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**6th SESSION
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
(GE-CD-VI)**

**Item 6.3
Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
(BBNJ) Agreement**

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Background



On 19 June 2023, the Conference adopted, by consensus, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction ([A/CONF.232/2023/4](#)) (<https://www.un.org/bbnj/>).

This new UN Treaty will require a data and information system, or clearing-house mechanism to manage and access data and information related to the various elements of the agreement including:

1. Capacity building and transfer of marine technology (CBTMT)
2. Area-based management tools including marine protected areas
3. Environmental impact assessments
4. Marine genetic resources.



Capacity building and transfer of marine technology (CBTMT) services including data and information

1. Online data sharing platforms:

- International Oceanographic Data and information Exchange (IODE)
- Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)
- Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)

2. Monitoring and observation networks:

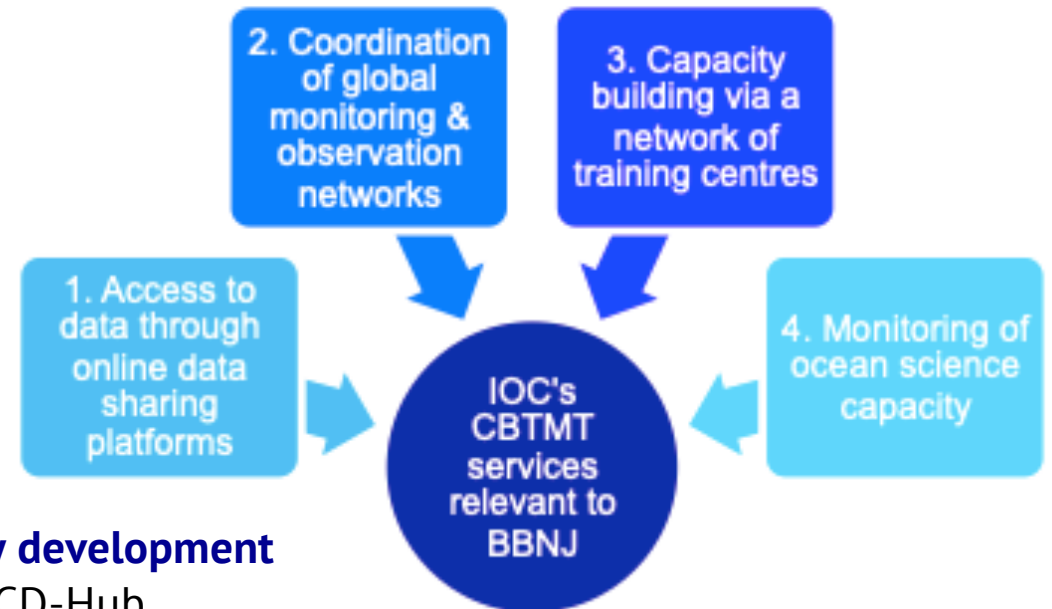
- Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
- Harmful Algal Information System (HAIS)
- Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) and ocean acidification data portal

3. Capacity development

- Ocean CD-Hub
- OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA)
- IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centres

4. Monitoring ocean science capacity

- Global Ocean Science Report (GOSR)



IOC services related to the BBNJ package



Marine genetic resources

- Access to MGR-related data and information (OBIS)
- Pacific Islands Marine Bioinvasions Alert Network (PacMAN): *Build capacity on MGR-related technologies related to bioinvasions*

Area-based management tools

- Marine spatial planning: MSP Global Initiative, includes transboundary MSP
- GEF funded IW:LEARN program working with Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects: *Possibility for transboundary pilot projects, as LMEs can extend into ABNJ*

Environmental impact assessments (EIA)

- Scientific observation data IODE systems are used for EIAs and environmental assessments
- Data from OBIS, the World Ocean Database, and the IODE network *provide a source of data for EIAs, including in ABNJ*



A Biodiversity Data Hub for the High Seas



To produce the basis for delivering meaningful and integrated information at global scale, the BBNJ CBTMT system would need to address access to existing bodies of data, as well as facilitate coordinated entry of new in-situ and other data relevant to the treaty.

The Biodiversity Data Hub for the High Seas will build on technology developed under the Ocean InfoHub project and will develop a **demonstrator** for several elements of the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism.

This project will not develop the BBNJ-CHM, but will use ODIS technology in a pilot project to demonstrate how it can serve a future BBNJ CHM:



Implementation Strategy

Development of a pilot biodiversity hub

ODIS/OIH currently possesses the capability to function as an information hub for discovering and accessing a diverse range of information, including documents, reports, and training opportunities related to various aspects of BBNJ

1. Create a biodiversity Hub / interface for the High Seas
2. Modify the interface to register / monitor / manage information required by users and the BBNJ Secretariat.
3. Guidelines and training materials for member states to use the BBNJ Hub



Implementation Strategy

Desktop study on CHM requirements and solutions related to Marine Genetic Resources

Managing data and information related to Marine Genetic Resources (MGR) is complex and requires the involvement of various existing organizations.

1. A consultant will conduct an in-depth study to explore the essential elements for the MGR component of the BBNJ CHM, identify the major stakeholders and recommend technical solutions.
2. The results of this comprehensive study will provide a plan including resource requirements to develop an MGR hub as part of ODIS/OIH.



Other potential new services



Improving ocean scientific data and information to support the implementation of the BBNJ agreement

- Facilitating ongoing ABNJ observation, monitoring and scientific research
- Facilitating data discovery, interoperability and open access to data

Capacity building and transfer of technology to support BBNJ

- Providing training in topics of relevance to ABNJ
- Providing access to networks of experts
- Facilitating ABNJ science and data-related CBMTT
- Facilitating MGR-related capacity building and technology transfer
- Facilitating ABMT-related capacity building and technology transfer
- Facilitating EIA-related capacity building and technology transfer

Improving available data and information relevant to MGRs via the Ocean InfoHub

Developing new MGR-based 'omics applications and pilot projects

Making available data and information

Supporting pilot projects and disseminating knowledge

Making available data, data products and information

Making available information and documentation related to EIAs through the CIHM





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