



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

OCEANS AT RIO+20: Discussions with UN Delegations Convened by the Global Ocean Forum



(with support from the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, and the University of Delaware)

Co-organizers:

Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Seychelles to the United Nations
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)

September 12, 2011
New York, NY



Grenada



Fiji



Seychelles



AGENDA

Workshop Co-Chairs:

H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States

Ambassador David A. Balton, US Department of State

Arrival 11:00 AM, lunch

11:30-11:45 AM

Introduction: Purpose of the Workshop

Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum, and University of Delaware

Ambassador David Balton, US Department of State

11:45 AM- 12:30 PM

Session 1

The Road to Rio+20: Maximizing Opportunities for Achieving a Significant Oceans Outcome at Rio+20

Chair: Dr. Andrew Hudson, Coordinator, UN-Oceans, and Cluster Leader, Water & Ocean Governance Programme, UNDP

H.E. Ambassador Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, and Co-Chair, States' Friends of the Ocean at Rio+20

H.E. Ambassador Joseph Goddard, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, and Co-Chair, States' Friends of the Ocean at Rio+20

Mrs. Valérie Bruell-Melchior, Deputy Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations

Mrs. Maria Teresa Pessoa, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador D. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

12:30-2:00 PM

Session 2

Presentation of Reports on Oceans at Rio+20

Presentation of Global Ocean Forum Draft Report on Oceans and Coasts at Rio+20: Review of Progress Achieved (Or Not Achieved) Since UNCED and WSSD and Major Emerging Recommendations

Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum, and University of Delaware

Presentation of UN Agencies' Blue Paper (Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability)

Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

General Discussion

2:00-3:15 PM

Session 3

Perspectives on UNCED/WSSD Ocean Goals, Gaps in Implementation, Major Directions for Advancing Oceans at Rio+20

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Milan Mehtarbhan, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN, and Co-Chair, UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea

Dr. Elizabeth Kim, Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs, US Department of State

Mr. John Brincat, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Mrs. Claire Thuaudet, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

Mr. Serguei Tarassenko, Director, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations

3:15-4:15 PM

Session 4

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Oceans at Rio+20

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Marlene Moses, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the UN, and Chair of the Pacific SIDS

Presentation

Ms. LaVerne Walker, Coastal Zone Unit Coordinator, Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment, St. Lucia

SIDS Perspectives on Rio+20

H.E. Ambassador Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations

Ms. Hiroko Morita-Lou, Chief, Small Island Developing States Unit, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs

4:15-4:45 PM

Session 5

Ongoing Initiatives Contributing to the Rio+20 Process

Chair: Ms. Tania Valerie Raguž, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations

Ms. Christine Alfsen-Norodom, Senior Adviser, Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP), United Nations

Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for North America

Mr. Peter Kristensen, Team Leader for Oceans, Biodiversity and Pollution, Environment Department, World Bank

4:45-5:00 PM

Closing Comments

Workshop Co-Chairs:

H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States

Ambassador David Balton, US Department of State

Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum, and University of Delaware

5:00-6:00 PM

Reception



For further information, contact
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Introduction

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (also known as the “Rio Conference” or the “Earth Summit”), launched a new global paradigm for sustainable development and spawned a number of important global agreements, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, took the paradigm shift further by committing to very specific targets and timetables to achieve some of the overarching commitments made at the Earth Summit, through the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Twenty years after the 1992 Earth Summit, governments will gather in Brazil on June 4-6, 2012, at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), to assess progress achieved on major goals and commitments related to sustainable development and to outline the path forward in light of new challenges that have emerged, especially in the context of the green economy and improving the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Many in the global ocean community recognize the significant opportunity presented by the Rio+20 Conference to emphasize the importance of oceans and coasts in achieving sustainable development goals, addressing new and emerging challenges, and meeting the needs of a rising global population. The Global Ocean Forum has been active in the preparatory process for the Rio+20 Conference, working to raise the understanding and appreciation of oceans and sustainable development, mobilizing various stakeholders to articulate their needs and priorities for oceans at Rio+20, and undertaking policy analyses of progress made since UNCED and the role of oceans in the two major Rio+20 themes: the green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and the institutional framework for sustainable development. On World Oceans Day, June 8, 2011, the Global Ocean Forum launched the Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean (<http://globaloceanforum.org/>) as a multi-stakeholder platform for members of the ocean community to voice their priorities and work to raise the profile of oceans at the Rio+20 Conference.

The Global Ocean Forum, with support from the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, and the University of Delaware, in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Fiji, Grenada, and Seychelles to the UN, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), convened a workshop in New York on September 12, 2011, focused on sharing information and perspectives on achieving a significant ocean outcome at Rio+20. The workshop addressed the following questions:

- What form would an oceans package in the Rio+20 outcome take?
- What opportunities to foster a coherent oceans package at Rio+20 are being (or could be) mobilized?
- What progress has (or has not) been achieved on the 1992 UNCED and 2002 WSSD goals related to oceans, coasts, and small-island developing States?
- What needs to be done in order to achieve unfulfilled targets?
- How do we ensure achievement of ocean-related targets in the context of the green (blue) economy and an improved institutional framework for sustainable development?
- What recommendations are emerging for new directions/actions to: fill gaps in implementation of UNCED and WSSD targets; move toward the green (blue) economy; improve the international framework for sustainable development and environmental governance?
- What initiatives/recommendations are being proposed by various countries?

The workshop was co-chaired by **Ambassador David Balton from the US Department of State**, and **Ambassador Dessima Williams, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**, and was moderated by **Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President of the Global Ocean Forum**.



Workshop co-chairs, Ambassador Dessima Williams and Ambassador David Balton, with the workshop moderator, Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain.

Utilizing the Valuable Opportunity Presented by Rio+20

Both UNCED and the WSSD were instrumental in improving the global environmental governance framework and outlining steps to address the most pressing issues surrounding environment and development, especially as they relate to oceans and coasts. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, which was formulated and adopted at UNCED, provided for the protection and



sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment and its resources with the application of integrated approaches to marine and coastal area management at global, regional, national, and local levels. At the WSSD, the world's political leaders committed to specific targets and timetables on implementing ecosystem-based approaches and integrated management in marine and coastal areas, protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, reduction of biodiversity loss and establishment of marine protected areas, sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS), and fisheries management, among other targets.

While great strides have been made since UNCED and the WSSD, the world's ocean and coasts still face notable threats posed by overfishing and destructive fishing practices, coastal development, pollution, and climate change, among other important drivers, threatening their ability to provide critical resources and services to society. Rising global population, especially in coastal areas, is putting further strain on ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems. Gaps in implementation of major commitments and weaknesses in existing governance frameworks compromise our ability to address these major threats to the long-term health and well-being of marine ecosystems and coastal communities.

Rio+20 thus represents an important opportunity to take stock in progress made in the achievement of major goals and targets for oceans and coasts and to outline a new, operational vision towards strengthening the three pillars of sustainable development for the world's oceans and coasts.

Andrew Hudson, Coordinator of UN-Oceans, and Cluster Leader of the Water and Ocean Governance Programme at UNDP, highlighted some of the major challenges facing oceans and coasts, including unsustainable aquaculture, coastal hypoxia, lack of effective governance in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and ship fouling. Dr. Hudson, who also chaired the first session of the workshop, highlighted the critical importance of utilizing Rio+20 to address the challenges to the integrity of marine ecosystems and to craft a "new deal" for oceans.

The importance of addressing oceans at the Rio+20 Conference has been emphasized by all members of the global ocean community, including governments, scientists, members of academia, and other leaders. Governments have paid special attention to this issue in the context of the Rio+20 preparatory process.

An important signal of this political attention is the formation of the States' Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean, an initiative to facilitate intergovernmental collaboration in working together for a strong oceans outcome at the Rio+20 Conference. The co-chairs of the States' Friends of the Ocean, the Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN and the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the UN, participated in the workshop. **Ambassador Joseph Goddard of Barbados** stressed that the Rio+20 Conference must address the implementation deficit in existing ocean commitments, new and emerging challenges for sustainable development and use of the oceans, and gaps in ocean governance, noting the fragmentation of the existing framework. Ambassador Goddard also highlighted the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, which is a framework intended to facilitate cooperation in the effective management of the Caribbean Sea, and noted that Rio+20 is an important opportunity to share lessons learned from these type of initiatives.

Ambassador Joseph Goddard, Barbados

"Global sustainability cannot be achieved without a healthy and productive marine environment. It is, therefore, essential that the Rio+20 outcome encompasses both the conservation and sustainable management of marine and ocean resources to enable developing countries to enjoy a greater share of the benefits derived from those resources."

Ambassador Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN, stressed the need to learn from success stories and continue to implement the effective mechanisms that we already have in place. He discussed the formation of the States' Friends of the Ocean for Rio+20 as a forum for ideas for States to identify common interests to develop a strong focused ocean outcome from the Rio Conference. Ambassador Quinlan also highlighted the need to develop grounded recommendations for actionable outcomes from the Rio+20 process, and to avoid building a "Christmas tree" of recommendations that would attempt to address all ocean and coastal issues at Rio+20 (a sentiment that was echoed by many of the other participants as well).

Valérie Bruell-Melchior, Deputy Permanent Representative of Monaco to the UN, emphasized the importance of cooperation among governments in the Rio+20 process to develop a viable ocean outcome. She noted that the government of Monaco is committed to the achievement of sustainable development and will continue to play an active role in the Rio+20 preparatory process. Mrs. Bruell-Melchior discussed an upcoming expert workshop on the sustainable use of oceans in the context of the green economy and poverty eradication to be held in Monaco on November 28-30, 2011, which will be focused on food security, tourism, and energy, as they relate to ocean and coastal issues.

Ambassador D. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, Spain

Appropriate management and conservation of oceans and coastal areas are of equal importance for the three pillars of the sustainable development. It is of the utmost importance to preserve the future of mankind, in particular for small island developing States and for coastal communities.

Ambassador D. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia of Spain emphasized that oceans are a key component of human well-being and will play an important role in moving towards a new economy that is environmentally-friendly and capable of creating new jobs and opportunities. He highlighted promising developments at the regional level, including through the OSPAR Convention in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and the Barcelona Convention in the Mediterranean Sea, and the importance of learning from success stories. Ambassador Laiglesia outlined two priority areas for oceans to be addressed at the Rio+20 Conference; (1) Developing an international legal framework for conservation and sustainable management of marine biological diversity, building on existing mechanisms and processes to improve the coherence of the current fragmented system; and (2) the full implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU), a non-legally binding instrument designed to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through a transparent umbrella set of measures to be taken by all States (through regional fisheries management organizations).

Maria Teresa Pessoa, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Mission of Brazil to the UN, outlined the important interrelationships between oceans and the three pillars of sustainable development, noting that oceans provide an important perspective on implementing sustainable development and that significant global economic benefits could be derived from the oceans. She emphasized the importance of operationalizing



Session 1 speakers discussing ‘the Road to Rio+20.’

and integrating the three pillars of sustainable development and addressing ocean issues at Rio+20 not only as a prominent theme within the mandate of the Conference and building on the lines of discussion of the three Preparatory Commissions (PrepCom). Mrs. Pessoa highlighted the need to focus on outstanding gaps in the implementation of major commitments on oceans and coasts, but noted some progress as well, including, for example, the establishment of the Regular Process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (also called the “Regular Process”). She noted that Brazil, as host of the Rio+20 Conference, has proposed an innovative approach to conducting the meeting, in which eight thematic sessions are to be held within four days immediately after the Third Preparatory Committee Meeting (PrepCom3) and before the Rio+20 Conference, one of which will be on oceans. To keep a continuous thread in the debate, the outcomes of the thematic sessions will be reported at the high-level segment during the Conference, and the outcomes of deliberations at the high-level segment will be reported at the Conference plenary.

Maria Teresa Pessoa, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN

The issues of the oceans are interrelated. Through the oceans, we can understand the challenges of implementing the three pillars of sustainable development. Rio+20 should focus on how we can operationalize and integrate the three pillars.

The statements and participation of the government representatives present at the workshop, in addition to the many delegations that have highlighted the importance of addressing oceans during the Rio+20 preparatory process, signify the strong political support for oceans and coastal issues. Workshop participants emphasized the need to build on this political momentum to develop tangible outcomes from the Rio+20 Conference.



Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain presents the Global Ocean Forum's report on Oceans at Rio+20.

During the discussion, participants noted the importance of crafting an inclusive multi-stakeholder process where all interests are taken into consideration, but also discussed the difficulty of avoiding the “Christmas tree” list of recommendations, as different stakeholders will have many different priorities. While there are no clear-cut solutions to achieving this balance, the speakers and participants highlighted the need to focus on actionable items. Discussions also touched on the green economy topic, with many highlighting that countries should not focus so much on differing definitions of the concept, but should take advantage of the different opportunities presented by this approach, including through private sector mobilization and utilizing new and developing valuation tools, to develop actionable and mutually-beneficial outcomes. One participant characterized the need to take a hopeful and opportunistic outlook at the new challenges presented that will force us to change our thinking.

Analyzing Progress Made Since UNCED and Outlining the Way Forward

The focus of the Rio+20 Conference is both on looking back and assessing progress on important goals and commitments, as well as looking to the path ahead. In this respect, some in the global ocean community, including the Global Ocean Forum and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) have been developing reports to assess progress and provide recommendations for the way forward.

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President of the Global Ocean Forum and Professor, University of Delaware, reviewed the Global Ocean Forum report on *Oceans at Rio+20: How Well Are We Doing on the Major Ocean Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development?* (see Box 1 at the end of this report). This report focuses on the progress achieved, or not achieved, in the major ocean and coastal-relat-

ed goals and commitments emanating from UNCED and the WSSD, and characterizes this progress using summary “Report Cards” for each issue area. These Report Cards contain a concise summary of progress in each major issue area, providing a generic rating for the extent of efforts undertaken, the extent of progress, and timing in achievement of the goals, and also outline major obstacles, bright spots to look to for lessons learned, and recommendations for future action.

Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) outlined the results of the report, *A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability*, which represents an important collaborative effort among a number of different UN agencies dealing with oceans (see Box 2 at the end of this report). The paper responds to a call from the UNGA for input into the Rio preparatory process and recognizes that, while Rio+20 is a country-led process, specialized UN-agencies and other groups can lend valuable input and recommendations as well. Dr. Watson-Wright outlined 10 proposals to improve ocean and coastal management put forward in the report, which will be further advanced upon consultations with UN and other agencies prior to the report's release in November 2011.



Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright presenting the results of *A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability*.

In the ensuing discussion, participants emphasized the need to maintain the integrity of the State-driven Rio+20 process and that any recommendations for future activities will need to be endorsed and agreed to by the governments. Discussions also focused on potential means to achieve improved coherence and coordination, with some participants supporting the need to raise the profile of oceans at the UN, including at the UN Secretary General's office. Some also highlighted the need for concerted funding and resources dedicated to improved coordination and coherence. Regarding the developing reports, such as those presented by Dr. Cicin-Sain and Dr. Watson-Wright, some outlined the need to build upon the complementary nature of these reports to develop a unified voice for oceans.



Session 3 speakers discussing government priorities and perspectives for Rio+20.

Government Perspectives for Oceans at Rio+20

The workshop offered a key platform for informal dialogue and discussion of States' preferences and priorities for the Rio+20 Conference. Thus far in the preparatory process, there have been some prominent areas of disagreement between countries on issues such as the green economy and marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. While some areas of commonality and complementary priorities have emerged, at least in the general sense, countries have yet to articulate a core set of priorities for ocean and coastal issues to be addressed at the Conference. Although the States' Friends of the Ocean represents an important step in working towards a common goal for oceans, workshops such as this, where states can present and discuss their perspectives with members of international organizations, academia and others, can be useful in refining and coalescing priorities.

Ambassador Milan Meetarbhan from Mauritius, who is also the Co-Chair of the UN Informal Consultative on Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea, chaired a session on government perspectives on Rio+20. Ambassador Meetarbhan spoke on the importance of addressing gaps both in our knowledge of the marine environment as well as gaps in implementation that have hindered the achievement of important goals and commitments. He also noted that the existence of knowledge gaps, which will likely persist, should not preclude urgent and concerted action to address major threats to the marine environment and work towards conservation and sustainable use.

Speaking on the development of the goals of UNCED and the WSSD, **John Brincat from the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries at the European Commission**, noted that many of them were developed with insufficient recognition or understanding of the significant resources and data needed to achieve them and that these data gaps will continue to make the achievement of major ocean and coastal goals difficult. He mentioned the prevailing problems in fisheries, including discards, by-catch, destructive fishing practices and harmful subsidies. He emphasized the

need to focus on the improvement of our scientific base, especially for new and emerging issues such as the impacts of noise pollution on marine mammals and fish species, and, where data are insufficient, that we should continue implementation using the precautionary approach.

Discussing the priorities of the French government at Rio+20, **Claire Thuaudet, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of France to the UN**, emphasized that the Rio+20 Conference should address the new challenges that have emerged since UNCED, building on what we've learned in the past 20 years, and should not try to rehash old discussions and previous commitments. Mrs. Thuaudet highlighted that ocean issues enjoy a degree of high-level political momentum, both in the Rio+20 process and at other levels, that has not been seen in many years, noting a new institutional structure in France that now puts ocean issues under the direct jurisdiction of the Prime Minister.

She stressed that the global community must build on this momentum to develop a viable outcome, which includes a package that emphasizes biodiversity conservation and addresses issues of special importance to SIDS. Speaking on the topic of the green economy, she noted the importance of building upon and utilizing developments in economic valuation of ecosystem services, and emphasized the value of partnerships, mentioning France's partnership with Kenya on a clean energy initiative. On improving the institutional framework for sustainable development, she stressed the need to focus outcomes on the appropriate levels and scale of implementation. She also highlighted that the Rio+20 Conference presents a unique opportunity to make progress in addressing high seas issues, building on the important developments in the governmental debates and in implementing management tools in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Elizabeth Kim, Foreign Affairs Officer from the US Department of State described Rio+20 as an opportunity to "re-energize" political commitment to ocean issues, especially at the highest levels, and advancing the implementation of existing agreements. She noted that the US sees the Rio+20 Conference as an opportunity to transform the multilateral approach to sustainable development, engaging all stakeholders and encouraging citizens to make sustainable decisions in their lives. Although the US is still deliberating its stance on different ocean issues at Rio+20, Dr. Kim shared some thoughts on key areas, including the importance of global food security, eliminating excess fishing capacity, increased transparency in management and governance, combating IUU and destructive fishing, increased monitoring and surveillance, increased international collaboration in observation and research and data-sharing, e.g., through the Regular Process and the Global Ocean Observing System, the need for better data to improve

our ability to predict ocean processes and to support management, increased accessibility to waste facilities to reduce pollution, and the importance of modernizing strategies to ocean management, namely through ecosystem-based approaches such as marine spatial planning. Dr. Kim noted that the US does not recognize the need for a new implementation agreement under UNCLOS in order to address issues related to marine areas beyond national jurisdiction but wishes to make progress through strategic implementation of existing mechanisms. She reiterated that we have the tools required to make progress in achieving conservation and sustainable use, and that the US welcomes discussions on these practical measures.

Serguei Tarassenko, the Director of the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, discussed the recent twelfth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Consultative Process), which focused on oceans at Rio+20. Mr. Tarassenko spoke especially on the UN Secretary General's report prepared for the 12th meeting of the Consultative Process, which will also come before the 66th UN General Assembly in 2011. The report outlines that the development of legal and policy frameworks and relevant implementing institutions has been a promising achievement across most, if not all, major sectors of ocean affairs, putting us in a better position to address the considerable threats facing oceans. Despite these promising developments, however, there remain important obstacles stemming largely from a lack of capacity to implement many of the commitments of multilateral conventions and the inability to effectively enforce management provisions. These capacity gaps are especially pronounced in developing countries, which are not able to fully enjoy an equitable share of the benefits and opportunities from ocean resources. Unfortunately, no global comprehensive assessment of the capacity-building needs of States has been carried out. Mr. Tarassenko emphasized that this major gap must be addressed before we can meet our common goals for oceans and sustainable development.

Workshop discussions also focused on the need for more concerted efforts at the national and local levels to address the increasing vulnerability of coastal and island communities to the impacts of climate variability and the need to develop and improve early warning systems, supported by timely data. Some also noted the importance of engaging risk transfer issues and examining the potential for market-based measures to reduce the vulnerability of coastal areas. A government representative noted that reducing the vulnerability of SIDS to climate change is indeed a priority, although it is not clear how this area will be addressed at the Rio+20 Conference. Some discussion also focused on the differences in perspectives among certain countries regarding the need for a new agreement to address issues related to marine biodiversity

beyond national jurisdiction, as this topic is likely to factor into Conference discussions.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Oceans at Rio+20

SIDS are stewards of large ocean areas and play a key role in efforts to sustainably manage ocean and coastal resources. It is clear that most SIDS countries are keenly aware of the importance of the marine environment and its resources to their sustainable development and economic stability. SIDS also are often the first to feel the effects of global environmental problems, due to their often small size, isolated locations, and vulnerability to climate change. However, SIDS are sometimes constrained by weak institutions and administrative processes and need enhanced human, technical, and financial resources to develop and implement cross-cutting approaches to ocean and coastal planning and management.

In light of the importance of SIDS issues to sustainable development and global consensus on the need to address the vulnerability of small island States to impacts on ocean and coastal ecosystems, the workshop featured a session on SIDS and oceans in the context of Rio+20.

Ambassador Marlene Moses, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the UN and Chair of the Pacific SIDS, chaired the workshop session on SIDS and oceans, and outlined the importance of oceans to SIDS culture and livelihoods. She described



LaVerne Walker discussing the important relationship between SIDS and oceans.

SIDS not as small island states, but large ocean nations, but also noted that ocean issues do not only affect SIDS and must, therefore, become a global imperative for sustainable development.

LaVerne Walker from the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment in St. Lucia set the stage for the discussions on SIDS and ocean issues in the context of Rio+20. In her presentation, she discussed the importance of oceans to



Ambassador Peter Thomson delivering a statement on behalf of the Pacific SIDS.

SIDS, the major threats to SIDS' marine and coastal ecosystems, including climate change and emerging issues, and she reviewed implementation of important international strategies and targets for SIDS, including the Barbados Plan of Action (BPoA) and the goals of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). She also put forth a number of recommendations for addressing SIDS and ocean issues at Rio+20, including the need for technology development and transfer, the establishment of a mechanism to measure the implementation of the BPoA and Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, the enhancement of governance structures at national and local levels, and capacity building to undertake climate change adaptation and mitigation (see Box 3 at the end of this report).

Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji delivered a statement on behalf of the Pacific SIDS, which outlined three priority areas under the “blue” green economy topic; (1) Development aspirations of Pacific SIDS; (2) Fisheries; and (3) Climate change and ocean acidification. Under the first topic, the Pacific SIDS emphasize that the disconnect between international instruments governing oceans and the instruments geared towards sustainable development presents an important barrier to SIDS development aspirations. Regarding fisheries, the Pacific SIDS stress the need for standardized RFMO performance review by the UNGA and the need for enhanced support for innovative approaches, such as vessel day trading schemes. On climate change, the Pacific SIDS call for international support for building the resilience of marine ecosystems to ocean acidification and climate change and improved monitoring and information-sharing on the impacts of ocean acidification (see Ambassador Thomson's statement on behalf of the Pacific SIDS at the end of this report).

Ambassador Peter Thomson, Fiji, speaking on behalf of the Pacific SIDS

For the Pacific SIDS, given our dependence on the health of marine ecosystems, urgent progress is needed to implement existing commitments, to address new and emerging issues and solidify the nexus between oceans management and sustainable development that is lacking in the international framework.

A strong oceans outcome for Rio is an opportunity to demonstrate that SIDS, with the assistance of the international community, can be a model of sustainable development—through the conservation of marine and coastal resources and through concerted efforts to enable SIDS to increase their share of the benefits from the utilization of marine and coastal resources.

Hiroko Morita-Lou, Chief of the SIDS Unit of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) reviewed some of the preparations by SIDS for Rio+20, including a series of sub-regional preparatory meetings as well as reviews and assessments of progress at the national and regional levels for the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in 2010. She noted that oceans featured prominently in all three SIDS sub-regional preparatory meetings for Rio+20 held in June and July of 2011. At the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting, there was a focus on oceans and international trade, as well as calls for access and benefit-sharing as part of an agreement for areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Pacific Preparatory Meeting focused on the need to expand the coverage and effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) and improve capacity for scientific research. At the meeting of the AIMS region (Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea), SIDS countries touched on the pressing need for capacity building among SIDS to address issues related to the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), particularly concerning protection of SIDS interests with regard to ocean resources, delimitation of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and issues related to marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. Ms. Morita-Lou highlighted common priorities among these meetings, namely: the importance of integrated coastal zone management, the need for reducing over-fishing and illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing, the need to build resilience to the impacts of climate change, and the need for capacity-building for scientific research.



Workshop speakers discussing various opportunities for advancing ocean and coastal issues in the context of Rio+20.

Promising Developments and Initiatives in Oceans and Sustainable Development in the Context of the Rio+20 Conference

The workshop also highlighted promising initiatives in oceans and sustainable development that could contribute to the government negotiations in the Rio+20 process.

Tania Valerie Raguž, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the UN and a member of the Rio+20 Bureau, chaired the session on ongoing initiatives and emphasized that, despite differing proposals, the Rio+20 Conference is a unique opportunity to develop a common vision and zero down on elements for a possible agreement. She stressed that any input into the process must be geared towards urgent action that will have tangible impacts.

Christine Alfsen-Norodom, Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP), noted that we are clearly reaching our planetary boundaries and that we still possess an inadequate understanding of how to sustainably utilize resources. She noted a forthcoming report from the GSP that has been crafted by 22 member countries and emphasized two main ways to work for a strong oceans output from the Rio+20 process. First, through the process, by developing political support for oceans in the preparatory process; and second, through substance by strongly making the case for oceans. She stressed the underlying need for trade-offs in the face of limited resources and capacities, acknowledging that focusing on a given issue, such as oceans, will come at the expense of addressing concerns in another area and that a strong argument must be put forth to support these claims. However, a clear and coherent narrative for sustainability has not yet been developed. Ms. Alfsen-Norodom emphasized the need to bring ocean issues to the highest levels of government and UN-agencies. She highlighted the need for the oceans community to relentlessly “preach to the uncon-

verted” and communicate the message in terms of budgets and finance. On the green economy and job creation, she noted that more compelling evidence is needed to convince policy-makers of the value of this approach. Speaking on governance, she highlighted the need for a global sustainability assessment.

Amy Fraenkel, Regional Director for the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for North America (RONA), described a forthcoming joint paper on the green economy, developed in collaboration with various UN agencies. Ms. Fraenkel noted that, although many stakeholders still do not see the importance of oceans, Sha Zukang, the Secretary-General for the Rio+20 Conference, has emphasized the importance of oceans for sustainable development, indicating a key source of support for oceans in the Rio+20 process. Ms. Fraenkel also cautioned against attempting to address too many issues, resulting in an ineffectual outcome for oceans. She also stressed the need to make the economic argument for oceans, explaining that conserving and sustainably using ocean resources makes good economic sense.

Peter Kristensen, the Team Leader for Oceans, Biodiversity and Pollution at the World Bank, spoke on the growing attention on ocean issues at the Bank, noting that the President of the World Bank, Robert B. Zoellick, is very supportive of ocean issues and that there is discussion on the development of an Oceans Initiative within the World Bank. He stressed the opportunities presented by developments in effective accounting of marine and coastal ecosystem services and how this can contribute to sustainable governance. He highlighted the absence of clear indicators for success with respect to oceans. Mr. Kristensen spoke on the importance of ocean governance and examining how policy is implemented, considering also the role of finance ministers. He also discussed the connectivity between high seas issues and effective ocean governance within national jurisdiction.

Conclusion

Concluding the workshop, co-chair **Ambassador David Balton** touched on four major lines of discussion, highlighting robust dialogue on addressing: 1) Implementation deficits in major commitments related to ocean and coastal issues; 2) the need for improving our knowledge and understanding of the marine environment and the implications of our interactions with it; 3) the need to focus more heavily on addressing major capacity needs of developing states; and 4) the importance of working towards better coordination and coherence in the international framework for ocean governance. He also stressed the need to focus on five major issues threatening the health and well-being of marine ecosystems; fisheries, issues related to SIDS, ocean acidification, climate change impacts, and the protection of the marine environment and living resources.

Co-chair Ambassador Dessima Williams focused on the critical need to close gaps in implementation and capacity-building. Ambassador Williams emphasized the inter-connection between climate change and sustainability, and stressed the need to support climate adaptation for coastal communities, strengthen institutions in addressing climate-related impacts, and focus on mitigation by reducing emissions. She discussed the relationship between energy and poverty and highlighted the very high costs of energy for SIDS. Ambassador Williams also stressed the need to improve ocean and coastal governance, including through the use of MPAs and integrating water resource management into ocean and coastal management frameworks. Ambassador Williams emphasized the need to continue these conversations and that SIDS can play a catalytic role in rejuvenating international focus on oceans and sustainable development. She also thanked Philippe Vallette of the World Ocean Network for helping to convey stories of island resiliency in public outreach efforts.

The constructive discussions of the Oceans at Rio+20 Workshop indicate strong consensus in the global community and significant political momentum to address oceans issues at the Rio+20 Conference. Participants focused especially on:

- Closing implementation gaps and rejuvenating political commitment to major goals and targets;
- Recognizing and supporting the special relationship between oceans and SIDS, and assisting SIDS to address their severe vulnerability to ocean-related threats;
- Achieving coherence and coordination between the many bodies/agencies/actors responsible for policy development and implementation at various levels;
- Working to improve and disseminate knowledge of ocean and coastal ecosystems, and implementing management based on best available science;
- Communicating the value of conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in terms that policy-makers, including finance ministers, can understand and appreciate;
- “Preaching to the unconverted” and mobilizing all relevant actors and stakeholders to improve governance and address unsustainable resource-use patterns;
- Focusing greater efforts on capacity-building for developing states, pursuant to previous commitments for capacity-building;
- Focusing efforts towards developing a short-list of key recommendations and outcomes, rather than trying to address all issues related to ocean and sustainable development at Rio+20; and
- Being prepared to discuss trade-offs with other sectors for a best possible oceans outcome at Rio+20.



Participants continue discussions at the workshop reception



Discussions on the high-level engagement on ocean issues outlined the key opportunity presented by the Rio+20 Conference to rejuvenate political commitment to oceans, in both continuing to address major implementation gaps and important goals that have yet to be reached, as well as crafting a new vision for the future that responds to new and emerging challenges presented by critical drivers of change. However, a by-product of this high level of attention and engagement is that it becomes difficult to reconcile the many different priorities of various stakeholders into a coherent and succinct list of priorities for the oceans community at Rio+20. Therefore, participants stressed the need for continued discussions to prioritize the important issues to be addressed at the Rio+20 and, in this respect, hoped for continued informal discussions, such as those that took place in the Oceans at Rio+20 workshop, as a means to develop one strong voice for oceans at Rio+20.

Summary prepared by Joseph Appiott, Global Ocean Forum

Box 1. How Well Are We Doing in Meeting the Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development?--RECOMMENDATIONS

Presentation by Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President Global Ocean Forum, and Director, Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, University of Delaware

OCEAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated strategy for oceans and coasts within and outside the UNFCCC:

(i) Mitigation:

- Enact stringent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, within a short timeframe
- Protect and restore marine ecosystems to support their role as major carbon sinks; and
- Sustainably develop ocean-based renewable energy.

(ii) Adaptation:

- Implement ecosystem-based adaptation at national, regional, and local levels to build the preparedness, resilience, and adaptive capacities of coastal communities; and
- Provide sufficient funding, supported by improved estimates of adaptation costs in coastal areas and small island States, to support adaptation; and

(iii) Capacity development, public education and awareness:

- Provide assistance to SIDS and developing coastal countries to build institutional capacity to implement adaptation measures, early warning, and disaster risk reduction;
- Improve awareness among policymakers of the need to take bold policy measures to address oceans and climate issues;
- Expand outreach and education to improve awareness of the risks posed to coastal communities and to catalyze support for bold policy measures

ECOSYSTEM-BASED INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Extent of Efforts				Extent of Progress				Timing – Goals Reached		
Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	On Time	Some Delay	Significant Delay
	✓					✓			✓	

Enhance Integrated, Ecosystem-based Ocean and Coastal Governance at National and Regional Levels

- Scale up the practice of integrated oceans governance to all countries and regions around the world.

National Level:

- Scale up national programs to include larger portions of the coastal zone and ocean under national jurisdiction;
- Further develop and implement (with funding) integrated coastal and ocean legislation;

- Further strengthen integrated institutions and decision-making processes for oceans and coastal areas;
- Incorporate and apply Marine Spatial Planning, aiming to achieve, the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi target of protecting at least 10% of marine and coastal areas;
- Address persistent poverty and inequality in large parts of the coastal areas of the developing world;
- Bring mitigation and adaptation to climate change in coastal areas under the framework of existing ICM/EBM institutions.
- Develop the capacity of national and local/regional officials to develop and apply climate mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Mitigate climate change and sustain coastal resources through protection and restoration of coastal carbon sinks ("Blue Carbon");
- Facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy (e.g. offshore wind, wave, and tidal energy);
- Promote sustainable ocean and coastal livelihoods, "blue" green job creation, public private partnerships, and local level and community-based management;
- Address the issues (legal, humanitarian, economic, ecological) of possible displacement of millions of coastal and island peoples;

Regional Level:

- Encourage and assist the key role played by the GEF Large Marine Ecosystem Programs (LMEs) and the Regional Seas Programmes in harmonizing actions of governments in transboundary contexts;
- Encourage the development and implementation of ICM/EBM protocols in regional seas programmes and their implementation at the national level, following the Mediterranean example;
- Encourage application of EBM/ICM approaches by the full range of bodies responsible for management of resources at the regional level, such as RFMOs and other regional resource management arrangements.

Financing:

- Provide sufficient financing for developing countries and SIDS to cope with the effects of climate change;
- Provide adequate financing to support capacity development and public education required for integrated oceans governance;

Capacity Development:

- Build capacity for ocean and coastal management in a transformative era, toward the Blue Economy and Blue Society
- Provide long-term capacity development in ICM/EBM including climate change issues and biodiversity issues, incorporating leadership training;
- Enhance capacity for exercising leadership for high-level national decisionmakers and Ocean Parliamentarians
- Strengthen or create university programs to educate the next generation of leaders
- Enhance the capacity of local decisionmakers
- Share best practices and experience on ICM/EBM, networking and other measures.
- Certify good practice in ICM/EBM, following the PEMSEA (Partnerships for Environmental Management of East Asian Seas) model.

Improve the International Regime for Integrated Ocean Governance

Extend EBM/ICM Principles and Approaches to Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

- Established EBM/ICM principles and approaches must be applied to 64% of the ocean that lies beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) to address multiple use conflicts, manage new uses, and protect vulnerable ecosystems and marine biodiversity.

Integrated Oceans Governance at the UN:

- Elevate oceans to the highest levels of the UN system to enable a cross-cutting approach and appropriate and timely response to major threats and opportunities.

BIODIVERSITY AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Extent of Efforts				Extent of Progress				Timing – Goals Reached		
Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	On Time	Some Delay	Significant Delay
	✓			✓						✓

- Accelerate the establishment of MPA networks in the broader context of EBM/ICM and marine spatial planning, with emphasis on climate change resilience;

- Create, and improve the capacity of, institutions dedicated to the creation and the management of MPAs;
- Ensure that development planning and sectoral management frameworks incorporate the ecological and socio-economic value of ecosystem and biodiversity services, including through economic valuation;
- Develop outreach and education programs to encourage people to reflect on modes of living and to push policymakers to take concrete actions;
- Develop a new global mandate on marine biodiversity and MPA, building on the Jakarta Mandate, to ensure concerted political engagement.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Extent of Efforts				Extent of Progress				Timing – Goals Reached		
Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	On Time	Some Delay	Significant Delay
	✓			✓						✓

- Review and modernize RFMO mandates and develop regional partnerships between RFMOs and other regional and global bodies;
- Register all fishing vessels in each country in a public register to begin to control access;
- Promote compliance with, and the strengthening of, MCS measures, including increased information-sharing, vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and observer programs;
- Accelerate efforts to enhance ocean use agreements in the EEZs of developing countries to ensure local benefits, social equity, resource conservation, and public transparency;
- Identify and adopt management measures for ecologically significant and vulnerable marine areas, including MPAs and fishery closures;
- Undertake capacity-building to improve the capacity of developing states to effectively participate in RFMOs;
- Develop mandatory reporting requirements for bycatch for different types of gear and fishing techniques; and assess the adverse impacts on ecosystems of different types gear and fishing techniques

ADDRESSING CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Extent of Efforts				Extent of Progress				Timing – Goals Reached		
Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	On Time	Some Delay	Significant Delay
		✓			✓					✓

- Increase institutional capacity and funding for scientific monitoring and ensure adequate coverage of sampling sites

- Support countries (i.e. transfer of technology, capacity building) to enable them to respond and deliver good scientific data to reporting processes
- Promote and support research that explores the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on marine ecosystems.
- Promote and support research on ecosystem functioning to create solid foundations for an ecosystem-based management
- Promote and support monitoring networks at different geographic scales through a variety of habitats and climatic regions

COORDINATION OF UN ACTIVITIES

Extent of Efforts				Extent of Progress				Timing – Goals Reached		
Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	On Time	Some Delay	Significant Delay
✓				✓				✓		

Integrated oceans governance at the UN

- Elevate oceans to the highest levels of the UN system to enable a cross-cutting approach and appropriate and timely response to major threats and opportunities. For oceans, focused attention at the highest political levels—the UN Secretary-General is needed. Coordination and cross-cutting action at a high political level is essential, not only at the expert staff level.
- Establish a UN Secretary-General or other high-level coordination mechanism on Oceans.
- Develop a UN Secretary-General “Ocean Budget” report

REGULAR PROCESS OF GLOBAL MARINE ASSESSMENT

Extent of Efforts				Extent of Progress				Timing – Goals Reached		
Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	On Time	Some Delay	Significant Delay
✓				✓						✓

- Utilize other assessments or forms of reporting to inform decision-making in a timely way as the GMA reporting through the Regular Process continues to develop
- Mobilize additional funding resources to fully support the implementation of the Regular Process
- Scope and scale of the Regular Process require that the working method of choice be efficient and effective; prioritization of issue areas and capacity development essential to ensure efficiency and effectiveness
- The Regular Process should involve and capitalize on the resources of other key actors in the ocean community, especially the NGOs and the business sector
- Ensure transparency of the Regular Process for all audiences, including to: a) Governments; b) Relevant UN agencies and

- programmes, other global IGOs; c) Regional IGOs; d) NGOs; e) Relevant scientific institutions and major groups; f) Experts; and g) Civil society and the general public
- Coordinate the Regular Process with the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- Engage the full involvement of governments to access the wealth of knowledge and expertise arising from many years of marine research in various regions
- Strengthen interactions with local communities in order to incorporate local and traditional knowledge on the marine environment in the Regular Process and in the decision-making processes.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Priority need expressed by developing countries and SIDS and is also emphasized in both UNCED and the WSSD
- Total level of funds expended has been very small and there is little strategic planning and vision where funding had been provided
- Lack of coordination among donors and wide array of actors involved, and no one is tracking overall effort and impact-- Countries, donors, UN agencies, providers of capacity training and education, need to work together to provide an accurate assessment of needed financial investments, and to develop a strategic approach to capacity development in various regions.
- A strategic approach would encompass training in both the overall vision related to oceans/climate/biodiversity (the integrated approach) and training in specific sectors. Different levels would also need to be addressed, e.g. :

- 1) Enhancing the capacity for exercising leadership for national decisionmakers and Parliamentarians;
- 2) Strengthen or create university programs to educate the next generation of leaders;
- 3) Enhance the capacity of local decisionmakers.
- 4) Educate the general public on the importance of ocean and coastal stewardship.

NOTE: Report card on Small-Island Developing States included in Box 3.

Box 2. A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability

Presentation by Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Background on the Blue Paper:

- Inter-agency effort to raise awareness on the role of oceans in sustainable development
- Responds to call by UNGA (A/RES/64/236) for UN bodies (...), to provide ideas and proposals reflecting their experiences and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process.
- Action-oriented proposals for consideration by UN Member States

A transition toward a Blue-Green economy and society?

A Blue/Green economy would:

- Increase wealth and growth over the long term
- Provide link between poverty eradication and better protection and restoration of habitats and biodiversity
- Allow new job creation, which over time would exceed losses in 'brown economy' jobs
- Barriers to implementation are largely institutional; market mechanisms are not sufficiently used.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED OCEAN AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Actions to:

1. Reduce stressors and maintain/restore marine ecosystems
2. Support the blue-green economy concept
3. Enable policy, legal and institutional reforms for effective ocean governance
4. Promote marine research, technology, institutional evaluation, and capacity development

Proposal 1: Ensure greater protection and restoration of vital habitats, and a global blue carbon market

Objectives

- Habitat protection and restoration targets
- Improved international and national capacity
- Global strategy on blue carbon
- Blue carbon market
- Global blue carbon fund.

Proposal 2: Create institutional framework to protect habitats and biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions

Objectives

- New implementing agreement under UNCLOS

- Identification and protection of BBNJ
- Large ocean reserves
- Framework for environmental assessments
- Global representative network of high seas marine reserves
- Financial mechanisms for alternative livelihoods

Proposal 3: Create plan for transition to a blue-green economy for Small Island Developing States

Objectives

- Blue-green economy initiatives in SIDS
- Innovative and cost-effective technology transfer
- Sustainable financing plans including through public-private partnerships
- Technology assistance with transition

Proposal 4: Implement actions to adapt to and mitigate ocean acidification

Objectives

- Global inter-disciplinary program on ocean acidification risk assessment
- Addressing negative impact and non-reversibility of ocean acidification on ocean chemistry and ecosystems in UNFCCC negotiations
- Research on impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems

Proposal 5: Increase institutional capacity for scientific monitoring and program and institutional evaluation

Objectives

- Strengthened UN Regular Process
- Scientific capacity for developing states (environmental monitoring, technology transfer)
- International body for data collection and collation

Proposal 6: Reform regional ocean management organizations

Objectives

- Reformed or new organizations to assist transition to blue-green economy
- Broadened regional organizations (Regional Seas, RFMOs) to marine ecosystem management organizations

Proposal 7: Address overfishing through changing industry approaches, removing economic incentives to overfish, and implementing existing frameworks

Objectives

- Overfishing ended (capacity, subsidies, IUU fishing)
- Effective and comprehensive monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement
- Sustainable fishing practices advanced in developing States

Proposal 8: Strengthen the legal framework to effectively address aquatic invasive species

Objectives

- Ballast Management Convention in force
- Voluntary guidelines on hull fouling implemented
- Identification of ongoing threats
- Mechanisms for compliance with regulatory measures
- Market instruments to control and manage transfers

Proposal 9: Green the nutrient economy for ocean health, food security and poverty reduction

Objectives

- Global cap on manufactured Nitrogen and mined Phosphorus production

- Nitrogen and Phosphorus production cap incrementally decreased
- Jobs created through recycling of nutrients

Proposal 10: Enhance coordination, coherence and effectiveness of the UN system on ocean issues

Objectives

- UN-Oceans evaluated; transparent coordination mechanism established for ocean issues
- Effective UN Regular Process on Global Reporting and Assessment supported
- UN Informal Consultative Process and UN-Oceans provided sufficient resources
- Enhanced single UN process

Next steps

- Ocean sustainability blueprint released October 2011
- Summary for decision makers
- Submission to DESA by 1 November deadline
- Consultations with agencies and Member States on how to further advance proposals



Box 3. SIDS and Oceans at Rio+20

Ms. LaVerne Walker, Coastal Zone Unit Coordinator, Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment, St. Lucia

Extent of Efforts				Extent of Progress				Timing – Goals Reached		
Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	Low	Medium	High	Data Unavailable	On Time	Some Delay	Significant Delay
	✓				✓				✓	

(Report Card on SIDS from the Global Ocean Forum report on Oceans at Rio+20)

STATE OF THE OCEANS

- 80% of global fisheries are either fully or overexploited
- Estimated 58% of global coral reefs are threatened
- Approximately 3,000 species of plants and animals are transported in ship's ballast water each day
- Coastal development has led to the destruction of 50% of the world's mangroves
- Ocean's carbon sink function is changing ocean chemistry, stifling the growth of plankton, corals, etc.
- Excessive nutrients from sewage outfalls and agriculture runoff have contributed to a number of dead zones (hypoxic and anoxic areas)

IMPORTANCE OF OCEANS TO SIDS

- Characteristics of SIDS
 - Small size
 - Large ocean space
 - Isolated locations
 - Small Economies of Scale
 - Vulnerable to externalities
 - Threatened by impacts of climate change
- Many SIDS are dependent on the Sea for their economic development in a number of sectors:
 - Food Security – Fisheries
 - Tourism – Coastal and Cruise tourism
 - Shipping
 - Energy
- Agenda 21(1992) – regarded as the first time the international community recognized the 'special case' of SIDS
- BPoA (1994)– Action Plan which translated Agenda 21 into specific policy action and measures for SIDS
- JPoI (2002) – Reiterated priority issues for SIDS focus and called for action of the international community
- MSI (2005) – Ten year review of BPoA and reprioritization of Actions for SIDS

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BPoA

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SIDS

- SIDS at risk from sea level rise

Status	Percentage of SIDS in 2006 (no. countries)	Percentage of SIDS in 2010 (no. countries)
Developed specific institutions or inter-agency mechanisms for the coordination of integrated coastal and ocean management	20% (8)	27% (11)
Entrusted the coordination of marine and coastal issues to national environmental institutions	44% (18)	46% (19)
Delimited EEZ and deposited EEZ coordinates with the UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS)	0% (0)	33% (13)
Enacted National Environmental Acts	63% (26)	68% (28)
Enacted laws that provide for Environmental Impact Assessment	32% (13)	43% (18)
Developed National Sustainable Development Plans, and Biological Diversity National Strategies	44% (18)	63% (26)
Enacted National Coastal Zone Acts	7% (3)	7% (3)
Developed National initiatives for integrated coastal management	46% (19)	49% (20)
Enacted legislation on watershed planning, which includes coastal watershed management	27% (11)	29% (12)
Established Marine Protected Areas	61% (25)	83% (35)

- Coastal erosion
- Increased and more intense storms and hurricanes and more intense and longer droughts
- Salt water intrusion
- Impact on Human Health
- Impact on Food Security
- Adaptation Financing
 - Additional Financing to SIDS from both new and existing funds, for adaptation and building resilience to the impacts of climate change
 - Funds should be provided in addition to development-related funds already committed.

CHALLENGES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION

- Insufficient funding
 - Commitment for donor funding not met
 - Reduction in Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Status	Percentage of SIDS in 2006 (no. countries)	Percentage of SIDS in 2010 (no. countries)
Produced or are in the process of producing a national sea level adaptation plan.	63% (26)	68% (28)
Have national offices dedicated to issues of climate change and sea level rise.	22% (9)	27% (11)
Have a national disaster preparation and response	61% (25)	76% (31)
Have a national office or agency dedicated to addressing disaster issues.	49% (20)	61% (25)
Systems for early warning of citizens when disasters, such as cyclones, are imminent.	29% (12)	32% (13)
Have renewable energy system installed.	37% (15)	46% (19)
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions assessments have been completed.	54% (22)	58% (24)
Installed equipment for environmental monitoring such as tidal gauges and meteorological stations.	20% (8)	24% (10)
Have implemented projects for public education about climate change and sea level rise.	34% (14)	

- Some SIDS graduating to middle income economies
- Lack of capacity
 - Need to enhance capacity in oceans and coastal management
 - Human resources (coastal managers, engineers, legislative drafters, geologists, etc)
- Access to relevant technologies
 - Increase south-south collaboration
 - Increased focus on research and development of technologies
 - Technology transfer
- Institutional mechanisms
 - Need to strengthen existing national and regional organizations
 - Greater integration of coordination of regional organizations
 - Formalization of AOSIS

NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

- Blue Economy - New term being used internationally generally advocating for a move towards more sustainable management of ocean resources.

- No internationally agreed definition
- What does the term Blue Economy mean to SIDS?
- Is this concept of Blue Economy new to SIDS?
- Food Security
- Regional Maritime Security
 - Increasing shipping
 - Surveillance of maritime space
 - Piracy
 - Illegal Trafficking
- Energy
 - Increasing cost of fuel
 - Focus on hydrocarbon reserves
 - Renewable energies (offshore wind, geothermal, geothermal)
- Invasive Species
 - Introduction of invasive species through ballast waters

WAY FORWARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Technology development and transfer
 - Re-establishment of SIDS Technical Assistance Program (TAP)
- Call for further studies and investigation on the issue of Blue Carbon
- Enhance EEZ and high seas marine resource management
- Targeted support to assist SIDS with the delineation of their EEZ's via technical, institutional and financial support
 - The Fund (UNDOALOS)
- Continue to call for donors to meet financial commitments as expressed under JPoI, BPoA, etc.
- Establishment of a mechanism to measure the implementation of the BPoA and MSI
- Continue to call for an increase in marine protected areas
- Enhanced governance structures for managing marine resources
- Convening of a SIDS and Oceans biennial conference within a UN Framework
- Formalization and strengthening of AOSIS
- Strengthening and at times establishing relevant international frameworks with a mandate specific to SIDS
- Enhance governance structures at national and local levels and capacity on climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Develop measures to address the social, economic, environmental, legal, and humanitarian issues related to the displacement of coastal populations as a result of climate change



**Oceans at Rio plus 20: Discussions with UN Delegations
Global Ocean Forum**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Peter Thomson
Permanent Representative of Fiji
on behalf of the
Pacific Small Island Developing States**

**12 September 2011
New York**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (Pacific SIDS) represented at the United Nations, namely Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and my own country Fiji.

The Pacific is the world's largest ocean – covering over 30 percent of the earth's surface and greater in size than all of the continents combined. It is the basis of our countries' livelihoods, our food security and our economies; and represents a primary pathway to future sustainable economic growth. Our sustainable development truly depends on a healthy and sustainably-managed Pacific Ocean.

It is for this reason that the Pacific SIDS, along with others including Australia, New Zealand and recently the Secretary-General, have called for the inclusion of the Blue Economy in the Rio plus 20 Outcome. By doing so, we are calling for the safeguarding of a resource upon which depends our sustainable development. The ongoing debate and dialogue on how the green economy can assist in converging the different dimensions of sustainable development must include as a critical element the conservation and sustainable management of marine and ocean resources, as well as enabling SIDS to enjoy a greater share of the benefits derived from those resources.

The Pacific SIDS have three priority areas under the topic of the Blue Economy that we are proposing for inclusion in the Rio Outcome, namely, (1) enabling the development aspirations of SIDS in relation to the utilisation of marine and coastal resources; (2) eliminating/reducing overfishing and destructive fishing practices; and (3) addressing the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on marine ecosystems.

1. Development Aspirations of Pacific Small Island Developing States

The first priority area is enabling the development aspirations of Pacific SIDS. Currently the Pacific SIDS do not enjoy the full economic and social benefits derived from the use of our marine living resources despite our overwhelming dependence on such resources. The sustainable development challenges of SIDS have already been well-recognised in the existing multilateral framework for both oceans and sustainable development, yet progress towards implementation of effective strategies to address them remains piecemeal, insufficiently supported and overall inadequate. The disconnect between the international instruments governing oceans on the one hand and sustainable development on the other has created barriers to the full realisation of development aspirations of SIDS and, in many instances, are a primary barrier to the achievement of national economic development goals.

The Pacific SIDS see the imperative for a concrete pathway for SIDS, with specific timelines, targets and milestones, to facilitate the sustainable management of ocean resources and increase the share of benefits from their utilisation, which should include enhanced direct economic participation and capacity building. The cooperation and assistance of the international community is necessary to enable SIDS to be a model for sustainable development. We see Rio as a key opportunity for a sea change in enhanced international support for SIDS in relation to marine and coastal resources and the realization of development aspirations.

2. Fisheries

One of the most serious gaps in implementation of relevant oceans outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development is in the area of fisheries. Healthy fish stocks are critical for food security and for sustaining the economic prosperity and social and cultural well being of many states. Although countries agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to restore global fish stocks to sustainable levels by 2015, stocks continue to be fished at increasingly unsustainable levels. States should recommit at Rio to maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to sustainable levels by 2015 and should further commit to implementing science-based management plans for rebuilding stocks by 2015, including reducing or suspending fishing catch and effort for all stocks being over-fished or at risk of over-fishing.

To address these declines, more must be done to improve transparency and accountability in fishery management. The commendable efforts by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) that have undertaken independent performance reviews should be expanded and augmented through regular transparent reviews by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to bring RFMO implementation in line with international commitments. Previous UNGA reviews of the implementation of fisheries management goals, such as on the driftnet fishing moratorium and on impact assessments for bottom fisheries, have resulted in positive reforms that likely would not have occurred without UNGA oversight. UNGA reviews of RFMO performance can be expected to improve RFMO effectiveness and generate the political will necessary for them to take critical action to restore fish stocks to sustainable levels.

The Pacific SIDS have shown global leadership in marine conservation, for example through the creation of marine protected areas and adopting innovative solutions such as vessel day trading schemes, as well as targeted high seas closures to address sustainable fishing goals. Rio+20 should also include significant international support for the enhanced use of such innovative measures.

3. Climate Change and Ocean Acidification

Finally, the third priority area for the Pacific SIDS under the Blue Economy is climate change and ocean acidification. The combined impacts of climate change, namely sea-level rise, increased sea-surface temperature and intensified storm activity, along with the adverse effects of ocean acidification caused by increased absorption of carbon dioxide by the oceans, are among the biggest threats to the health of oceans and coastal areas.

Coral reef ecosystems are particularly susceptible to climate change and ocean acidification, and they may be the first marine ecosystems to collapse unless mitigation and adaptation efforts are significantly increased. Urgent and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are a global imperative.

Additionally, given the dangerous levels of carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere and ocean, building the resilience of vulnerable marine ecosystems should feature prominently in a new action oriented sustainable development paradigm developed at Rio. This is a new and emerging issue that requires immediate attention and concrete results. For example, international support for capacity building for developing nations to build the resilience of marine ecosystems to ocean acidification and climate change is essential to safeguard marine ecosystems. We must also enhance global monitoring and sharing of information on the impacts of ocean acidification, as well as ensure international organizations and RFMOs consider climate change and ocean acidification in oceans management decisions, including through enhanced environmental impact assessments.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Agenda 21 and JPOI, as well as the BPOA and MSI, provide a solid foundation to build on in relation to the conservation and sustainable management of marine and ocean resources, particularly in relation to Small Island Developing States.

However, for the Pacific SIDS, given our dependence on the health of marine ecosystems, urgent progress is needed to implement existing commitments, to address new and emerging issues and to solidify the nexus between oceans management and sustainable development that is lacking in the international framework.

A strong oceans outcome from Rio is an opportunity to demonstrate that SIDS, with the assistance of the international community can be a model of sustainable development – through the conservation of marine and coastal resources and through concerted efforts to enable SIDS to increase their share of the benefits from the utilization of marine and coastal resources

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