

**Regional Seas Programmes and Biodiversity in Areas beyond
National Jurisdiction, 13h15-14h45, Conference Room 12,**

Tuesday, 6 September 2016

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
and
Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG)

Background

The UNEP Regional Seas Programme, under UNEP's coordination, includes 18 regions with 146 countries participating in 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. Among them, 14 Regional Seas programmes were established under the auspices of UNEP: Black Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, East Africa, South Asian Seas, ROPME Sea Area, Mediterranean, North-East Pacific, Northwest Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South-East Pacific, Pacific, and West, Central and Southern Africa. Seven of these programmes are directly administered by UNEP. Among the 18 regions, the following four regions include areas beyond national jurisdiction in their geographic coverage of their respective legal instruments: North East Atlantic, Pacific Southern Ocean and Mediterranean.

Under the following three regional seas conventions, parties and member countries started studying the issues related to biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction: (i) Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean; (ii) Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region; and (iii) Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS) cover the South East Pacific. The Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (UNEP, Institute of Advanced Sustainability Study and Institut des développements durable et des relations internationales) is supporting these regions on their respective discussion.

Outside the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the Sargasso Sea Commission was established. There is discussion ongoing on Arctic marine cooperation framework under the Arctic Council.

The Resolution 2/10 of the United Nations Environment Assembly encouraged *"the contracting parties to existing regional seas conventions to consider the possibility of increasing the regional coverage of those instruments in accordance with international law"*. Based on this Resolution, it is expected that the contracting parties to the existing regional seas conventions would start considering the biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction in accordance with international law.

This session will discuss the current activities of the regional seas programmes, within their mandates, on the marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Programme

- 13.15-13.25 *Welcome remarks*, H.E. Mr. Eden Charles (Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations) (tbc)
- 13.25-13.35 *Introduction to UNEP Regional Seas Programme and related initiatives*, Takehiro Nakamura (UNEP)
- 13.35-13.40 Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance and its support for the regional seas programmes in relation to ABNJ
Sebastian Unger (IASS)
- 13.40-13.50 Abidjan Convention for West, Central and Southern Africa and ABNJ
Abou Bamba (Abidjan Convention Secretariat)
- 13.50-14.00 Southeast Pacific – CPPS initiative under the Galapagos Commitments
Fernando Felix (CPPS)
- 14.00-14.30 Panel discussion on the role of regional seas programmes and possible regional approach in the International Legally Binding Instrument
- Moderator: Representative of German delegation (to be confirmed)
Panel members:
- Representative of Nairobi Convention Party (tbc) – Western Indian Ocean and Mascarene Plateau
 - Joep Davetanivalu - SPREP
 - Gaetano Leone – Coordinator, Mediterranean Action Plan
 - Kjell Kristian Egge (Norway) (tbc) - Arctic and OSPAR
- 14.30-14.45 Interaction with audience

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