



SIDE EVENT
5th GEF Assembly, Cancun, Mexico

Monday, 26 May 2014
12:30 - 14:00
Yum Balam Room

Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program

BACKGROUND

Oceans and coastal areas provide a vital source of nutritious food, employment, recreation, commerce and socio-economic benefits as well as other crucial goods and services.

The Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and related ecosystems are subject to impacts from a variety of sectors including shipping, deep-sea mining and fishing. Seeking to generate a catalytic change, the ***Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ Program*** – referred to as **Common Oceans** – was approved by GEF under the lead of the FAO and in close collaboration with UNEP and the World Bank, as well as other partners.

Common Oceans aims to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ to achieve an efficient and equitable system capable of generating and sustaining wealth and conserving the biodiversity upon which ocean health and human well-being depend. The Program focuses on tuna and other shared highly migratory stocks, deep-sea fisheries and associated biodiversity and contributes to achieving the global targets agreed in international fora.

The five-year Program is an innovative, unique and comprehensive initiative working with a wide range of partners. It is made of four Projects which bring together governments, regional management bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry to work towards ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of ABNJ biodiversity and ecosystem services.

OBJECTIVE

The side event will provide information on Common Oceans with a presentation on key issues affecting ABNJ. Program partners will highlight their role and contributions. A moderated panel discussion will provide an opportunity to discuss challenges in implementing the Program, desired impacts and the way forward.

AGENDA

- Welcome address by GEF and FAO
- Introduction by Chair and moderator Dr. Rosina Bierbaum, Chair of the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
- Presentation of Common Oceans
- Panel discussion, featuring:
 - Sandy J. Andelman, Chief Scientist, Conservation International
 - Susan Jackson, President, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
 - Jakob Granit, Centre Director, Stockholm Environment Institute, STAP Panel Member, (International Waters)
 - Shannon Dionne, Deputy Director Office of International Affairs, NOAA, USA
 - Alejandro Anganuzzi, Previous Exec Sec of IOTC and senior scientist at IATTC
- Discussion
- Conclusions by the Chair

This side event is organized by FAO