

Way forward: Conclusions from the Multi-Stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event

1. There is a need to raise public awareness, in particular through “ocean literacy”. Enhanced ocean literacy across all parts of society is necessary to underpin the provision of funds and resources for capacity-building. In addition, improved ocean literacy among policy-makers and other significant decision-makers is particularly needed as a basis for developing measures to achieve SDG 14. Increasing ocean literacy at the national level is a foundational element to enable capacity- and capability-building in the national marine science sector. There is a need to step up ocean literacy particularly for children to ensure a better understanding and management in coastal communities.
2. Significant activities are already under way in many parts of the world to promote ocean literacy. Examples highlighted at the Event are the programmes of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the work of Intermanager with schools about shipping, and the initiatives of the European Union, particularly on marine debris. Such activities should be welcomed and extended, and new activities should be identified and encouraged.
3. It will be important to develop a coherent programme for capacity-building for conducting marine assessments, and particularly integrated assessments.
4. An initial step in preparing such a programme needs to include an encouragement to national and local authorities to analyse what capacity-building needs they have prioritized in their particular contexts. Capacity-development should be tailored to address identified needs. Some States need to be assisted with the formulation of those needs. Where Large Marine Ecosystems have carried out transboundary diagnostic analyses, these can provide a valuable source of information.
5. Building on existing experience, guidance on how to carry out such capacity-building analyses could be developed, including by mapping funding issues and effective use of resources. All forms of cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, including financial support will be necessary to enable all countries to carry out these analyses.
6. A review is needed of how the needs identified globally, regionally and by such national analyses can be met from processes already identified or to be identified in the inventory of capacity-building activities produced as part of the Regular Process, and how remaining gaps can best be filled. Global processes that have identified needs include the Regular Process and its First Global Integrated Marine Assessment and the Global Ocean Science Report. Needs have also been identified in processes at the regional level.
7. The rapid growth of in-situ and satellite observations of the marine environment has greatly enhanced capacity-building in marine science. The

importance of electronic dissemination of data cannot be overemphasized. Open and transparent data availability strongly supports the Regular Process and advances capacity-building in marine sciences. When States share data and information, everyone benefits. Securing a better connection between existing databases is key. Also, capacity-development for using those existing databases and for facilitating access to those databases is important.

8. There is a need to promote synergies and opportunities for cooperation and coordination with respect to capacity-building initiatives. Enabling regional capacity- and capability-building partnerships, including through the UNEP regional seas conventions framework, is an important way forward to foster coordination and cooperation in marine science across geographical regions encompassing States of varying levels of development.

9. There is a need to develop communication strategies for different targeted audiences within the context of the Regular Process. Products and summaries that can be understood or interpreted by policy and decision-makers are particularly helpful, such as the technical abstracts of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment, and the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Literacy reports.

10. Human and institutional capacity to carry out integrated assessment need to be strengthened through existing and additional training opportunities including through cooperation projects amongst various stakeholders. The experiences of other organizations as well as the potential of the Regular Process Special Scholarship fund and capacity-building inventory to facilitate such projects should be fully utilized.

11. Regular multi-stakeholder dialogues at the global and regional levels should be promoted, including in the margins of meetings of various organizations that are carrying out integrated assessments. They should focus on best practices and lessons learned, including through case studies. The regional workshops of the Regular Process are an example of a successful multi-stakeholder engagement, in particular in the field of capacity-building.