

Marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system

1. **UN-Oceans** is a mechanism established in 2002 to enhance cooperation and coordination among Secretariats of the international organizations and bodies within the United Nations system which are concerned with ocean-related activities. It has established ad hoc task forces aimed at fostering collaboration in respect of existing activities and developing collaboration and cooperation in respect of new and emerging activities on a number of specific issues identified by its members.
2. The Task Force on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction was established at the first Inter-Agency Meeting of UN-Oceans in 2005 to coordinate input to the General Assembly, the CBD, and other international processes dealing with biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. The expected outputs of this task force are:
 - a consensus on the global distribution of biodiversity (including genetic resources) in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as the status of this biodiversity and the threats that it is under; and
 - a consensus on what tools (within the international and regional legal regime) are available for the conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity.
3. The UN-Oceans Task Force on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction is under the co-leadership of the United Nations Secretariat (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Indicative list of relevant global international organizations and initiatives and United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and mechanisms

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

<http://www.cbd.int/marine/seabed.shtml>

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

<http://www.cites.org/>

Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

<http://www.cms.int/>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/>

Global Environment Facility

<http://www.thegef.org/gef/home>

International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

<http://www.icriforum.org/>

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

<http://www.imo.org/>

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

<http://www.isa.org.jm/>

International Whaling Commission
<http://iwcoffice.org/>

Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP)
<http://gesamp.net/page.php>

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<http://www.unctad.org>

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
<http://www.unep.org>

UNEP Regional Seas Programme
<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/default.asp>

UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC)
<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>

UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
<http://ioc.unesco.org/iocweb/index.php>

United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)
<http://www.ias.unu.edu/>

UNU-IAS has also developed, with partners, relevant databases:

- Antarctica bioprospecting database
(<http://www.bioprospector.org/bioprospector/antarctica/search.jsp>)
- Pacific bioprospecting database
(<http://www.bioprospector.org/bioprospector/pacific/search.jsp>)

World Intellectual Property Organization
<http://www.wipo.org>