







Scoping Workshop: Supporting the development of regional initiatives for ABNJ in the Abidjan Convention Region

Abidjan Convention and Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (UNEP, IASS, IDDRI)

20-21 June 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles

1. The Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention) decided at the eleventh meeting of its Conference of the Parties (COP) (Cape Town, South Africa, 17-21 March 2014) "to set up a working group to study all aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction within the framework of the Abidjan Convention [...]" (Decision CP. 11.10 on the Conservation and Sustainable use of the Marine Biodiversity of the Areas Located beyond National Jurisdictions). In January 2015 the UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction recommended to the General Assembly negotiations for a new international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

In view of these developments, the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention has invited the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG) to provide support in launching and operationalizing the Working Group, including by organizing a first scoping workshop.

This workshop will gather 15-20 experts from the Abidjan Convention Contracting Parties, international and regional organisations, NGOs and research centres. The aim of this workshop will be:

- i. to preliminarily update participants on the negotiation process towards the elaboration of an international instrument dedicated to ABNJ;
- ii. to inform participants on existing regional initiatives in ABNJ (in the North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean, the Southern Ocean and Sargasso Sea regions in particular);
- iii. to elaborate draft terms of reference (ToR) for the Working Group, as well as its draft programme of work, for consideration by the Abidjan Convention Parties.

Draft Agenda

Saturday, 20 June			
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome and opening		
	 Government of South Africa Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP Sebastian Unger, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Affairs (IDDRI) 		
09:30 - 10:00	Introduction	- Abou Bamba, Abidjan Convention Secretariat	
	 Adoption of agenda Update on Abidjan Convention process, including COP decision related to ABNJ Presentation of the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance 	- Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP	
10:00 - 11:00	Session I: Setting the scene - Update on BBNJ process: Past, present and future - Position and perspectives of G77 - Regional approaches for ABNJ – state of play	 Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Director of DOALOS (tbc) Dire Tladi, University of Pretoria Thomas Greiber, IASS and Glen Wright, IDDRI 	
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee break		
11:15 – 12:45	Session II: Scientific background and socio-economic context - EBSA description of the South-east Atlantic region - The blue economy and 2050 AIMS/Agenda 2063	 - Jihyun Lee, CBD - David Johnson, GOBI - Paul Tendeng, RAMPAO - Khalil Timamy, African Union Commission (tbc) 	
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch break		
14:00 – 15:45	Session III: Legal and institutional frameworks - Advancing regional approaches in ABNJ: Challenges & opportunities - Experiences from the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) - Possible connection with other regional initiatives, including FAO/UNEP Project	- IDDRI and IASS - David Johnson, GOBI - Merete Tandstad, FAO (tbc) and Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP	
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break		

16:15 – 16:45	Session IV: Perspectives of the Abidjan Convention	- Contracting Parties, Secretariat and others
	- Opportunities & challenges	- Dire Tladi, University of Pretoria
16:45 – 17:15	Session V: Development of a draft programme of work	- IASS and IDDRI
	- Presentation of draft initial elements	
17:30	Social event (tbc)	

Sunday, 21 June		
09:00 - 09:10	Welcome back and outlook for Day 2	- IASS and IDDRI
09:30 - 11:00	Session V continued: Development of draft programme of work	- Abidjan Convention Secretariat, supported by IASS and IDDRI
	 Needs assessment and identification of deliverables and objectives of the Working Group 	
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 - 12:30 12:30 - 14:00	Session V: continued - Identification of elements: o related to activities at the regional level; o related to activities to connect with the global negotiations Lunch break	- Abidjan Convention Secretariat, supported by IASS and IDDRI
14:00 – 15:45	Session VI: Development of draft ToR - Elaboration and agreement on ToR for Working Group - Agreement on follow-up process with Abidjan Convention parties	- Abidjan Convention Secretariat, supported by IASS and IDDRI
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 16:15	Any other business	
16:15 – 16:30	Closure of workshop	- Government of South Africa, Abidjan Convention Secretariat, UNEP, IASS and IDDRI

Supported by:





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