

Contribution of the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU- IAS) to the Secretary-Generals Report on Ocean Affairs and law of the sea

Capacity-building in ocean affairs and law of the sea, including marine science

UNU-IAS is engaged in a number of activities that include capacity building components. A summary of these activities is presented below.

Traditional and local knowledge in climate change adaptation

The UNU-IAS Traditional Knowledge Initiative (TKI) is undertaking studies on the impacts of climate change and climate change responses on indigenous peoples who are living in highly fragile ecosystems, such as low-lying coastal areas and small island States. Specifically, these studies will include climate change impacts experienced by communities, the meaning of climate change to communities, impacts of mitigation measures on communities, and climate change response measures reflecting the worldview of traditional communities.

Specific results to date include a compendium of case studies titled “*Advance Guard: Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation, Mitigation and Indigenous Peoples*”, and assistance to the Indigenous Peoples Climate Change Assessment Project (http://www.unutki.org/default.php?doc_id=96), which aims to incorporate indigenous knowledge into IPCC Fifth Assessment in 2014 (5AR of the IPCC) and support the Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change. The “indigenous perspectives on climate change” project includes a series of videos about the effects of climate change on indigenous communities living in various ecosystems around the world. Included is a short video about the effects of climate change on indigenous communities living on Carteret Islands in Papua New Guinea (http://www.unutki.org/default.php?doc_id=150).

A related project is currently compiling case studies related to the role of traditional and local knowledge in climate change adaptation in marine and coastal environments. The first set of case studies will be presented at the 5th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands in May 2010.

Bioprospecting information resource

The UNU-IAS Biological Prospecting Information Resource (www.bioprospector.org) improves the informational basis relating to past and on-going use of biological and genetic resources in the Pacific Islands, marine areas, Antarctica and the Arctic. The resource provides for capacity-building by assisting countries in making informed decisions about regulating this activity. The “resources” section of this tool makes available informational material about topics such as access and benefit-sharing, legislation, intellectual property and economics. Links to relevant publications are also provided.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) project

UNU-IAS is undertaking a project to assess the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Large

components of these NBSAPs relate to marine and coastal areas, and provide a strategy for how countries implement their obligations under the CBD. The project will not only assesses implementation and effectiveness of NBSAPs, but will provide recommendations to countries and funding agencies on improving national biodiversity planning. Results will be presented in 2010 to the CBD Working Group on Review of Implementation and to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Other

UNU-IAS is involved in the multi-partner Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), which includes capacity-building for selecting Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. This project is reported on in more detail in the IUCN contribution to the report of the Secretary-General.