Capacity assessment for area based planning in areas beyond national jurisdiction for the Nairobi Convention
Capacity assessment for area based planning in areas beyond national jurisdiction for Nairobi Convention

Authors
Miles Macmillan-Lawler\textsuperscript{a}, Hannah Thomas\textsuperscript{b}, Ruth Fletcher\textsuperscript{b}, Juliette Martin\textsuperscript{b}

\textsuperscript{a} GRID-Arendal
\textsuperscript{b} UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

Acknowledgements
This publication has been prepared within the framework of the Global Environment Facility project entitled “Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)” (referred to as the ‘ABNJ Deep Seas Project’) jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment). The authors are grateful to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for financing this project, workshop participants from member countries in the Western Indian Ocean Pilot Region for their assistance in undertaking this assessment, Marieke Sassen, Philip Bubb, Nina Bhola and Rachael Scrimgeour from UNEP-WCMC for their support in the preparation of this document. For questions or comments on this document please contact:
Neville Ash
Director
UNEP-WCMC
Cambridge, United Kingdom

Citation

Graphics
Cover: Graphics used with permission from the FAO/UN Environment GEF ABNJ Deep Seas Project
The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the specialist biodiversity assessment centre of UN Environment, the world’s foremost intergovernmental environmental organization. The Centre has been in operation for over 30 years, combining scientific research with practical policy advice.

**Distribution:** This publication may be reproduced for educational or non-profit purposes without special permission, provided acknowledgement to the source is made. Reuse of any figures is subject to permission from the original rights holders. No use of this publication may be made for resale or any other commercial purpose without permission in writing from UN Environment. Applications for permission, with a statement of purpose and extent of reproduction, should be sent to the Director, UNEP-WCMC, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, UK.

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of UN Environment, contributory organisations or editors. The designations employed and the presentations of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UN Environment or contributory organisations, editors or publishers concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries or the designation of its name, frontiers or boundaries. The mention of a commercial entity or product in this publication does not imply endorsement by UN Environment.

Partners involved in the GEF ABNJ Deep Seas Project are:
Contents

1. Introduction and Background ................................................................. 5
2. Capacity Assessment Results ................................................................. 6
   A. Internal Attributes ........................................................................... 6
   B. Resources ......................................................................................... 9
   C. Enabling Environment .................................................................. 12
3. Summary ............................................................................................... 17
4. Action Plan ............................................................................................ 21
1. Introduction and Background

With increasing levels of human activity occurring in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), collective efforts are required to ensure that resource use is sustainable and marine ecosystems are effectively protected in these vulnerable ocean regions. One potential mechanism used to enhance sustainable ocean management is area-based planning, which is the application of multi-sectoral spatial measures to rationalise and manage resource use within a defined geographical area\(^1\).

The Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep Seas Project explores methods to improve the sustainable use of deep sea resources and biodiversity conservation. Component 4 of this project aims to develop and test a methodology for area-based planning in ABNJ in two pilot areas, the Western Indian Ocean and the South-East Pacific Ocean. Area-based planning is the use of spatial measures to organise and manage resource use within a defined geographical area, such as shipping traffic separation zones, mining licence areas or protected areas. As cross-sectoral area-based planning frameworks such as marine spatial planning are becoming increasingly popular within jurisdictional waters, this approach has the potential to improve biodiversity conservation and the sustainability of resource use in ABNJ by considering the spatial distribution of all activities, and their impact on the ecosystem, within a single planning approach. The project will focus on better understanding the different demands placed upon deep sea ecosystems in ABNJ and exploring which area-based planning tools are most likely to be effective.

This capacity assessment summarises the existing capacity of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and member countries of the Nairobi Convention to undertake area based planning in ABNJ. This includes their collective capacity to work within existing frameworks and with the competent bodies operating in ABNJ. It is based on the capacity assessment session run at the ABNJ GEF workshop in Mahe, Seychelles 13 – 14\(^{th}\) October 2016. A follow up session to validate the results of the capacity assessment was conducted in Mahe, Seychelles 13 – 15\(^{th}\) November 2017. A formal framework, the Capacity Development Assessment Tool\(^2\), has been used to structure the assessment against 20 capacity elements falling under three components:

- **Internal Attributes** – the abilities, characteristics and properties of the network required to perform functions and achieve objectives
- **Resources** – the materials, services and other assets required to perform functions and achieve objectives
- **Enabling Environment** – the external working environment to perform functions and achieve objectives

---

\(^1\) UNEP-WCMC (2017). Governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use: Institutional arrangements and cross-sectoral cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean and the South East Pacific. Cambridge (UK): UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre. 120pp

Based on the input of workshop participants each capacity element was scored as either low capacity, partial capacity or sufficient capacity. The feasibility of improving each capacity element to the level of sufficient capacity was then scored as either easy, difficult or very difficult.

For each element, the desired capacity was defined through consultation between UNEP-WCMC, GRID-Arendal and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. Each of the 20 capacity elements were then scored for current capacity and the feasibility of improving that capacity to the desired level i.e. sufficient capacity.

2. Capacity Assessment Results

A. Internal Attributes

A1.1 Structure

**Desired Capacity:** A mandated coordinating body (e.g. Regional Secretariat) capable of representing the network (minimum requirement).

A working group of members dedicated to addressing the issue of area based planning in ABNJ.

**Current Capacity:** Partial Capacity

Nairobi Convention is mandated to support the member states and has the necessary connection to all member countries (governments and systems). The member states are supportive of the ABNJ GEF project, but have not yet articulated the need to address area based planning in ABNJ in itself, but marine spatial planning is being seen as important in coastal zones. Sovereignty and political will are important considerations.

**Feasibility of Improvement:** Easy

As countries move towards coastal marine spatial planning, some of these skills will be transferable to area based planning in ABNJ. Desire to move into ABNJ seems limited for most countries as they struggle to manage EEZ issues. However, decisions taken in ABNJ may impact country specific sovereign issues.

A1.2 Procedures

**Desired Capacity:** There is a regular forum for discussion between members (minimum requirement).

There is an accepted decision-making process to allow Members to agree upon actions (minimum requirement).

**Current Capacity:** Sufficient Capacity

The Nairobi Convention has established processes for engaging member states and decision-making, including tools for outreach, communication and meetings etc.
Feasibility of Improvement: Easy
No actions needed.

A2. Organisational Capacity

Desired Capacity: All member States have a focal point identified to represent them in Nairobi Convention discussions (minimum requirement).

The Secretariat has sufficient human, technical and financial resources to facilitate discussion between members on the issue of area based planning in ABNJ (minimum requirement).

Some (minimum requirement) or all (optimum situation) members of the Nairobi Convention have a common understanding of concepts and frameworks relevant to ABNJ (e.g. ABNJ, Biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions (BBNJ), United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)).

At least one member State has their government support to use their resources to undertake area-based planning in ABNJ (optimal situation), or at least one member country coordinates between its focal points to major ABNJ related conventions/organisations (e.g. IMO, ISA, RFMO and BBNJ), when engaging with the pilot project (minimum situation).

Current Capacity: Partial Capacity

All member states have focal points with Nairobi Convention. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat has resources financial and technical (including those made available through the project). Some member states have a common understanding of concepts and frameworks relevant to ABNJ.

Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult

Awareness raising through the project can facilitate increasing organisational capacity, however, this will take time and commitment. International Seabed Authority (ISA) activities in the area outside country EEZs may also be a driver.

A3. Individual Capacity

Desired Capacity: Focal Point/s from at least one Nairobi Convention RS member state has the authority and resources to represent their member state in ABNJ area-based planning work (minimum requirement).

Nairobi Convention RS member state Focal Point/s working on area-based planning in ABNJ understand the relevant concepts and frameworks (e.g. ABNJ, ecosystem based management (EBM), marine spatial planning (MSP), integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), United National Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)).
Focal Points from all Nairobi Convention RS member states have the authority and resources to represent their member state in ABNJ area-based planning work (Optimum capacity).

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

Unclear, some engagement with BBNJ process but not consistent between the member countries. Also BBNJ focal points often different people to Nairobi Convention focal points. Some capacity for area based planning, e.g. for fisheries or MPAs in some countries but not multi-sectoral. South Africa is the most advanced country in regards to area based planning in the region. Mauritius and Seychelles joint management area (JMA) of extended continental shelf is a good example of area based planning that may be built upon in the region, and has relevance to ABNJ.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult**

Need to bring together country focal points from all international bodies (e.g. BBNJ, UNCLOS, regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), ISA to build capacity for area based planning in ABNJ. This needs to happen at the national level (driven by the countries) and at the regional level, supported by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, the ABNJ Deep Seas Project and other competent bodies – this is a high priority. Build on Mauritius/Seychelles JMA example.

### A4. Internal Cultural Norms

**Desired Capacity:** Nairobi Convention RS Secretariat is capable of engaging in ABNJ issues on behalf of only a subset of interested member states (minimum requirement), or all member states (optimum situation).

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

Nairobi Convention Secretariat has some capacity to engage on behalf of countries in ABNJ issues, but this is not the current operational model in that they have not been mandated to do this.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult**

This will require countries to support the Nairobi Convention Secretariat in the engagement, which may be outside the scope of this project. Because decisions are made by consensus, some countries may oppose (or abstain). Lobbying may be necessary and it is the role of the Nairobi Convention to inform the member countries of the benefits in engaging in ABNJ issues.

### A5. Goals

**Desired Capacity:** at least one (minimum requirement), or most/all (optimum requirement) Nairobi Convention RS member states are committed (or willing to explore if not committed) to undertaking area-based planning in ABNJ.
At least one (minimum requirement), or most/all (optimum requirement) Nairobi Convention RS member states are willing to consider the possibility of the Nairobi Convention RS becoming the coordinating body for area based planning in the Western Indian Ocean.

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

The member states have expressed limited interest, but there is not clear commitment to work on area based planning in ABNJ as this is a lower priority than the management of EEZ resources. Countries need a cost benefit analysis (CBA) in order to know how much to invest in ABNJ issues (awareness, details and information). Capacity in area based planning is something that has applicability within and beyond national jurisdictions so there are cost savings there.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult**

Co-developing a strong pilot project should enable one or more countries to engage. Financial implications are significant for the countries, need a level of government involvement/engagement.

**B. Resources**

**B1. Data and Information**

**Desired Capacity:** Data on key species/habitats (minimum requirement) or biodiversity across multiple taxa (optimum situation) available at global (minimum requirement), regional and ecosystem (optimum situation) resolution.

Data on the two most important human activities (e.g. fishing and mining) in deep sea ABNJ in the Western Indian Ocean available at global resolution (minimum requirement) or data on the major (fishing, mining, cable laying, shipping) or all human activities occurring in deep sea ABNJ in the Western Indian Ocean regional and ecosystem resolution (optimum situation).

The necessary data are accessible to the Secretariat (minimum requirement), all member states or freely available (optimum situation) for area-based planning purpose.

**Current Capacity:** Partial Capacity

Data and information exist for the western Indian Ocean, but are not being shared between organisations in the network, there is currently no hosted data repository for ABNJ data, although there may be some capacity in Mauritius to pursue this? Some data is available but is not easily accessible. There is sufficient data to begin but not accessible. Data needs to be existing, available and in the correct format to be useful.
Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult

There is data available for the Western Indian Ocean; collation could be a useful activity. There are complex/legal issues because of many different industries/countries involved. Need for data sharing (agreements?), and spatial scale of data important.

B2. Finance

**Desired Capacity:** Sufficient funds and in-kind support are available to the Secretariat (minimum requirement), selected member states or all member states (optimum situation) to enable the delivery of some (minimum requirement) or all (optimum situation) functions of the network.

Global and regional funding mechanisms exist that could support delivery of the specified network functions.

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

The project provides some funding to support pilot activities including development and testing of area based planning tools for ABNJ. There are additional global funding mechanisms that could be included.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult**

There is sufficient funding to support the pilot project. Additional mechanisms to fund engagement in long term area based planning in ABNJ need to be identified.

B3.1 Equipment

**Desired Capacity:** Secretariat has access to presentational equipment to display information to member states (minimum requirement).

Network (Secretariat) has adequate hardware for data storage, interrogation and mapping (minimum requirement).

Network has adequate hardware to support effective communication (e.g. email, telephone).

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

The Nairobi Convention Secretariat has appropriate equipment for presentation and communication. There is a need to identify an appropriate regional portal to support data collation, or scope out the possibility of creating a new one.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult**

There is a need to support the creation of a regional data hub.

B3.2 Software

**Desired Capacity:** Secretariat has effective electronic communication software (e.g. email) to enable coordination.
Secretariat (minimum requirement) and all member states (optimum situation) have access to spatial mapping (e.g. GIS, QGIS) and area-based planning tool software (e.g. Marxan; InVEST).

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

The Nairobi Convention Secretariat have communication software. Some members have indicated they have some GIS competency. Some countries have expressed that they have the necessary software to engage in ABNJ, while others are unsure of which level of GIS is required for engagement in ABNJ. Access is available to area-based planning tools such as Marxan or InVEST, but may need training in use.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult**

Note that there is an increase in activity around marine spatial planning planned in the coming years, e.g. SAPPHIRE project etc. The ABNJ GEF project can support this capacity building in marine spatial planning tools. There is a need for sustainability, synergies and coordination at the country/regional level. Access to open source tools for area based planning should be encouraged through the project to minimise the reliance on expensive software (e.g. QGIS, GeoNode, Marxan etc.).

**B4. Partners**

**Desired Capacity:** the network (Secretariat) can communicate (minimum requirement), collaborate, or fully cooperate (optimum situation) with one (minimum requirement), some or all (optimum situation) other sectoral competent authorities identified as relevant to ABNJ deep seas area-based planning in the Western Indian Ocean (i.e. ISA, IMO, IOTC, SIOFA, SIODFA, cable laying companies).

The network (Convention) has informal (minimum requirement) or formal (optimum situation) arrangements with one (minimum requirement), some or all (optimal requirement) partners to cooperate on area-based planning in deep sea ABNJ in the Western Indian Ocean.

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

The Nairobi Convention has good links to partners. There are currently limited formal mechanisms for Nairobi Convention Secretariat to engage with other sectoral authorities apart from informal communication. In order for area based planning to move forward in the region, some sort of mechanism for engagement is needed.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Very Difficult**

There is a need for formal mechanisms for competent bodies to coordinate on area based planning in ABNJ. This would involve agreements with other competent bodies, which are currently largely operating in silos. Cross sectoral coordination is difficult under the current model. There is insufficient awareness in other sectors of the role and function of the Nairobi Convention.
B5. Infrastructure

**Desired Capacity:** The Secretariat (minimum requirement) and all member states (optimum situation) have access to basic office infrastructure, including dedicated office space, power, computers and internet.

**Current Capacity:** Sufficient Capacity

The Secretariat and member states have access to office infrastructure including computers and internet.

**Feasibility of Improvement:** Easy

No Action Needed.

C. Enabling Environment

C1.1 Authority

**Desired Capacity:** The Nairobi Convention RS has sufficient authority to communicate effectively with competent authority partners on ABNJ related issues (minimum requirement).

the Nairobi Convention RS has a regional mandate to operate as a competent authority for environmental issues in ABNJ (optimal situation).

the Nairobi Convention RS has a regional mandate to operate as the coordinating body for area-based planning in the Western Indian Ocean (optimal situation).

**Current Capacity:** Low Capacity

The Nairobi Convention Secretariat does not currently have to authority to act as the competent body for area based planning in ABNJ. The Nairobi Convention will have to liaise with the National Focal Points which may not be mandated by the country to take a decision. The focal points will have to coordinate nationally before the Nairobi convention can engage as the competent authority in ABNJ. Note that this mandate is regional only, and would only be binding on the Parties to the Convention.

**Feasibility of Improvement:** Difficult

For the Nairobi Convention to have the mandate for area based planning in ABNJ will require both country support and effective coordination mechanisms with other competent bodies to be in place. It may be difficult to achieve the latter within the scope of this project. The BBNJ process may help provide some clarity around area based planning in ABNJ, especially in regards to biodiversity conservation.

C1.2 Credibility

**Desired Capacity:** Some (minimum requirement) or all (optimum situation) competent authorities consider the Nairobi Convention Regional Sea to be an appropriate organisation to address environmental issues in ABNJ.
some (minimum requirement) or all (optimum situation) competent authorities are willing to explore the possibility of the Nairobi Convention Regional Sea becoming the appropriate organisation to coordinate area-based planning in ABNJ.

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

The Nairobi Convention is well respected within the region; however, it is unclear if competent bodies in ABNJ recognise Nairobi Convention in ABNJ. The Nairobi Convention can make use of its regional experts and partners.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult**

Engagement of other competent bodies in pilot project may facilitate the Nairobi Convention Secretariat being recognised as regional competent body for environment in ABNJ. A need for member states to articulate this desire.

C2. Incentives

**Desired Capacity:** The benefits of countries to engage in area based planning in ABNJ are clearly articulated and understood.

The risks of not engaging in area based planning in ABNJ are clear and understood.

**Current Capacity: Partial Capacity**

Member states recognise the need for area based planning within EEZ and are progressing with various measure related to fisheries, oil and gas and marine protected areas within EEZ – this work is ongoing and is the main priority of area based planning. The member states need to be convinced of need and benefits of area based planning in ABNJ which is not a current priority. There might be a problem with accessibility of resources – with lack of capacity to go beyond borders/EEZ.

**Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult**

At the first workshop member states acknowledged the need and benefits of area based planning. The next step is to identify a pilot project that engages one or more member states. However, member states need to be convinced as still planning within EEZ and ABNJ is not a priority. Lack of capacity to go beyond borders/EEZ.

C3. External Cultural Norms

**Desired Capacity:** Member countries engage with intergovernmental bodies and facilitate cross-sectoral communication (minimum requirement), planning and management (optimum situation).

**Current Capacity: Low Capacity**

Currently bodies operating in ABNJ are strongly sectoral, with limited mechanisms for cross-sectoral engagement (UN Oceans is one possible mechanism). A similar pattern exists in the Nairobi Convention member states and their engagement with competent bodies, with little communication between the focal points to each competent body.
Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult

The sectoral approach to ABNJ management has the potential to create management silos. The challenge is to enable effective cross-sectoral communication as a starting point to cross-sectoral engagement and management. Area Based Planning can be a tool to bring all the sectors to the table. It is not appropriate for all issues to be presented from an environmental perspective, we need to shift the way we present things (focus on economy and ecosystem services).

C4. Legal and Policy Framework

Desired Capacity: An international legal instrument (BBNJ Implementing agreement) in place to support area based planning in ABNJ (optimum situation).

Regional Ocean Policy to support transboundary cooperation between members (minimum requirement).

Current Capacity: Partial Capacity

The BBNJ implementing agreement process is ongoing, and is outside the scope of the project. There is a recognised need to develop a regional ocean policy led by Nairobi Convention Secretariat. Currently South Africa and the Seychelles have developed blue economy strategies. Mauritius is developing a blue economy strategy. Regional policy not to be in conflict with national policies – i.e. cannot overrule.

Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult

The BBNJ process will continue with its own time frame. More importantly for the pilot project, the regional ocean policy process should explicitly include area based planning in ABNJ - even if not complete within the project timeframe. The Nairobi Convention would lead for environmental issues in line with the priorities of the Convention.

C5. External Demands

Desired Capacity: Marine managers have adequate time to dedicate to management of ABNJ, including area based planning. Therefore, the synergies between marine management within country EEZs a marine management in ABNJ need to be identified in order to create efficiencies, and maximise outcomes. For example, cross-sectoral considerations in area based planning may be similar within EEZ and in ABNJ (minimum requirement).

Current Capacity: Partial Capacity

Multiple competing demands exist on the countries, with within EEZ management a priority. Competing demands in EEZs across region are a priority. Countries need capacity in resource mobilisation, assessment and mapping.

Feasibility of Improvement: Difficult
The synergies between area based planning within EEZ and in ABNJ, both in terms of positive results and also capacity building, need to be articulated. For example, the technical skills to conduct area based planning will be similar for both areas. The first workshop began this process. There is a need for mobilisation, cost benefit analysis, awareness raising and prioritisation.

C6.1 Knowledge Base

**Desired Capacity:** Some (minimum requirement) or all (optimum situation) members of the Nairobi Convention RS have a common understanding of biodiversity-related concepts and frameworks (biodiversity; ecosystem services; marine protected areas, key biodiversity areas, Convention on Biological Diversity, ecologically or biologically significant marine areas).

Some (minimum requirement) or all (optimum situation) members of the Nairobi Convention RS have a common understanding of concepts and frameworks relevant to area based planning (e.g. area based planning, ecosystem based management, marine spatial management, integrated coastal zone management).

Some (minimum requirement) or all (optimum situation) members of the Nairobi Convention RS have a common understanding of the institutional frameworks and legal instruments in place in the Western Indian Ocean.

**Current Capacity:** Partial Capacity

All member states have an understanding of biodiversity-related concepts (e.g. ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, marine protected areas etc.). Most member states have some understanding of concepts and legal frameworks relevant to area based planning. Awareness not at the right level to make high level decisions. ABNJ may not be in countries current priorities/or align with national strategies.

**Feasibility of Improvement:** Difficult

Additional support materials to build this common understanding of these concepts and how area based planning fits in with other tools and approaches. Many sectors still working in silos. Some areas still focused on coastal zone (ICZM) and territorial sea, and not yet on blue economy. Lack of political will/lack of understanding of ABNJ.

C6.2 Methodology Base

**Desired Capacity:** Existing methodologies and tools are available for area based planning in ABNJ (optimum situation).

Existing methodologies and tools for related activities can be adapted for area based planning in ABNJ.

Previous experience in other regions is available to support learning and innovation in the Western Indian Ocean.
**Current Capacity:** Partial Capacity

Some countries have undertaken some sectoral area based planning and most have familiarity with GIS. There is a need to build appropriate tools for area based planning in ABNJ and build capacity to use these through the pilot project.

**Feasibility of Improvement:** Difficult

This is the primary aim of the project and the funding is available to support this activity.
3. Summary

The following table (Table 1) summarises the capacity assessment results with an identification of the capacity needs and suggested actions that may help fulfil these capacity needs. Five different combinations of capacity and feasibility to improve were identified:

- **Sufficient capacity** and **Easy** feasibility – no further action required
- **Partial capacity** and **Easy** feasibility – these capacity elements should be addressed within the project
- **Partial capacity** and **Difficult** feasibility – selected elements of these may be addressed within the project
- **Partial capacity** and **Very difficult** feasibility – difficult for project within scope and resources to address these elements sufficiently
- **Low capacity** and **Difficult** feasibility – difficult for project within scope and resources to address these elements sufficiently

The suggested actions are based on feedback from the member states of the Nairobi Convention and consultation with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. Much of this feedback revolved around the need to develop specific communication materials that will improve the overall understanding of the member countries of area based planning in ABNJ including the need and benefits. The same actions may be able to address capacity elements.

*Table 1. Summary of capacity assessment results, capacity needs and possible actions.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Desired Capacity</th>
<th>Feasibility to Improve</th>
<th>Capacity Development need</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1.1 Structure</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Better understanding of the need for area based planning in ABNJ</td>
<td>Communication material that can be used to inform decision makers on area based planning in ABNJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1.2 Procedures</td>
<td>Sufficient</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>No action required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2. Organisation Capacity</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Build Political support at highest level Training and awareness raising for decision makers Funding needs to be made available</td>
<td>Communication material that can be used to inform decision makers on area based planning in ABNJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element</td>
<td>Desired Capacity</td>
<td>Feasibility to Improve</td>
<td>Capacity development need</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3. Individual Capacity</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Better coordination between focal points for different ABNJ bodies</td>
<td>Gather focal points nationally in each member country to improve coordination and then facilitate regional coordination between different country focal points to the different ABNJ bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4. Internal Cultural Norms</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Nairobi Convention need to be aware of a few topical sensitivities Better understanding of UNCLOS required by policy and decision makers</td>
<td>Communication material that can be used to inform decision makers on area based planning in ABNJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5. Goals</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Capacity and Needs Assessment Awareness raising Leadership Technology/capacity skills Resource mobilisation</td>
<td>Capacity Assessment Communication material that can be used to inform decision makers on area based planning in ABNJ Training in specific approaches for area based planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1. Data and Information</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Incentives for sharing data/information Regional and International policy/MOU for data sharing</td>
<td>Provide capacity support for data collation and review the need for a data store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2. Finance</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Need proper financing</td>
<td>Show commitment on ABNJ from Nairobi Convention to donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3.1. Equipment</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Need regional portal to store data</td>
<td>Support ongoing initiative of Nairobi Convention/WIOCSA for information store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3.2 Software</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Training on specific area based planning tools required for pilot scenarios (licensing)</td>
<td>training on use of tools related to pilot projects including data portal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4. Partners</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Very Difficult</td>
<td>Increase awareness of Nairobi Convention by other sectors in ABNJ Agreement between the major and competent organisations. i.e. ISA</td>
<td>Create opportunity within pilot areas to bring competent bodies to the same discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element</td>
<td>Desired Capacity</td>
<td>Feasibility to Improve</td>
<td>Capacity development need</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B5. Infrastructure</td>
<td>Sufficient</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>No action required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1.1 Authority</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Need mandate from countries via focal points. Note that this mandate is regional only.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1.2 Credibility</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Need awareness of Nairobi Convention role in ABNJ coupled with resource mobilisation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2. Incentives</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Need education and awareness raising of the issues in ABNJ and links to within EEZ. Target decision makers, role for NGOs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3. External Cultural Norms</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Need to shift discussion from just environment to include links to economy and ecosystem services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4. Legal and Policy Framework</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Both BBNJ process and Regional Ocean Policy are needed but have own timeframes and challenges Example of management of JMAs Use the example of the JMA for Seychelles and Mauritius as a potential model for developing a framework for area based planning for the region. The project can produce information on the existing environment to aid decision makers in understanding the governance landscape.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5. External Demands</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Awareness raising of ABNJ issues and links with within EEZ management Connectivity work will show some of this, also training in tools and approaches that are relevant to both</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6.1 Knowledge Base</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Build awareness at highest level. Set up institutional frameworks at National and Regional level to enhance member states understanding of ABNJ issues Communication material that can be used to inform decision makers on area based planning in ABNJ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element</td>
<td>Desired Capacity</td>
<td>Feasibility to Improve</td>
<td>Capacity development need</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6.2 Methodology Base</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Training focussed on area based planning in ABNJ including technical issues</td>
<td>Conduct an area based planning exercise in pilot project with hands on training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Action Plan

Based on the above table (Table 1) the following action plan is proposed with activities that are achievable within the scope and budget of the current project.

1. Develop communication materials highlighting why the ABNJ is important to coastal states of the Nairobi Convention region and how area based planning can be used to benefit these coastal states. This material should synthesise the existing information available in reports produced by the project – for example the Governance study and the Connectivity study – to highlight the benefits of area based planning in ABNJ to countries. The product should be simple, visual and targeted at non-technical experts e.g. government officials, ministers etc. UNEP-WCMC and GRID-Arendal will collaborate to produce this material and disseminate to the member states at the next workshop series – to finalise draft by June 2018.

2. Work with the member states to explore different scenarios in area based planning in ABNJ and how different approaches may support different outcomes. This can be done through targeted workshops in the second half of 2018 and followed up in early 2019. UNEP-WCMC and GRID-Arendal will develop the content of these workshops and deliver – workshops are being planned for Q3 or Q4 2018 and Q1 2019 (TBC).

3. Representatives of other competent bodies (e.g. ISA, IMO, RFMOs etc.) should be invited to the scenario workshops identified in action point 2. This will help facilitate exchange between the competent bodies – Invitations to be issued by Nairobi Convention Secretariat with support from UNEP-WCMC and GRID-Arendal – Initial contact should be made in Q2 2018.

4. Data and metadata collated through the pilot projects should be centrally stored in a designated data store so that it is available to the Secretariat and member countries have access to this after the project is concluded. UNEP-WCMC and GRID-Arendal should facilitate this process and support and strengthen existing initiatives in the region where possible. Data should be available in such a system for the planned workshops in Q3 or Q4 2018.
ABNJ DEEP SEAS PROJECT

The Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea Living Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Project (ABNJ Deep Seas Project for short) is a five year project supported by the Global Environment Facility, and implemented jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Environment Programme. The UNEP project component is executed though the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre.

The Project is designed to enhance sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach. It brings together over 20 partners who work on deep-sea fisheries and conservation issues in the ABNJ globally. The partnership includes regional organizations responsible for the management of deep-sea fisheries, Regional Seas Programmes, the fishing industry and international organizations.

The Project aims to:

Strengthen policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas;

Reduce adverse impacts on VMEs and enhanced conservation and management of components of EBSAs;

Improve planning and adaptive management for deep sea fisheries in ABNJ; and develop and test methods for area-based planning.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project started in September 2015 and is one of four projects under the GEF Common Oceans Programme.

More information is available from [www.commonoceans.org](http://www.commonoceans.org)