

2nd COBSEA webinar on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, 3 December 2020

Summary

1. On 3 December 2020, the COBSEA Secretariat hosted the second webinar in a series of webinars on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The webinar series provide a platform for dialogue on how COBSEA can be leveraged to support countries during development and implementation of the framework. The first webinar, held 28 May 2020, took stock of the process for development of the framework, and UN Environment Programme's (UNEP's) role in this, including its work with and through Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs). Based on this COBSEA's mandate and current activities relevant to the framework were discussed.
2. The second webinar discussed the updated zero draft of the framework; preparations for the second consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ('Bern-II') and meetings of subsidiary bodies of CBD; conclusions and recommendations from the UNEP-European Commission (EC) Project 'Regional Seas Biodiversity under the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework' including the webinar and workshop held in October 2020; as well as activities building on the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Agenda is provided in Annex 1. Presentations can be found on COBSEA's website¹.
3. Over 30 attendees from seven COBSEA countries, representing governments, research institutions and non-governmental organizations, participated in the event along with presenters and resource persons from ICRI, UNEP's Law Division, UNEP's Ecosystems Division including the Regional Seas Programme, UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the COBSEA Secretariat.

Opening remarks – Kerstin Stendahl, Ecosystem Division, UNEP

4. In her opening remarks, Kerstin Stendahl noted progress that has taken place since the previous webinar, including in drafting indicators and outlining a monitoring framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). These recognize the importance of the regional scale, including the usefulness of regional indicators which help provide context for national targets and reporting. She further highlighted an analysis investigating linkages between the GBF and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which outlined the immediate relevance of SDG 14 'Life Below Water' to multiple framework goals and targets. Ms. Stendahl mentioned COBSEA's current Strategic Directions, which include specific action in relation to the Aichi targets, and noted the value of beginning to think how the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be addressed in the new COBSEA Strategic Directions beyond 2022. The Regional Seas Programme is currently developing its new Global Strategic Directions 2021-2024 and Ms. Stendahl advocated for alignment with these. She further noted the opportune moment to discuss and plan ahead for the 25th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) of COBSEA in 2021 to ensure a good path forward with concrete actions that address the development and implementation of the GBF. Ms. Stendahl wished participants successful deliberations and expressed her support in addressing needs and priorities on the basis of UNEP's work to the extent possible. She further encouraged the sharing of COBSEA activities and outcomes globally, through UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.

¹ www.cobsea.org

Outcomes of the UNEP-EC project ‘Regional Seas Programme and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework’ – Nancy Soi, Regional Seas Programme Unit, UNEP

5. Ms. Soi provided an overview of the year-long UNEP-EC project on the role of RSCAPs in achieving the post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals and targets. The project stems from the notion that the Regional Seas are in a unique position to support States to implement and monitor relevant global marine targets. Project findings indicate a high degree of commonality between GBF targets and the Regional Seas Programme’s Core Set of 22 Indicators developed in 2015. COBSEA was mentioned as one of the RSCAPs carrying out work in direct relevance to multiple GBF targets. Ms. Soi noted there is a varying degree of effort to integrate GBF in policies across the Regional Seas. She demonstrated a model for regional guidelines in which reporting could be done from national level to the Convention on Biodiversity Diversity (CBD) via RSCAPs and UNEP. Recommendations arising from the project include establishing a tier model based on which capacity building support to Regional Seas programmes could be directed; ensuring that the Regional Seas Strategic Directions align with GBF; promoting knowledge transfer between Regional Seas and coordinating regional cooperation through mechanisms such as the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. The possibility of using a subset of the Core Set of 22 Indicators was further mentioned. The project report as well as a summary for policy makers will be disseminated and uploaded to the COBSEA website upon completion.

Reflections from CBD webinar 1 October 2020 – Dida Migfar Ridha, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia

6. Mr. Ridha shared reflections from the webinar ‘Regional Seas Programmes and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework’, held 1 October 2020. Activities from different Regional Seas programmes and partners were presented in the event with the objective to inform CBD Parties of the functions of the Regional Seas and introduce prospective roles of the Regional Seas in relation to the framework. The webinar noted the importance of Regional Seas programmes in the development and implementation of the framework as well as highlighted the need for policy coherence, capacity building and knowledge sharing among stakeholders at regional level. Mr. Ridha presented ways COBSEA could be leveraged in the GBF, including in relation to tracking and reporting through capacity building and harmonized approaches; through regional-level alignment of efforts in relation to GBF; as well as via mobilization of experts within the region.

Update on Bern-II, SBI and SBSTTA and the updated zero draft – Diane Klaimi, Law Division, UNEP

7. Ms. Klaimi noted that Bern-II, the second consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, is tentatively scheduled to be held as an online workshop in late January 2021. Concrete outcome-oriented inputs from the workshop will feed into the GBF. In September 2020, special virtual sessions were held in preparation for meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI). Ms. Klaimi informed that informal SBSTTA and SBI sessions may take place at the beginning of 2021 while formal meetings of the subsidiary bodies are expected to be held in the second quarter of 2021. SBSTTA focuses on GBF goals and targets, whereas SBI considers framework implementation support. Ms. Klaimi further noted the possibility of postponement of CBD COP 15, awaiting further consultation and formal communication.
8. Ms. Klaimi presented goals, milestones and targets which have been amended in the updated zero draft of the GBF, released August 2020. Among others, goals have been combined and a target focusing on species has been added. Changes have also been made to ensure the ability to measure and show progress toward 2030 milestones and 2050 goals. A first draft of the GBF will be prepared in advance of the third Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting, likely to take place in the second quarter of 2021. Ms. Klaimi noted the importance of submitting written contributions to co-chairs of the

OEWG prior to OEWG-3 and encouraged COBSEA to provide input to the process. Ms. Klaimi also briefly introduced the Data reporting tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT). DaRT is a tool for knowledge management at national level for integrated reporting to biodiversity-related conventions. The tool will be presented in further detail in the third COBSEA webinar on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Coral reefs in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – Emily Corcoran and Francis Staub, ICRI

9. Ms. Corcoran presented the [International Coral Reef Initiative \(ICRI\) Recommendation](#) to prioritise coral reefs and related ecosystems within the post-2020 GBF. The ICRI Recommendation, adopted in May 2020, calls for prominent recognition of coral reef ecosystems in the GBF with goals and targets at an ecosystem scale; timescales for goals and targets appropriate for achieving stabilization and recovery of coral reef ecosystems; as well as inclusion of meaningful coral reef indicators. She noted that the East Asian Seas region encompasses a third of the world's coral reefs, that many COBSEA countries are also ICRI members, and have been part of the effort to ensure coral reefs are included in the GBF. Ms. Corcoran encouraged countries to use the ICRI Recommendation for their engagement in the GBF development process as well as to work through relevant regional mechanisms, such as Regional Seas programmes, to develop regional coherence to realise the inclusion of coral reefs in the framework. Ms. Corcoran and Mr. Staub highlighted ways ICRI can provide support in the negotiation phase, such as supplying technical and policy support, as well as in the implementation phase, e.g. in regard to monitoring and assessment. They encouraged countries to reach out for further targeted follow-up discussion.

Closing and next webinar – Jerker Tamelander, COBSEA Coordinator

10. Mr. Tamelander reiterated Ms. Stendahl's call to COBSEA countries to start discussing new COBSEA Strategic Directions beyond 2022, including in particular how this should address the GBF and COBSEA's role. He noted that the Secretariat will seek views from countries on this starting 2021 and in preparation for the 25th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA. Mr. Tamelander noted the analogies with the Outlook on COBSEA follow-up and review of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals, including the possibility of partially or fully reflecting the GBF in the Outlook document. He further emphasized the utility of looking towards the Regional Seas Core Set of 22 Indicators when pursuing further indicator-based assessment work through COBSEA, including the possibility of using a subset of these as mentioned by Ms. Soi.
11. The third COBSEA webinar on the GBF is tentatively scheduled for Thursday 4 February 2021, 14-15.30 ICT. Further information on this will be shared in due time. The webinar will, inter alia, discuss outcomes of Bern-II and present DaRT in further detail. The webinar will also explore efforts through COBSEA based on input from COBSEA countries. To this end, the COBSEA Secretariat will reach out to individual COBSEA countries to request input to the webinar on experiences at national level in development of the GBF, and may also seek views of COBSEA countries on possible formal consultation on the GBF.

Annex 1. Agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
14:00	Welcome	COBSEA Coordinator
	Opening remarks	Kerstin Stendahl, UNEP
14.05	Outcomes of UNEP-EC project	Nancy Soi, UNEP
	Reflections from CBD webinar 1 Oct 2020	Dida Migfar Ridha, Indonesia
14.30	Update on Bern-II, SBI and SBSTTA and the updated zero draft	Diane Klaimi, UNEP
14.45	Coral reefs in the post-2020 GBF	Francis Staub and Emily Corcoran, ICRI
15.00	Discussion	
15.20	Summary and closing	COBSEA coordinator