



Tuesday, 26 June 2018 | 15:00 - 16:30 | Phong Nha Room

## Common Oceans ABNJ Program: achievements so far and looking ahead

### BACKGROUND

The marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), commonly called the High Seas, are those areas of ocean for which no one nation has the specific or sole responsibility for management. They include the water column of the high seas and the seabed falling within. These areas make up 40 percent of the surface of our planet, comprising 64% of the surface of the oceans and nearly 95% of its volume.

The marine ABNJ and related ecosystems are subject to impacts from a variety of sectors including shipping, deep-sea mining and fishing. The international community has identified gaps in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the ABNJ and will, under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, start the negotiation of internationally legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in September 2018.

The Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ Program – referred to as Common Oceans ABNJ Program – was approved by GEF under the lead of the FAO and in close collaboration with WWF, UNEP and the World Bank, as well as other partners.

The Common Oceans ABNJ Program focuses on tuna and other shared highly migratory stocks, deep-sea fisheries and associated biodiversity and contributes to achieving the global targets agreed in international fora.

The five-year Program started in 2014 and is an innovative, unique and comprehensive initiative. It is made of four Projects which bring together governments, regional management bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry to work towards ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of ABNJ biodiversity and ecosystem services.

### OBJECTIVES

This side event is to inform GEF Assembly participants about the progress towards expected outcomes of the program, share lessons learned and some ideas regarding opportunities for future investments under GEF7 to consolidate and further progress towards a long lasting impact.

### AGENDA

15:00-15:05	Welcome address by <b>Leah Karrer</b> , Senior Environmental Specialist, GEF
15:05-15:10	Opening remarks by <b>Rosina Bierbaum</b> , Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF
15:10-15:25	Presentation of Common Oceans ABNJ Program by <b>Jacqueline Alder</b> , Fishcode Manager, FAO
15:25-16:10	Panel discussion moderated by the Chair, featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arni Mathiesen</b>, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO</li> <li>• <b>Steve Fletcher</b>, Chief Strategy Officer Marine Programme, UNEP-WCMC</li> <li>• <b>Lauren Spurrier</b>, Managing Director, Oceans, WWF</li> <li>• <b>Valerie Hickey</b>, Practice Manager for Environment and Natural Resources, WorldBank</li> </ul>
16:10-16:25	Open discussion with the audience
16:25-16:30	Conclusions by the Chair

This side event is organized by FAO