



# REQUEST FOR MSP APPROVAL (1-STEP PROCEDURE)

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

## PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Coordination of the "Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Program"		
Country(ies):	Global	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	630994
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	GCP /GLO/364/GFF
Other Executing Partner(s):		Submission Date:	April 30, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	International Waters	Project Duration (Months)	60
Name of parent program (if applicable):	NA	Project Agency Fee (\$):	41,284

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>2</sup>:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
IW-3 (select)	Outcome 3.3 IW portfolio capacity and performance enhanced from active learning/KM/experience sharing	Active experience sharing/ learning practiced in the IW portfolio	GEFTF	458,716	954,528
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
Total Project Cost				458,716	954,528

### B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

<b>Project Objectives: To ensure coordination across a broad spectrum of activities related to formulation, co-financing and implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the "Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Program"</b>						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
1. Coordination and oversight of the preparation and implementation of the ABNJ Program	TA	1.1 ABNJ projects Projects developed and implemented in close coordination with implementing agencies, executing partners and technical experts.	1.1.1 Global Program Coordination Unit established and operational  1.1.2 Global Program Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Group established and operational;  1.1.3 ABNJ Program prepared through a broad-based	GEFTF	254,716	760,057

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

			<p>consultation process with GEF Agencies and executing partners including a minimum of 2 global consultations with Program partners</p> <p>1.1.4 Contributions provided to the development of the four ABNJ projects to ensure close coordination among the participating GEF Agencies, Program and project partners including a minimum of 6 consultations with Project partners</p> <p>1.1.5 Implementation support to the ABNJ Program provided through regular (2 monthly) coordination meetings with project staff and Lead Technical Officers</p> <p>1.1.6 Secretariat services provided to the Global Steering Committee (GSC) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) including:  - GSC meetings organized annually  - Documentation on project and program progress provided to GSC  - Technical documentation provided to TAG</p>			
2. Monitoring and Evaluation of the ABNJ Program	TA	2.1 Progress of ABNJ Program systematically monitored and reported	<p>2.1.1 ABNJ Program level M&amp;E system developed with established linkages among the four ABNJ projects;</p> <p>2.1.2 Systematic</p>	GEFTF	139,000	174,557

			<p>monitoring of ABNJ Programme and preparation of annual Program progress report for submission to the GEF Secretariat as part of the AMR</p> <p>2.1.3 Final Review Report prepared and available</p>			
3. Coordination of external communication activities of the ABNJ Program	TA	3.1 ABNJ Program goal, objectives and results communicated in a consistent way to target audience	<p>3.1.1 ABNJ Program Communication Strategy and toolbox developed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual communications Plan</li> <li>- Social Media support</li> <li>- Templates (Power Point, Newsletter, Letterhead)</li> <li>- Communications guidelines and coherent program branding</li> </ul> <p>3.1.2 Targeted external communication activities (in collaboration with Program and Project partners) carried out to ensure visibility of the ABNJ Program including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 Program side events organized</li> <li>- 1 colour Program brochure printed and distributed and updated annually,</li> <li>- Program leaflet eaflet produced and distributed</li> <li>- Program video produced and distributed</li> <li>- Program banner printed</li> <li>- Program Newsletter with Project information compiled and distributed</li> <li>- Program mailing</li> </ul>	GEFTF	65,000	19,914

			list established and maintained -Program Blog and social media operational				
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
Subtotal						458,716	954,528
Project Management Cost <sup>3</sup>					(select)	0	0
Total Project Cost						458,716	954,528

**C. CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)**

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	954,528
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
<b>Total Cofinancing</b>			954,528

**D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total c=a+b
FAO	GEFTF	International Waters	Global	458,716	41,284	500,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				458,716	41,284	500,000

<sup>3</sup> PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

<sup>1</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

<sup>2</sup> Please indicate fees related to this project.

**E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Cofinancing (\$)</b>	<b>Project Total (\$)</b>
International Consultants	304,716	688,528	993,244
National/Local Consultants			0

**F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? (Select)**

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

### **A. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

A.1. Project Description. Briefly describe the project, including ; 1) the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline , the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), commonly called the High Seas, are those areas of ocean for which no one nation has the specific or sole responsibility for management. They include the water column of the high seas and the seabed falling within. These areas make up 40 percent of the surface of our planet, comprising 64% of the surface of the oceans and nearly 95% of its volume. Achieving sustainable management of the fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ is extremely difficult given the complexity of the ecosystems, including their great depths and distances from the coasts, as well as the large number and wide diversity of all the public and private actors involved. Therefore, only limited progress has been made so far in meeting the already agreed global targets from international forums. For example, there has been very little application of an ecosystem approach across the ABNJ despite the target from the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) which reads “ To encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach to ensure sustainable utilization of the ocean. ” Similarly, notwithstanding the healthy state of some species targeted by fisheries, there is considerable doubt that the intention underlying the target of “ Maintaining or restoring stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield where possible and not later than 2015 ” will be fully realized. Greater progress is also required on the need to “encourage relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organization and Arrangements (RFMO/As) to give due consideration to the rights, duties and interests of costal States and the special requirements of developing States..” Also, the Millennium Development Report of 2010 indicates that “ The world has missed the 2010 target for biodiversity conservation, with potentially grave consequences. ” Effective management in ABNJ is seen as a fundamental need recognized in the GEF-5 focal area strategy which calls for enhanced capacity of management institutions to deliver sustainable fisheries together with biodiversity conservation. Strengthening effective fisheries management linked to monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) systems designed to monitor and enforce compliance, is seen as the key oceans governance challenge which the program will address. For many, the ABNJ have become the iconic last frontier for the expansion of marine fisheries. Many of the world’s most valuable fisheries and marine ecosystems are found in or functionally connected with these areas. For instance, highly migratory tuna and tuna-like species constitute a substantial part of the ABNJ resources and can also be found within the adjacent Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). Moreover, even fishing relatively stable stocks in the ABNJ can have detrimental effects and even endanger some bycatch species (including sharks as target species). Furthermore, deep-sea fishing is developing extremely fast and, without the adoption of sustainable management and practices, there is the distinct danger that the most vulnerable species in the ecosystems (such as corals and hydroids) will eventually be threatened. In addition, climate change is gradually modifying marine habitats and possibly species migration patterns. The impacts on the ecosystems and biodiversity in the ABNJ need to be monitored very closely for their negative aspects.

The governance of global ABNJ resources poses serious and distinctive challenges, and the high-value fisheries and associated biodiversity in the ABNJ are now subject to mounting threats such as overcapacity, IUU fishing, increased hardship for fishers, foregone wealth, threatened food supplies, inappropriate fishing practices and inadequate conservation of the related ecosystems. Whilst there have been significant developments over the years in terms of improved ecosystem-based methodologies, tools, practices and the implementation of rights-based systems by a number of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations/Agencies (RFMO/As), there has been a general lack of progress on meeting the global targets agreed in international forums. These problems reflect and are outcomes of a governance gap which this Program will address. Amongst other actions, this will include increased focus on reforms based on the need to define property and use rights systems for sustainable and economically rational fisheries, given the increasing evidence based for their effectiveness when properly constituted. For instance, in some of the fisheries targeting deep-sea species, initial high catch rates have decreased rapidly as the low productivity of the species did not allow for sustainable harvesting at these levels. Without urgent action, the currently unsustainable management of many ABNJ fisheries and the lack of effective protection of the related ecosystems, will have increasingly severe negative impacts on the marine biodiversity as well as on the socio-economic wellbeing and food security situation of the several millions of people directly and indirectly involved. The barriers to reversing this adverse trend are interrelated and include :

- The large number and wide diversity of all the public and private actors involved, from the numerous national governments and flag/port states involved in fishing to the regional organizations with responsibilities for fisheries or biodiversity conservation, the private industry and NGOs,
- Inadequate collective/coordinated MCS of the ABNJ resources, due to a range of factors including lack of political will, insufficient institutional capacity and limited scientific knowledge,
- Lack of incentives for the private sector to exploit the fisheries stocks on a durable basis and in the interest of future generations,
- Particularly in the case of deep-sea fishing, the great depths and distances from the coasts as well as the frequently unclear jurisdiction and user rights in the ABNJ deep-seas.

In response to this situation, the GEF Council approved USD 50 million in financing for the ABNJ Programme which is leveraged with over 270 million in partner financing. The goal of the Programme is “to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, in accordance with the global targets agreed in international forums”. Given the relatively modest institutional capability of most public actors in the ABNJ, the Program will follow a prudent gradual approach; several of the activities will be carried out on a pilot basis and in a number of selected areas only and through mutually-reinforcing interventions among the projects.

The four projects are:

**Project 1: Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ**

The expected outcome is to substantially enhance efficiency and sustainability in tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for: (i) supporting the use of efficient and sustainable fisheries management as well as fishing practices by the stakeholders of the tuna resources, (ii) reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated [IUU] fishing, and (iii) reducing bycatch and other adverse ecosystem impacts on biodiversity.

The associated global environmental benefits will mainly be in terms of : (i) measurable improvements in the status of the tuna stocks in the areas under the jurisdiction of the five t-RFMOs, with catches reduced and closer to their maximum sustainable yields, especially for the more threatened species; and (ii) noticeable reductions in the threats to bycatch species in the areas under the jurisdiction of the five t-RFMOs [substantial in the case of at least two t-RFMOs], especially for sharks as target species, marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds.

### **Project 2: Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea ecosystems in the ABNJ,**

The expected outcome is to substantially enhance efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for: i) improving sustainable management practices for deep-sea fisheries, taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems, ii) protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), and iii) practicing improved area-based planning for deep sea ecosystems.

The associated global environmental benefits include: (i) a gradual application at the global level of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the deep-seas, leading to better protection of deep-sea biodiversity in general, (ii) improved information concerning precautionary measures to reduce threats and adverse impacts on VMEs and EBSAs, and (iii) enhanced protection of VMEs and EBSAs over 4,300 million hectares in the Southern Indian Ocean and Southeast Atlantic regions.

### **Project 3: Ocean partnerships for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation – Models for innovation and reform**

The expected outcome – through providing the links between coasts, EEZs and the ABNJ, as well as improved management – is to secure healthy ocean ecosystems, biodiversity conservation (including various modalities of protection) and food security through sustainable fisheries. The outcome will have measurable short-term milestones for poverty alleviation, regional security, fisheries mortality and bycatch reduction to sustainable levels. Achieving success of this outcome would enhance the protection of ocean goods and services, and most importantly the biodiversity underpinning these goods and services. This will be achieved mainly by: (i) mapping global marine hotspots from coast to high seas, which will be use for identifying priority seascape hotspots accompanied by required multi-sector investments and technical assistance, (ii) improving the operational effectiveness of types of marine protected areas and fisheries, including the preparation of marine profiles along with conservation and business development plans, and (iii) mobilizing consensus around governance issues in the ocean, including the showcasing of early “Sub-Project Grant” results in the priority seascapes and the dissemination of lessons from “Challenge Grants”.

The associated global environmental benefits include conservation of the most threatened marine species and biodiversity hotspots and more effective fisheries management outcomes. To achieve these, investments will focus on relevant GEF 5 Focal Area Strategies and recognized global priorities (e.g. rights-based and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, identifying areas in need of enhanced management including EBSAs and VMEs, and relevant strategic plan objectives and programs of work as contained in decisions by the CBD-CoP). The most significant gains relating to marine biodiversity and ecosystem services can be made by using marine spatial planning. A detailed intervention strategy will be developed for each of the priority geographies where the OPF will invest. To ensure maximum impact from investments, a science-based global priority setting framework – that considers biodiversity, ecosystem services, human well-being benefits, threats and opportunities related to ocean ecosystems – will



be used in order to select a small number (2-4) of regions for initial investments. In addition to the science-based priorities, potential opportunities leading to prompt results will be harnessed and coordinated with GEF 5 marine Biodiversity and International Waters investments in countries adjacent to priority geographies, ecological connectivity to coastal biodiversity and ecosystem processes, existing enabling conditions relating to governance, country and stakeholder support, industry interest and the potential for amplification of successful models.

**Project 4: Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ.**

The expected outcome is to make fully effective the global/regional coordination, including exchange of information, on marine ABNJ to ensure sustainable fisheries and the conservation of globally significant biodiversity in the oceans.

The associated (indirect) global environmental benefit will be in terms of a more sustainable global management of the fish resources as well as a more comprehensive and better protection of the ecosystems and their biodiversity in the ABNJ, particularly in the case of the most vulnerable VMEs and EBSAs.

FAO serves as the Program Coordination Agency for the five-year GEF ABNJ Program which brings together numerous institutions and stakeholders.

It needs to be highlighted that there are two different levels of coordination among ABNJ projects:

- Internal coordination among the projects (which will be ensured through this project)
- Synthesizing experiences, lessons-learned and best practices emanating from the projects in the ABNJ Program, and conveying them to stakeholders through coherent and coordinated messaging and outreach, thereby amplifying the transformational impacts of the ABNJ Program – the overall responsibility of Project 4.

Ensuring effective formulation and implementation of the ABNJ Program requires FAO to:

1. ensure broad-based consultation and coordinate the preparation of the program among participating GEF Agencies (World Bank and UNEP) and other partners (RFMO/As, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), IUCN, Global Ocean Forum, Conservation International, BirdLife, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), participating countries, industry and many other partners ;
2. coordinate closely with the GEF Agencies and project partners on all matters leading to the final preparation of the Program for submission to the GEF Secretariat for Work Programme inclusion; set up the coordination mechanism for the ABNJ Programme and prepare Terms of Reference (TORs) for the establishment of: (i) ABNJ Program Coordination Unit (GPCU) in the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department which will provide the secretariat services for a Global Steering Committee (GSC) and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) while ensuring the overall coordination of the GEF-funded ABNJ Program and its four projects; (ii) Global Steering Committee (GSC); and (iii) Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Details of these mechanisms are provided below.
3. develop a monitoring and evaluation system at the Program level and ensure linkages with the individual M&E systems set up at project level, develop reporting requirements for the Programme to ensure consistency in information to be provided at the Programme level, monitor and report on ABNJ Program implementation, including progress towards meeting the Program level indicators;
4. mobilize additional partners and co-financing; prepare report on ABNJ Program for inclusion in the GEF Annual Monitoring Review (AMR).

## 5. Establishment of a Communications Team and preparation of a communication strategy.

A.2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project and/or its preparation:

Key stakeholder include the three GEF Agencies involved in the Program, FAO, UNEP, and World Bank, regional fisheries management organizations and agencies (tuna RFMO/As, deep sea RFMO/As), participating countries, NGOs (WWF, Conservation International, BirdLife), Industry Partners, Global Ocean Forum, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), many other partners.

Since the Program requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders of very different nature and levels, a Global Steering Committee (GSC) as well as a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will be set up for the specific purpose of ensuring the efficient coordination of the Project's different activities with representation of key stakeholders from the policy as well as technical and scientific community.

Clear selection criteria for the TAG will ensure that developing countries, woman and thematic areas of expertise of all ABNJ projects will be covered.

In addition to the GSC and TAG, the GPCU will be able to rely on a number of external forums for the purpose of coordinating the various program interventions across the different sectors of activity and industry groups active in the ABNJ. These forums include the GEF network; FAO-COFI, the UN-Oceans Network, the related UNEP Regional Seas Program which includes ABNJs such as the Nairobi Convention, fishing industry organizations, etc.

A.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

The threats to ABNJ are of a very different nature but interrelated and cumulative. Each challenge may require a unique response but progress will only be made if all the key challenges are simultaneously addressed and the individual responses well integrated. Meaningful achievements leading to global environmental benefits can only be possible using a comprehensive and integrated programmatic approach. This approach must straddle both the GEF International Waters and Biodiversity focal areas, because these two areas interact directly in the ABNJ. For instance, long-term progress in sustainable fisheries management is not achievable without progress in biodiversity conservation.

A.4 Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks:

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Risk Mitigation Measures</b>
The great number and diversity of stakeholders will constrain efficient coordination and implementation of the Program's activities	M	A Global Steering Committee (GSC) and Global Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will be set up under the Program for the specific purpose of ensuring the efficient coordination of the Program's different activities.
Lack of willingness or interest of the other implementing agencies to share information related to their projects with the GPCU.	M	This risk will be addressed by overall close coordination in particular through the Global Steering Committee
Changes in decision makers, or other events	M	Program priorities are in line with what all stakeholders have agreed in international forums and are hence strongly anchored

beyond the control of the Program, lead to changes in policies and/or support		in existing policies. Through stakeholder participation in all phases of the project cycle, national and regional support has been secured already at the project identification stage and will be strengthened/broadened during preparation and all along implementation.
There is insufficient capacity to support the Program's proposed transformational changes, particularly with regard to institutional and administrative support	M	The scope of the Program has been agreed with the relevant stakeholders and, by focusing on a selected number of issues in a limited number of locations, it should be possible to achieve results without putting undue pressure on the existing institutions. Some capacity building will also be available from the Program as required in the case of developing countries.

*H = High (greater than 60 per cent probability that the outcome/result will not be achieved).*

*M = Medium (30 to 60 per cent probability that the outcome/result will not be achieved).*

*L = Low (probability of less than 30 per cent that the outcome/result will not be achieved).*

#### A.5. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

All the threats and barriers to the ABNJ are of a very different nature but interrelated and cumulative. Each challenge may require a unique response but progress will only be made if all the key challenges are simultaneously addressed and the individual responses well integrated. Meaningful achievements can only be possible using a comprehensive and integrated programmatic approach. This approach must straddle both the GEF International Waters and Biodiversity focal areas, because these two areas interact directly in the ABNJ. For instance, long-term progress in sustainable fisheries management is not achievable without progress in biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, a programmatic approach will definitely be more cost-effective than different self-standing projects because it will better ensure the overall close coordination necessary for optimizing all the possible synergies and beneficial impacts of the various activities across the broad areas of intervention – for example: between tuna and deep-sea fisheries as well as with the self-standing partnership fund in support of these two types of fisheries.

#### A.6. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives [not mentioned in A.1]:

The Program will be connected to the activities under other GEF project mainly through the activities of the four Projects. This includes e.g. the continuing activities of the UNDP/GEF Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) Project and the WB/GEF South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP) under the upcoming Strategic Action Programme (SAP)'s implementation phase project – SAPPHIRE, and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project.

#### A.7 Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation:

##### Global Program Coordination Unit (GPCU)

GPCU will be hosted within the FAO and composed of a core group led by an ABNJ Program Coordinator supported by a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) specialist during the implementation phase having responsibility for the overall M&E of the ABNJ Program. To this core group will be added a backup group participating on a regular basis and consisting mainly of the three FAO Lead Technical Officers (LTOs) of the Tuna, DSF and Capacity projects as well as Project Coordinators/Managers/Representatives of the four projects, noting that OPP will have somewhat different institutional arrangements. GPCU's main responsibility will be to provide guidance to and monitor the preparation and thereafter the implementation of the four ABNJ projects. Corresponding to the policy role of the GSC, the GPCU will operationally aim at maximising the synergies between the projects as well as eliminating the overlaps and duplications. Furthermore, GPCU will be providing secretariat services to the Global Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Group (described below); in particular by producing periodic progress reports on the ABNJ Program as a whole (based on the

results of the M&E system in place) and ensuring that the conclusions, recommendations and advice of GSC and TAG are acted upon. The GPCU will host the Communications Team which will be responsible for the development and oversight of the ABNJ program's overall external communications strategy, ensuring the visibility and promotion of the programmatic goals and objectives, contributing thus to their achievement, through targeted outreach.

#### Global Steering Committee (GSC)

The ABNJ Global Steering Committee (GSC) will be co-chaired by the GEF Secretariat (GEFSEC) and FAO, with representatives from the main ABNJ Program Partners: UNEP, World Bank, WWF, CI, GOF and IUCN, UNCLOS, RFMO/As, industry and CBD. GSC's main responsibility will be to provide overall oversight and policy advice, and provide policy coordination and monitoring of the overall programme. In particular, GSC will ensure through the Global Programme Coordination Unit (GPCU) that the projects are being prepared and implemented: (i) in accordance with the approved ABNJ Program Framework Document and in compliance with the GEF requirements, rules and procedures, and (ii) in full synchronisation between them so as to optimize all the possible beneficial impacts of the ABNJ Program as a whole. More specifically, GSC will aim at maximising the synergies between the 4 projects as well as eliminating the overlaps and duplications. In addition to reviewing, commenting and approving the annual progress reports and other relevant documents produced by the Global Program Coordination Unit (GPCU), GSC will advise on cross-cutting issues and problems that may be submitted for consideration by any of the four Project Steering Committees (PSCs). GSC will meet at least once a year and thereafter as frequently as it itself deems necessary, in person and/or through multimedia facilities (e.g. video conferences etc.). GSC will be advised in its work by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

#### Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will be chaired by FAO with participation of representatives of main technical institutions directly concerned with ABNJ governance and management, such as RFMO/As, UNEP-RSP, IMO, ISA, UNESCO-IOC, World Bank and other relevant regional partners involved in projects under the Program and a member of the STAP. TAG members should have a strong scientific/technical background and membership of the TAG need not be limited to institutional representation but may also include scientific or technical experts serving in their personal capacities. The TAG will be in regular contact and ensure peer review and overall technical quality assurance of global outputs, such as best practices, tools, methods and guidelines. TAG will meet as often as requested by GSC and deliver opinion reports as required, in collaboration with the various Project Management Units (PMUs) concerned.

#### ABNJ Program Coordinator

Under the overall supervision of the ADG-FI, the ABNJ Program Coordinator is responsible for the overall coordination of the ABNJ Program. In particular, the Coordinator will:

- Lead the Global Program Coordination Unit (GPCU) set up within the Fisheries Department of FAO for the purpose of coordinating the preparation and implementation of the ABNJ Program as well as providing secretarial services to the Global Steering Committee (GSC) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG);
- Ensure GPCU's overall coordination of the Project Preparation Teams (PPTs) for the four ABNJ projects composing the ABNJ Program, helping them organize their work in a manner that maximizes collaboration and complementarity between the teams;
- Ensure the GPCU's regular and systematic monitoring of the implementation of the four ABNJ projects – particularly their aggregated outputs, outcomes and impacts;
- Using the monitoring results, actively support timely project implementation as well as maximizing synergies and eliminating overlaps between projects;
- Prepare all the necessary periodic programme progress reports required by FAO, GEF and other partners to the ABNJ Program;
- Ensure the flow of information from the Tuna, DSF and OPP projects to the Capacity Project for onwards dissemination, and as advised by the Communications Team, ensure the visibility and promotion

of the programmatic goals and objectives, contributing thus to their achievement, through targeted outreach.

- Provide assistance, as required, to the various external evaluation exercises carried out by FAO, GEF and/or other partners (mainly at midterm and project completion);
- Perform any other related duties as required.

## **B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:**

B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.

The present Program will help the States better fulfill their obligations under “ The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ”, in particular Articles 116 to 119 on conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas and other relevant articles. The Program will also address global calls to reduce as much as possible the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, as specifically requested in various fisheries instruments such as the “ Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the Compliance Agreement) ”, the “ Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (Port State Measures Agreement) ”, the “ Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) ” and the “ International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU) ”.

The Program also responds to guidance from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) concerning EBSAs beyond national jurisdiction. In its eighth meeting, the CoP expressed its deep concern about the serious threats posed by destructive fishing practices and IUU fishing to marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, in particular to seamounts, cold water coral reefs and hydrothermal vents. In subsequent meetings, scientific criteria for identifying EBSAs in need of protection were adopted and all relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations were encouraged to cooperate collectively and on a regional or sub-regional basis, to identify and adopt appropriate measures for conservation and sustainable use in relation to EBSAs. The CoP invited GEF and other donors to extend support for capacity-building to developing countries in this regard.

In addition, the Program supports the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as adopted by the CoP in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in particular by 2020: Target 6 – all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits; and Target 11 – at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially those of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

B.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities

The Program will support the implementation of the IW Objective 4, Outcome 4.1: ABNJ (including deep-sea fisheries, oceans areas and seamounts) under sustainable management and protection (including MPAs from BD area), mainly through: (i) the strengthening of the capability of decision-makers, particularly from developing countries, to participate in global/regional processes for the management and coordination of activities in the ABNJ, (ii) the improvement and broadening of sustainable tuna fisheries management, in accordance with an ecosystem approach, throughout the five t-RFMOs, (iii) the demonstration of improved tools and practices for sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity

conservation in two pilot cases of the ABNJ deep-seas, (iv) the preparation of marine profiles and business plans, with investment niches clearly defined, for five priority seascapes, and (v) the provision of 15 grants to civil society or the private sector to improve fisheries management in priority seascapes.

The Program will also support the implementation of the IW Objective 4, Outcome 4.2: Plans and institutional frameworks for pilot cases of ABNJ have catalytic effect on global discussions, mainly through: (i) the improved use of the latest policy and scientific tools in the decision-making and planning processes of the competent authorities [RFMO/As and member countries, CBD countries, Regional Seas Programs, flag and port states {as appropriate}], (ii) the implementation of a pilot RBM system in at least one t-RFMO, (iii) the reduction by 20% from the baseline at project start, in the number of illegal vessels operating in one pilot t-RFMO, and (iv) the development of plans and strengthening of institutional frameworks in two pilot cases covering XXha of ABNJ seascape.

Furthermore, the Program will contribute to the implementation of the BD Objective 1, Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas, mainly through: (i) the adoption of bycatch mitigation best technologies and practices by at least 40% of the tuna vessels operating in the areas under the jurisdiction of at least two t-RFMOs, (ii) the substantial improvement of deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation practices, including VMEs and EBSAs, in the two Southern Indian Ocean and Southeast Atlantic regions, and (iii) the awarding of five grants to the civil society, communities or the public sector to improve the management effectiveness of marine protected areas in priority seascapes.

The Program will also contribute to the implementation of the BD Objective 2, Outcome 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation, mainly through the output that at least half the competent authorities [RFMO/As and member countries, CBD countries, RSOs, flag and port states {as appropriate}] are fully capable of applying identification criteria for VMEs and EBSAs, as well as developing management strategies for the ABNJ. Also, through the preparation and implementation of marine profiles and business plans in five priority seascapes, biodiversity conservation considerations and measurable outcomes will be incorporated in the sustainable management of the seascapes.

In addition, the Program will contribute to the implementation of the BD Objective 2, Outcome 2.2: Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks, mainly through: (i) the development of efficient tools and practices for improving ABNJ deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation, (ii) the enhancement of sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation through cross-sectoral policy coordination, and (iii) the showcasing of lessons learned and validated best practice approaches through multimedia tools and focused advocacy work. The latter will facilitate consideration and adoption of relevant policy and managerial frameworks in other areas and regions.

Finally, the Program meets the objectives of the Biodiversity Focal Area Set-Aside to address supra-national strategic priorities and support priorities identified by the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as it will contribute to meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by CoP10 for 2020.

B.3 The GEF Agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and Agencies comparative advantage for implementing this project:

The Project's objectives are very coherent with those of FAO. The organization has multi-disciplinary competence at the global level in all thematic areas of marine and freshwater fisheries in general. Of particular relevance to this project are the following expected outcomes from the member countries:

- Members and other stakeholders have improved formulation of policies and standards that facilitate the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other international instruments, as well as response to emerging issues,
- Governance of fisheries and aquaculture has improved through the establishment or strengthening of national and regional institutions, including RFBs,

- More effective management of marine and inland capture fisheries by FAO members and other stakeholders has contributed to the improved state of fisheries resources, ecosystems and their sustainable use,
- Operation of fisheries, including the use of vessels and fishing gear, is made safer, more technically and socio-economically efficient, environmentally-friendly and compliant with rules at all levels,
- Members and other stakeholders have achieved more responsible post-harvest utilization and trade of fisheries and aquaculture products, including more predictable and harmonized market access requirements.

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is well staffed with internationally-recruited specialists at the headquarters in Rome as well as in the regional and country representations.

**C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:**

The GPCU will be in charge of preparing an M&E framework including specific and measurable output and outcome indicators. Based on data from the individual projects, the GPCU will synthesize, aggregate where possible, and report 6 monthly on program progress. M&E information will help to identify emerging good practices in projects and will be linked to the development of learning products. Program level M&E information, project level performance reports and program learning products, will be available on a common, easy-to-access portal. A final review will be carried out at the end of the project.

<b>M&amp;E activity and frequency</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Budget in USD</b>
Establishment of a Program level M&E system with established linkages among the four ABNJ projects, first year of Program implementation	Information needed for Program Progress Reports and Programmatic Report	75,000
Program Progress Reports 6 monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress of all ABNJ projects towards stated outcomes</li> <li>• Implementation Progress of all ABNJ Projects</li> </ul>	45,000
Programmatic Report yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project status: project approval/endorsed dates; project start dates; year of implementation; final project amount; final co-finance commitment;</li> <li>• Key issues related to program development</li> </ul>	15,000
Final Review, at project end	ToRs to be discussed	4,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>139,000</b>

**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)

**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

<b>This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.</b>					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Gustavo Merino, Director Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla (00153) Rome, Italy <a href="mailto:TCL-Director@fao.org">TCL-Director@fao.org</a>		April 30, 2014	Jeremy Turner	0039- 0657056446	Jeremy.Turner@fao.org

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

See Section B of this document.



## Annex B Results Based Budget

BUDGET in USD																		
Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1:							Component 2:				Component 3:			Total
				1.1.1	1.1.2	1.1.3	1.1.4	1.1.5	1.1.6	Total	2.1.1	2.1.2	2.1.3	Total	3.1.1	3.1.2	Total	
<b>5570 Human Resources</b>																		
Global Program Coordinator	week	51.8	2,500	2,500	5,000	25,000	25,000	59,500	12,716	129,716				0			0	129,716
M&E Specialist	week	40.0	2,500							0	50,000	50,000		100,000				100,000
Senior M&E Specialist	week	6.0	2,500							0	15,000			15,000				15,000
Information Officer	week	24.0	2,500							0				0	15,000	45,000	60,000	45,000
<b>Sub-total human resources</b>				2,500	5,000	25,000	25,000	59,500	12,716	129,716	65,000	50,000	0	115,000	15,000	45,000	60,000	289,716
<b>5900 Travel</b>																		0
GPCU	lumps	15.0	5,000			35,000	15,000	25,000		75,000				0				75,000
M&E Specialists	lumps	4.0	5,000							0	10,000	10,000		20,000				20,000
Informations Officer	lumps	1.0	5,000							0				0		5,000	5,000	5,000
Global Steering Committee	lumps	10.0	5,000		60,000					50,000				0				50,000
<b>5900 Sub-total travel</b>				0	50,000	35,000	15,000	25,000	0	125,000	10,000	10,000	0	20,000	0	5,000	5,000	150,000
<b>5650 Contracts</b>																		0
Final Review	lumps	1.0	4,000							0			4,000	4,000				4,000
<b>5900 Sub-total Contracts</b>										0	0	0	4,000	4,000				4,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				2,500	5,000	60,000	40,000	84,500	12,716	254,716	75,000	60,000	4,000	139,000	15,000	50,000	65,000	458,716