is presented in the table below. Identifying target audiences and communication goals will help guide the messaging and determine the most suitable activities, products and channels to get the messages across.

Table 1. Target audiences for the Deep-sea Fisheries Projects KMC activities.

Audience	Goal
Primary	
Project partners and stakeholders (including deep-sea RFMOs and deep-sea fishing community)	Share information and knowledge of technical nature on project outputs and develop best practices that can be replicated and upscaled; create awareness of project activities to strengthen support for sustainable deep-sea fisheries management and reducing their impacts on the environment.
GEF and IW Community	Share information and knowledge on project outputs; create awareness of project activities to strengthen support for sustainable deep-sea fisheries management and reducing their impacts on the environment.
Secondary	
Fisheries and conservation communities	Share information and knowledge on project outputs; create awareness of project activities to strengthen support for sustainable deep-sea fisheries management and reducing their impacts on the environment.
Academia	
Donors	
Media	Disseminate information and stories to raise awareness of the deep-sea fisheries management and their impacts on the environment, and generate public support and buy-in of sustainable practices.
Tertiary	
General public – people interested in ocean governance, professionals in fields related to fisheries and consumers of fishery products.	Disseminate information and stories to raise awareness of the deep-sea fisheries management and their impacts on the environment, and generate public support and buy-in of sustainable practices.

Key messages

All communications of the Project will be centered on a set of key messages, echoing the overall Project goal to bring about transformative change towards sustainable deep-sea fisheries management and reducing impacts on biodiversity in the ABNJ.

The key messages will function as the essential references for KMC activities, and can be tailored as required to fit the needs of different projects, specific issues and particular activities.

- Keeping deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ healthy and productive principally hinges on the balance between sustainable utilization of natural resources and reducing impacts on biodiversity and requires effective collaboration between the multiple actors partaking in activities in the ABNJ, where all countries involved share a responsibility for sustainable management.
- The Project brings together a broad range of partners –regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), the fishing industry and international organizations – and builds on previous experience with a collaborative approach to making deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ more sustainable and reducing their impacts on the marine environment
- To strike the right balance between sustainable utilization of deep-sea fisheries resources and supporting biodiversity conservation, the Project will strengthen and implement regulatory frameworks, improve deep-sea fisheries management, and reduce the environmental impact on vulnerable marine ecosystems.

KM activities

In the framework of this strategy, KM will be understood as follows: the facilitation of access to, and fostering the exchange of, knowledge generated by the projects on best practices and lessons learned on key issues related to sustainable use of ABNJ among key stakeholder groups, and the inclusion of this knowledge into a narrative of the impacts of the Program.

Communication, in the framework of this strategy, will be understood as follows: raise awareness of sustainable management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ by targeting general and specific audiences with information products showcasing project and program activities and results.

Ultimately, the KMC activities will be determined in annual work plans, and will include some of the following:

- **KM activities:**
 - Producing information and educational materials, including experience notes, best practice documents, synthesis products, tutorials, (e-)learning tools;
 - Participating in knowledge sharing and learning organized under the Program and by FAO, GEF and partners, as well as IW:LEARN resources;
 - Participating in stakeholder exchanges, including project-project “twinning” exchanges;
 - Participating in meetings and conferences at global, regional and local level, and workshops addressing capacity building needs in KM, including cross-project trainings, webinars, e-learning and online courses.
- **Communication activities:**
 - Gather information on project activities and results;
 - Gather voices from experts, stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners;
 - Produce news releases and feature stories;
 - Produce audio-visual material, including videos, photography, radio or multi-media productions;
 - Produce information material, such as flyers, fact sheets, briefs, brochures, publications, presentations;
 - Produce promotional material, including posters, banners, stickers, gadgets;

- Produce social media content, using @FAO and @FAOfish and leveraging the hashtag #CommonOceans, tagging relevant stakeholders, influencers and media;
- Developing content for the Common Oceans Program website;
- Promote Project at exhibitions and side events.

Channels and mechanisms

Different channels and mechanisms will be used to disseminate knowledge products and communication materials to the targeted audiences ensuring maximum impact, using existing platforms and channels, avoiding duplication between program and individual projects.

Table 1. Channels and mechanisms for dissemination of KMC products and materials.

Type	Channel	Target audience
Dedicated websites	Program website: www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans FAO-NFI: https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/ FAO GFCM website: https://www.fao.org/gfcm/en/ FAO-GEF website: http://www.fao.org/gef/en/	-Project partners and stakeholders -Donor and GEF IW Community
Program news outlets	Program news: http://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/news/en/ Program newsletter: http://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/news/newsletter/en/ FAO-NFI news: https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/news FAO GFCM News: https://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/en/ FAO-GEF news: www.fao.org/gef FAO-GEF newsletter: http://www.fao.org/gef/highlights/fao-gef-newsletter/en/ GEF IW News: https://iwlearn.net/news GEF IW Newsletter: https://iwlearn.net/news/newsletter	-Project partners and stakeholders -Donor and GEF IW community -Marine conservation community -Media
Knowledge-sharing platforms	Common Oceans Program knowledge sharing hub: <i>(currently under development for new Program website)</i> . Common Oceans Program knowledge sharing platform (internal) on Dgroups: https://dgroups.org/fao/common_oceans_program Deep-sea project specific Dgroups space for “new technologies” FAO Learning Center: www.fao.org/elearning GEF IW Learning exchange and resource network (LEARN): www.iwlearn.net Document Repositories/Libraries: FAO Document Repository GEF Document Repository	-Project partners and stakeholders -Donor and GEF IW Community -Fisheries and conservation communities -Academia
Meetings and events	Project-related meetings, trainings, workshops and side events (GEF International Waters Biennial Conferences, meetings of COFI, RFMOs, RSPs, and Large Marine Ecosystem programs) Global, regional and local events (high level meetings, workshops and side events of the wider international community involved in the BBNJ process and other ongoing global processes (e.g., Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, etc.))	-Project partners and stakeholders -Donor and GEF IW Community -Fisheries and conservation communities -Academia

Social Media	Twitter (@FAOFish , @UN FAO GFCM #CommonOceans, to be retweeted by partner organizations' accounts) Facebook (@UNFAO , #CommonOceans) YouTube (FAO , Common Oceans Playlist)	-Donor and GEF IW Communities -Media
Media	News media (Global, Regional and Local news reporting agencies) Specialized media, blogs and forums (UN News , Earth Negotiations Bulletin , Intrafish , SeafoodSource , ECO Magazine etc.) Academic/peer-reviewed journals	-Fisheries and conservation communities -Media -General public

Roles and responsibilities

The Project is responsible for project KMC plans and activities to inform key audiences of the project's activities and achievements, and to facilitate the uptake of project-specific lessons learned and best practices.

This entails the following responsibilities:

- Develop and implement Project-specific KMC strategy.
- Development, production and dissemination of information and knowledge products on project activities and results.
- Participate in periodical meetings related to KMC.
- Share all communication products and activities with the Program Coordination Unit (PCU) for tracking progress and for outreach purposes at program level.
- Adhere to basic principles and guidelines on overall program outreach through branding of project products and activities and using the tools and mechanisms outlined in relevant guidelines.
- Allocation of sufficient budgetary and human resources to enable effective implementation of KMC activities.

Human and financial resources

Another key lesson learned from the GEF-5 Common Oceans ABNJ Program that was noted in the terminal evaluation, is the need for sufficient budgetary and human resources to enable effective implementation of knowledge management and communication activities.

As the executing agency of the Project, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) will ensure that expertise is available to implement the Project's KMC Strategy. It is difficult to identify the budget directly associated with the KMC part of the key deliverables as they are integrated in with the activities required to produce these deliverables.

Reporting

KMC activities at all levels of the Project will be recorded for reporting purposes. They will feed into program and Project reports, which contain detailed descriptions of the activities, following the reporting requirements of the relevant implementing agencies and the GEF.

At the same time, reporting of KMC activities will follow the Program and Project results framework. This will ensure that the monitoring of KMC are an integral part of the Project and Program monitoring and evaluation strategy and plan.

