

International Ocean Governance

Ongoing UN processes

LDAC
May 12 2021

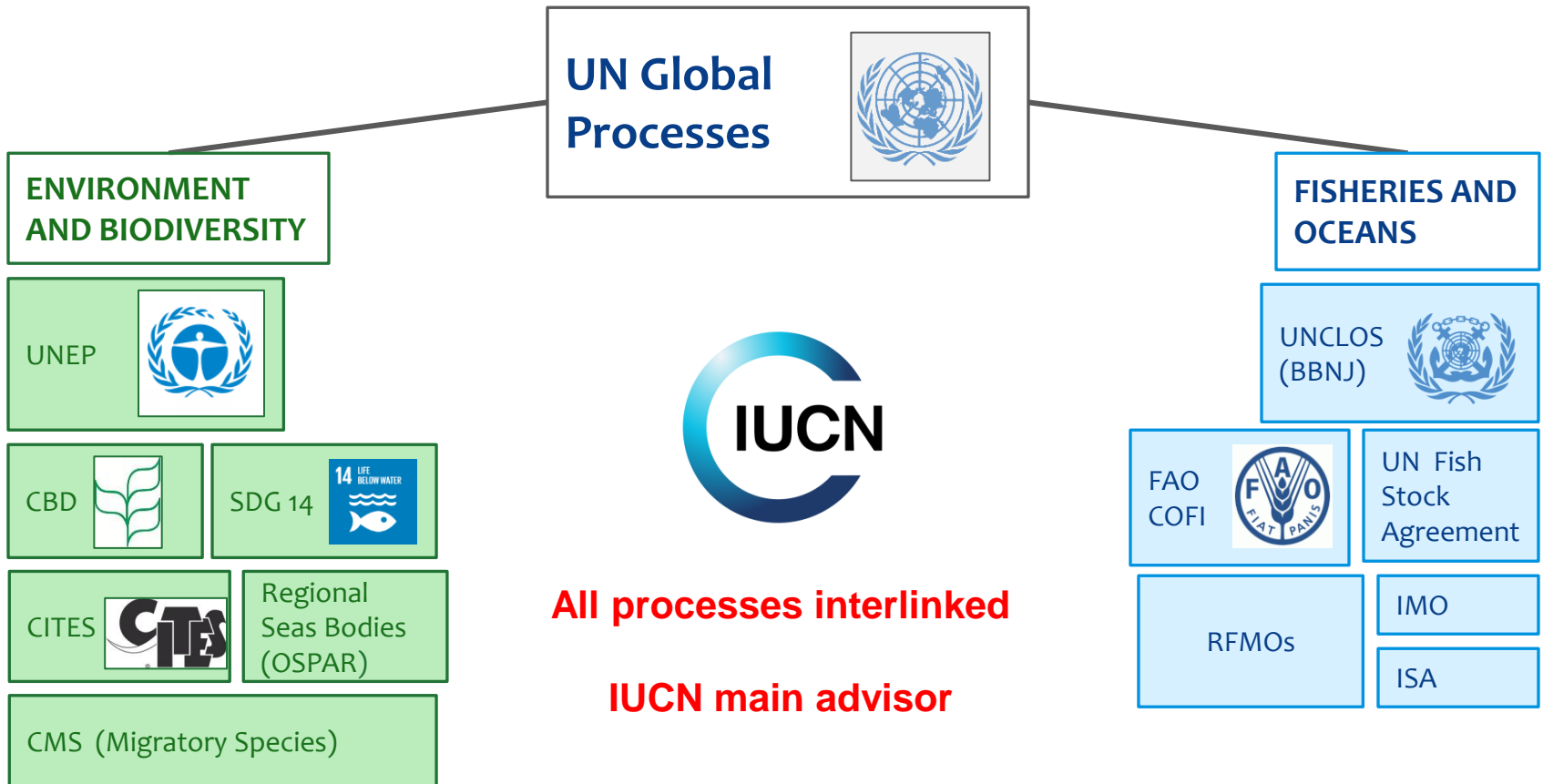
Despina Symons



Presentation outline

- **Overview of International Ocean Governance**
- **Global Commitments**
- **UN Convention on Biological Diversity key to all ocean processes**
- **From Aichi Targets to the Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets**
- **Other fisheries and environment related processes**

Overview of global ocean governance



Global Commitments

AICHI Biodiversity Targets (CBD):

- **Target 6** sustainable fisheries, MSY for all stocks by 2020
- **Target 11** achieve 10% of MPAs by 2020

- **SDGs - SDG14 for Oceans:**

- **Target 14.4** sustainable fisheries by 2020
- **Target 14.5** 10% MPAs by 2020

- **BBNJ:** new International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI)

- **Paris Agreement on Climate (UNFCCC)**

- **Oceans** increasingly important

Global Commitments

Voluntary commitments

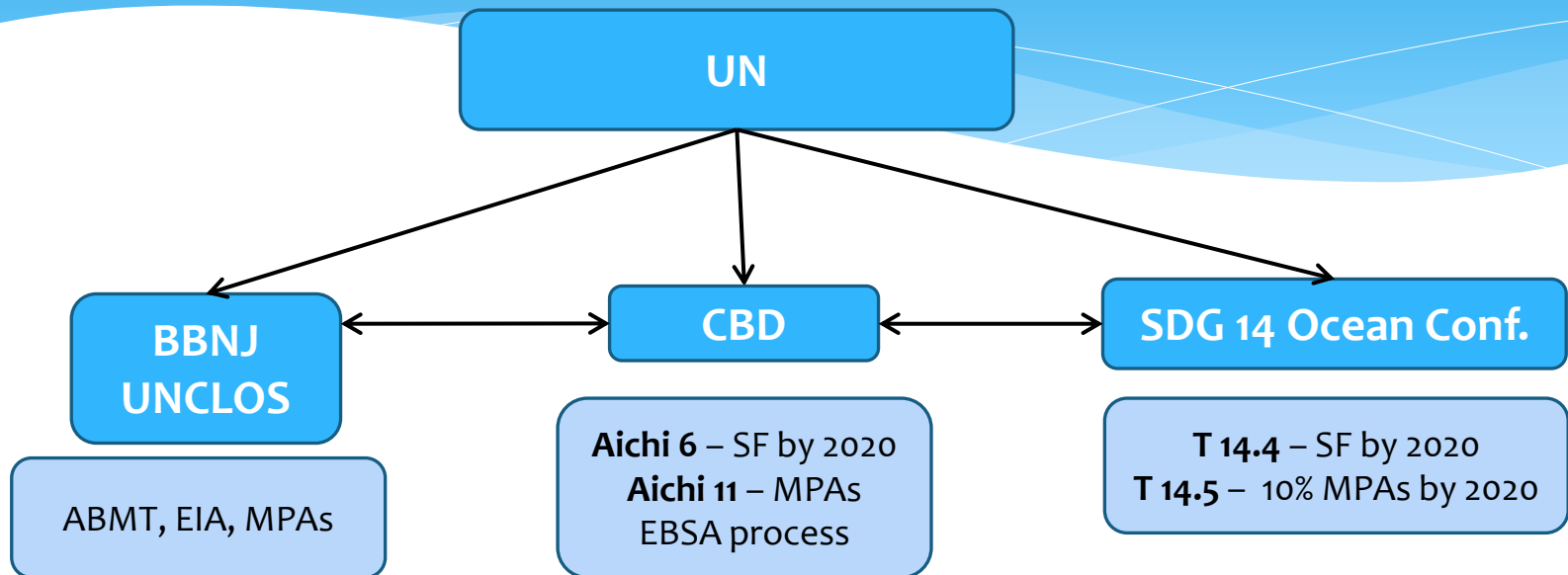
- **IUCN WCC Resolutions**
 - Such as: 30% MPAs by 2030 and others
- **Our Ocean Conference, held annually**
 - Pledges and financial commitments by states and NGOs

Ongoing ocean processes

2021 Super Year for Oceans and Biodiversity, that was to be 2020

- **BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference, August**
- **CBD COP (Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets), October, China**
- **UN Ocean Conference: SDG 14 implementation, 2022, Lisbon**
- **IUCN World Conservation Congress, September, Marseille**
- **UN Climate Change Conference, November, Glasgow**
- **Scientific processes: IPBES (biodiversity), IPCC (climate), ongoing, online**
- **CITES, Animals Committee, June, online**

CBD central to all UN ocean processes



Decisions of CBD influence the other UN ocean processes and lay down the biodiversity framework for all global, regional and national policies

Common in all these processes: sustainable fisheries, ocean governance, mainstreaming biodiversity, MPAs.

From Aichi Targets to the Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets

The outcome that everyone is waiting for

- **Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets (2021-2030)** under discussion
- **The process** run by the CBD - **involves all other UN ocean processes** (BBNJ, SDG 14, UNFCCC, IPBES, CITES)
- **An Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)** has met twice in last two years and produced a **Zero Draft**.
- **Thematic consultations** related to oceans and fisheries

In preparation to CBD COP

- Meeting of the **Subsidiary Body (SBSTTA)** is taking place this month - **scientific assessment of the Post-2020 Targets**
- **A third meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)** is to be held in August in Colombia to finalize the Framework
- **The CBD COP will adopt the new Targets, China, October 2021**
- *The EU Biodiversity Strategy follows this process, led by DG ENV in consultation with DG MARE.*

What's new in these targets ?

- **Aichi Targets 2010-2020 included 2 fisheries targets: Aichi Target 6 (Sustainable Fisheries) and 11 (MPAs)**
- **No sector-specific targets as before**
- **Much wider and embracing other processes (BBNJ, SDG 14, Climate, CMS, CITES...)**
- **IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) : crucial partner to CBD**
- **More interconnection between climate and biodiversity**
- **Parties to the CBD requested to i conduct wider consultations at national level with all relevant ministries- wide stakeholder consultation**

What's new in these targets ?

The new Framework contains:

- 5 long-term goals (2050)
- 20 short-term targets (2030)

→ fisheries touched in different targets:

1. Reducing threats to biodiversity

30% MPAs & OECMs, MSP, sustainable harvest, trade and use of wild species, IUU

2. Sustainable use (one of the three main objectives of CBD)

Sustainable use of marine resources, resilience of marine ecosystems (MSY), food security, livelihoods

3. Implementation and mainstreaming

Fisheries subsidies, economic incentives, biodiversity mainstreaming in fisheries

Other CBD lead processes

Sustainable Ocean Initiative SOI

- The CBD SOI Global **Dialogue between RFMOs and RSOs** in collaboration with UNEP and FAO.
- After two successful meetings hosted by Korea, now become a **permanent biannual meeting**.
- **Third meeting** to be held virtually at the end of 2021.

EBSA Process (connected to BBNJ)

- Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas

IUCN Fisheries Expert Group(FEG)

IUCN

Official advisory body to all processes and organisations

- * FEG established in 2008 – Secretariat provided by EBCD.

Main objectives:

- * Interface between biodiversity conservation and fisheries management
- * Advice to IUCN and international organizations, policy makers and stakeholders
- * Initiates scientific reflections
- * Publishes scientific journals and books
- * Contributes to global processes and debates CBD, BBNJ, CBD, FAO, SDG14 and other UN processes

CBD and EBCD / FEG

Main Focus on

- * AICHI Target 6 and 11 (implementation)
- * Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets
- * BBNJ and SDG 14

Summary of activities

Aichi Target 6 (sustainable fisheries by 2020)

- ✓ FEG facilitating dialogue between FAO and CBD
- ✓ The Joint FAO CBD FEG workshop on progress reporting on Target 6 brought some of the FAO indicators into CBD
- ✓ and CBD Technical paper on Target 6:
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-87-en.pdf>
- ✓ Sustainable Ocean Initiative SOI



87

ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARDS AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 6 ON SUSTAINABLE MARINE FISHERIES



Other effective conservation measures (OECMs)

OECMs part of the MPA Target, receiving a lot of attention:

- * Last CBD COP adopted a Definition for OECMs
- * Decision 14/8

“Invites IUCN, FAO, and other expert bodies to continue **to assist Parties in identifying OECMs** and in applying the scientific and technical advice” and

“**Urges Parties to facilitate mainstreaming of OECMs** into key sectors, such as, inter alia, agriculture, fisheries”

OECMs

OECM implementation in fisheries:

The IUCN Fisheries Expert Group leading on this issue

- * **I workshop**, 2018: with CBD, FEG developed background paper
 - * **II workshop**, 2019: jointly with FAO, CBD, FEG and EBCD
 - * **III workshop**, March 2021: jointly with ICES, with the participation of NEAFC, NAFO, GFCM, FAO, CBD, DG ENV, DG MARE, OSPAR. Report expected in ICES website in June
- **Next steps** – FAO mandated to develop guidelines for the identification and implementation of OECMs in fisheries

IUCN 2021 World Conservation Congress

- Biggest environmental gathering with Governments, NGOs and civil society - **Marseilles, France, September 2021**
- **Oceans and fisheries** high in the agenda
- Resolutions adopted although not legally binding carry a lot of weight- **includes some important resolutions on fisheries**
- The EP is preparing a delegation with MEP Catherine Chabaud

UN Ocean Conference postponed to 2022

New directions for the implementation of SDG 14: progress made and next steps will be discussed

- Partnerships encouraged between industry, NGOs, Governments and science.
- **Portugal playing a key role.**

→ **High-Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Initiative**

Lead by Norway with by 14 world leaders, building momentum for a sustainable ocean economy

- Informing ocean-related processes.



UN Climate Change

- **Oceans-climate nexus** to be discussed at COP26, postponed to November 2021
- **Impacts of climate change on fisheries, MPAs as nature-based solutions, fish as low-carbon protein, offshore energy...**

Conclusions

- All ocean processes increasingly interconnected and interlinked.
- The EU consultation on International Ocean Governance addressed and contributes to all these processes.
- EU Biodiversity Strategy follows and influences all these processes and is largely based on the CBD decisions.
- An inter-institutional, inter-UN agency, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approach is the new approach

Thank you!

For more information on
EBCD, FEG and the EP Intergroup:
visit our website: <http://ebcd.org/>

despina.symons@ebcd.org

