

Foreword by:
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Welcome to our e-newsletter, which recaps the first meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs). In the articles that follow you will read brief descriptions of follow-up activities, and updates on the forthcoming second meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue, to take place in April 2018.

The resounding success of the first meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs- the first one of its nature- clearly signals the global recognition of the need to enhance communication and cooperation among regional organizations both within and among regions as well as between regional and global processes.

Regional organizations are crucial players in realizing the future we want. They provide a critical link between global commitments and national implementation. They assist in creating the enabling conditions for implementation, and play a significant role in monitoring progress towards achievement of multilateral goals and commitments, in particular the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

I invite regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies around the world to continue to engage in the SOI Global Dialogues in order to identify opportunities to improve regional-scale cooperation, which is so urgently needed to accelerate national efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

BACKGROUND

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has, in various decisions (decisions X/29, XI/17, XI/18, XII/22 and XII/23), highlighted the importance of collaboration with regional organizations, including Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), to facilitate the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implement various activities related to marine and coastal biodiversity within the Convention.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned COP decisions, the first meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative^[1] Global Dialogue with Regional Seas

It was organized in collaboration with UN Environment, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention, the IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group, and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative.

Participants comprised representatives of regional seas organizations, regional fisheries bodies and relevant United Nations/international organizations/initiatives as well as experts from national governments and agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

The first meeting aimed to facilitate the

Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 26 to 29 September 2016, by the CBD Secretariat, with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea (through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea, the Korea Maritime Institute and the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation), the Government of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund) and the European Commission.



[1] www.cbd.int/soi

exchange of experiences and discuss specific tools and guidelines to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among RSOs and RFBs, with a view to support their key roles in accelerating the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.



SEOUL OUTCOME

"Seoul Outcome[1]" refers to the summary of outcomes of the first meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue (September 2016). It highlights the importance of regional cooperation in accelerating progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity, and outlines various ways and means to enhance cooperation and coordination among the regional organizations. Participants acknowledged the diversity of experiences, challenges, priorities and capacities among countries and regional organizations; noting that regional cooperation is at different stages of development and that the appropriate next steps would vary from region to region.

Participants also emphasized the need for capacity building activities in support of cooperation at the regional level. The critical importance of national-level coordination in facilitating regional-level cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination was also underlined.

Participants affirmed the critical role played by regional organizations in supporting and facilitating actions by national governments, as well as in accelerating progress towards global biodiversity goals for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Recognizing the value of the SOI Global Dialogue, participants emphasized the need to continue global dialogues and welcomed the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Korea to make the SOI Global Dialogue a regular forum.





[1]
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/soio-m-2016-01/official/soiom-2016-01-outcome-en.pdf>



FOLLOW-UP STEPS

The outcome of the first meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue was communicated to various stakeholders at:

The eighteenth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) (30 September - 1 October 2016, Songdo, Republic of Korea).



The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 13, 4-17 December 2016, Cancun, Mexico) and the Fisheries and Agriculture Roundtable of the High-Level Segment (3 December 2016, Cancun, Mexico).

- *COP-13 side event on the outcome of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies (5 December 2016).*
- *COP-13 Sustainable Ocean Night: Working together for the future we want (5 December 2016).*

The Ocean Conference - The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (5-9 June 2017).

- *Sustainable Ocean Night: Marine biodiversity for the future we want (6 June 2017)*
- *Side event on facilitating cross-sectoral regional collaboration to support implementation of SDG 14: Sustainable Ocean Initiative global dialogue with regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies (6 June 2017)*



Photo by IISD/ENB

Participants in the first meeting suggested that an informal working group be formed, consisting of the CBD Secretariat, UNEP, FAO, and interested UN/international/regional organizations to

2016).



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Third Session of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (27 March - 7 April 2017, UNHQ, New York, USA).

- Side event on the outcome of Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies (29 March 2017).



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prepare substantive elements of the meeting programme of future global dialogues and maintain intersessional communication among participants.

In this regard, the first meeting of the Informal Working Group for the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue was held in Seoul from 28 to 29 June 2017.

At this meeting, participants reviewed progress made in facilitating regional cross-sectoral collaboration in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals, reviewed the outcome of the Ocean Conference in relation to the future role of the Sustainable Global Dialogue in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other relevant Goals as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, identified potential substantive elements of the programme of future global dialogues, and reviewed possible ways and means to maintain intersessional communication.



Speakers at Sustainable Ocean Night, hosted at the United Nations Oceans Conference (l-r): Cristiana Paşca Palmer (Executive Secretary of the CBD), Peter Thomson (UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean, and President of the 71st Session of the UNGA), Karolina Skog (Minister for the Environment of Sweden), Erik Solheim (Executive Director of UN Environment)

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ORGANIZATION OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SOI GLOBAL DIALOGUE

Organization of the second meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue

The second meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue will be convened from **10 to 13 April 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea**, with the financial support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of Japan, the Government of Sweden and the European Commission, in collaboration with UN Environment, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention, the IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group, and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative.

Drawing on the results of the first meeting of the Informal Working Group, as noted above, various regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies will be engaged in developing substantive elements of the meeting programme, through the forthcoming survey, e-mail communications and compilation of relevant information.



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Sustainable Ocean Initiative



