

# OVERALL PROGRAM STRUCTURE

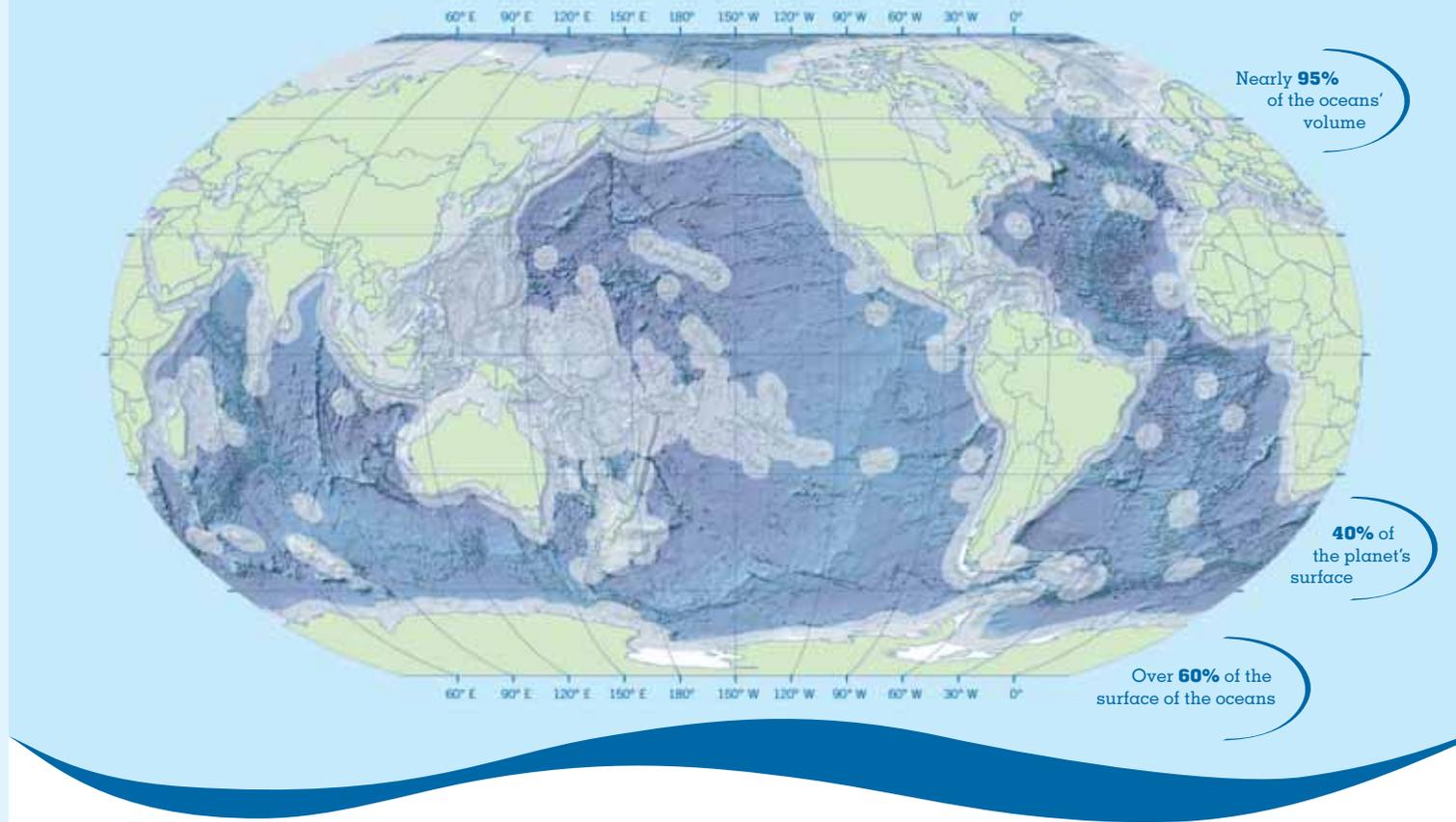
## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The Program requires the committed involvement of multiple and diverse stakeholders. A Global Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Group will be established to ensure participation of key partners representing the policy, technical and scientific community as well as industry.



Ultimately, the Program will lead to improved global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ:

- moving towards the ecosystem approach and rights-based systems and away from the race to fish
- increasing our ability to protect fragile ecosystems
- fostering international and cross-sectoral coordination and sharing of information



## GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (ABNJ)

## PRESERVING THE WORLD'S LAST GLOBAL COMMONS

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## WHAT ARE ABNJ?

Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), commonly called the high seas, are those areas of ocean for which no one nation has sole responsibility for management. In all, these make up 40% of the surface of our planet, comprising 64% of the surface of the oceans and nearly 95% of its volume.

Often considered the world's last global commons, the complex ecosystems in the ABNJ include the water column and seabed of the high seas and are mostly far from coasts, making the sustainable management of the fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in those areas extremely difficult and challenging.

These ecosystems are subject to negative impacts from human activities in many sectors – from shipping to marine pollution to deep-sea fishing and mining – all compounded by a lack of comprehensive legal instruments and coherent governance. One of the biggest threats is overfishing. Urgent action is needed to improve management of many ABNJ fisheries and strengthen protection of related ecosystems to prevent devastating impacts on marine biodiversity, socio-economic well-being and food security for millions of people directly dependent on those fisheries.

With a view to improving ABNJ management, the *Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program*, is under consideration for approval by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with three GEF agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

### PROJECT 1.

#### SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TUNA FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE ABNJ (FAO)

*Objective:* Achieve efficient and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach by:

- supporting the use of sustainable and efficient fisheries management and fishing practices by stakeholders of tuna resources
- reducing illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing
- mitigating adverse impacts of bycatch on biodiversity

*Partners:* Tuna Regional Fishery Management Organizations (t-RFMOs) and member countries, WWF, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, Bird Life International, NOAA

## ABNJ PROGRAM PROTECTING VULNERABLE AND IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES

Focusing on tuna and deep-sea fisheries, in parallel with the conservation of biodiversity, the ABNJ Program aims to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ and to meet related global targets agreed in international fora.

The five-year ABNJ Program is an innovative and comprehensive initiative comprised of four projects which bring together governments, regional management bodies, relevant private sectors and industries and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of working towards ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of the ABNJ biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The Program concentrates on a long-term plan to establish strong networks, best management practices and facilitated information sharing needed to make a transformational impact towards responsible and sustainable use of ABNJ resources.

### PROJECT 2.

#### SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OF DEEP-SEA LIVING RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS IN THE ABNJ (FAO/UNEP)

*Objective:* Efficient and sustainable use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for:

- improving sustainable management practices for deep-sea fisheries, taking into account impacts on related ecosystems
- protecting Vulnerable Marine

Ecosystems and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas

- practicing improved area-based planning for deep-sea ecosystems

Test and make available efficient area-based planning tools and methodologies in the Regional Seas Programmes and RFMO/As for development of regional management plans and policies.

*Partners:* Deep-sea Regional Fishery Management Organizations, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, East African Seas Regional Coordination Unit, IUCN, Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant industry organizations

### WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE ABNJ PROGRAM?

The ABNJ fisheries contribute significantly to employment, nutrition and trade. Although the benefits vary greatly among areas, it is well-known that millions of families in both developing and developed countries depend on jobs in fishing as well as in associated activities – from boat construction and manufacturing of gears to pre- and post-harvesting of seafood. The ABNJ Program is intended to help ensure their food security and livelihoods through the long-term management and sustainability of ABNJ fisheries and the ecosystems on which they depend. This means understanding and taking into account the priorities and

needs of more than 85% fishing countries, including developing coastal and island nations. At stake are 60% of the world's oceans and related marine resources valued at well over US\$10 billion annually.

The Program can also help States better fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly regarding the conservation and management of living resources and ecosystems in the high seas. It will further promote the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and address global calls to reduce the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing presently undermining efforts for promoting sustainable ecosystem-based practices.

### PROJECT 4.

#### STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CAPACITY TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE ABNJ (FAO)

*Objective:* Promote effective global and regional coordination on ABNJ including exchange of information by:

- strengthening and broadening cross-sectoral dialogue and policy coordination in ABNJ
- increasing decision-makers' capability to participate in processes for management and coordination of ABNJ activities
- broadening public understanding of the ecosystem threats to ABNJ

*Partner:* Global Ocean Forum

### PROJECT 3.

#### OCEANS PARTNERSHIP FUND (WORLD BANK)

*Objective:* Catalyze public and private sector investment within globally important seascapes both within national waters and in ABNJ to sustainably enhance the economic and biological performance of the oceans' living resources, and the benefits captured by coastal and island developing nations

*Partnership:* under development with Conservation International and others