

COBSEA webinar on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, 28 May 2020

Summary

1. On 28 May 2020, the COBSEA Secretariat hosted the first 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 as well as implementation of the framework.
2. The first webinar took stock of the process for development of the framework and UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) role in this, including its work with and through Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. Based on this COBSEA's mandate and current activities relevant to the framework were discussed. See Annex 1 for agenda of the webinar. 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 UNEP's Law Division, 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 the importance of biodiversity in general and marine biodiversity in particular. She drew attention to the 2019 special report of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)² which estimates that over a million species are threatened with extinction and that more than half of the world's marine environments have been significantly altered by human actions. She further noted that in order to ensure that by 2050 the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled, biodiversity conservation needs to be mainstreamed across policies, programmes and practices of all actors. In view of this, she emphasized the need for development of integrated approaches across sectors. Ms Stendahl wished participants successful deliberations and highlighted that the webinar provides an opportunity to discuss how ocean governance, particularly in relation to marine biodiversity, should be strengthened.

Introduction to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and UNEP's role in the development of the framework – Diane Klaimi, Law Division, UNEP

5. Ms Klaimi provided an overview of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework which builds on the work of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi targets. She noted that a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the framework has been set out. Negotiations to develop the framework to discuss scope, content and structure are undertaken by an open-ended intersessional working group under the leadership of the co-chairs Uganda and Canada. Ms Klaimi explained that phase 1 of the process included regional consultations, phase 2 focused on thematic issues while phase 3, only open to input from Parties, consists of negotiations. She informed that a zero draft of the framework with its proposed 20 goals was released in January 2020 and is currently being revised based on received input and discussions held during the second meeting of the open-ended working group in February 2020. A 0.5 draft of the framework will be available in June.
6. Ms Klaimi explained that UNEP has provided direct support to the post-2020 process, e.g. input via submissions, as well as informal contributions, e.g. arranged dialogues and stakeholder engagement.

¹ www.unenvironment.org/cobsea/events/webinar/cobsea-webinar-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework

² IPBES (2019): Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

She informed that UNEP Executive Director, as chair of the UN Environmental Management Group, has been requested to facilitate the contribution of the UN system to the development and implementation of the framework. UNEP further hosted the first meeting of the open-ended working group in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2019. Ms Klaimi mentioned that UNEP is the docking station for multiple Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and has co-organized MEA consultation workshops. She highlighted the importance of MEA contributions and encouraged the Regional Seas Programme to provide input to the development of the framework.

UNEP's Regional Seas Programme including work with and through the Regional Seas Programme in relation to the framework – Kerstin Stendahl, Ecosystem Division, UNEP

7. Ms Stendahl informed that the Regional Seas Programme provides intergovernmental frameworks to address the degradation of oceans and seas at regional level and has embraced an ecosystem approach to managing marine resources. She noted that the Programme offers experience on regional approaches to management of marine biodiversity and that many regions under the Programme have formulated biodiversity-related regional objectives and targets. Ms Stendahl stressed that the regional scale is the appropriate ecosystem scale to make assessments of ecosystem status and functions along with being the scale required for application of ecosystem-based management in the marine realm. She further noted the importance, and to date lack of, CBD recognizing and utilizing the role of the Regional Seas Programme in the framework development. Ms Stendahl informed of an ongoing project which focuses on analyzing and informing CBD Parties of the proposed role of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in the framework.

COBSEA's mandate and current activities relevant to the framework – Jerker Tamelander, COBSEA Coordinator

8. Mr Tamelander presented that COBSEA's mandate is based on the East Asian Seas Action Plan, the Strategic Directions 2018-2022 as well as the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. He mentioned that COBSEA activities relevant to the framework include advancing marine and coastal spatial planning including marine protected areas as well as reducing pollution. Mr Tamelander provided examples of ongoing work through COBSEA relevant to development as well as the implementation of the framework, and noted the opportunity to prioritize project development based on the framework. He also noted that the ongoing process to develop COBSEA's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Outlook can be drawn upon and learned from.

Discussion

9. Participants stressed the need to ensure inclusion of marine and coastal biodiversity in the framework based on the needs of member States, and in this regard the need for coordination at the national level and of working with and through CBD National Focal Points. The necessity of ensuring that the framework recognizes and builds on existing structures such as the Regional Seas was further highlighted. Participants recommended mobilizing experts through individual Regional Seas as well as cooperation among Regional Seas in providing input on development of the framework. The importance of COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 in informing actions to be taken through COBSEA was recognized. It was further noted that experiences from the ongoing process to develop COBSEA's SDG Outlook may be relevant to learn from.
10. Ms Soi provided information on ongoing work by the Regional Seas Programme to compile an overview of SDG implementation through Regional Seas which may be of use in negotiation of the framework. The work is being undertaken in parallel to an ongoing project analyzing the role of the Regional Seas Programme in the framework. This entails gathering case studies and information to showcase achievements and the value of the Regional Seas in meeting marine-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It was also noted that UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC) is preparing an information document for the MEA consultation workshop as well as providing input to the draft

monitoring framework. Work of the Regional Seas Indicator Working Group was mentioned to be potentially of use in indicator and monitoring preparations. The Working Group, initiated in 2014, identified a core set of 22 marine-related indicators used for monitoring at the Regional Sea level.

Next webinar

11. The suggested focus of the next webinar is to discuss outcomes of the Multilateral Environmental Agreement consultation workshop and meetings of the Subsidiary Body on the Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The webinar is tentatively planned for late October 2020. Upcoming webinars will further explore efforts through COBSEA, including in preparation for the 25th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA. Further information about future webinars will be shared in due time.

Annex 1. Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
14:00	Welcome	COBSEA Coordinator
	Opening remarks	Kerstin Stendahl, Ecosystem Division, UNEP
	Overview of agenda and procedures	COBSEA Coordinator
14:10	Introduction to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and UNEPs' role in the development of the Framework	Diane Klaimi, Law Division, UNEP
14:25	UNEP's Regional Seas Programme including work with and through the Regional Seas Programme in relation to the Framework	Kerstin Stendahl, Ecosystem Division, UNEP
14:35	COBSEA's mandate and current activities relevant to the Framework	COBSEA Secretariat
14:45	Discussion	All participants, moderated by COBSEA Secretariat
15:20-15:30	Summary, wrap-up	COBSEA Coordinator