

Fisheries and environment

Challenges and opportunities

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FEG



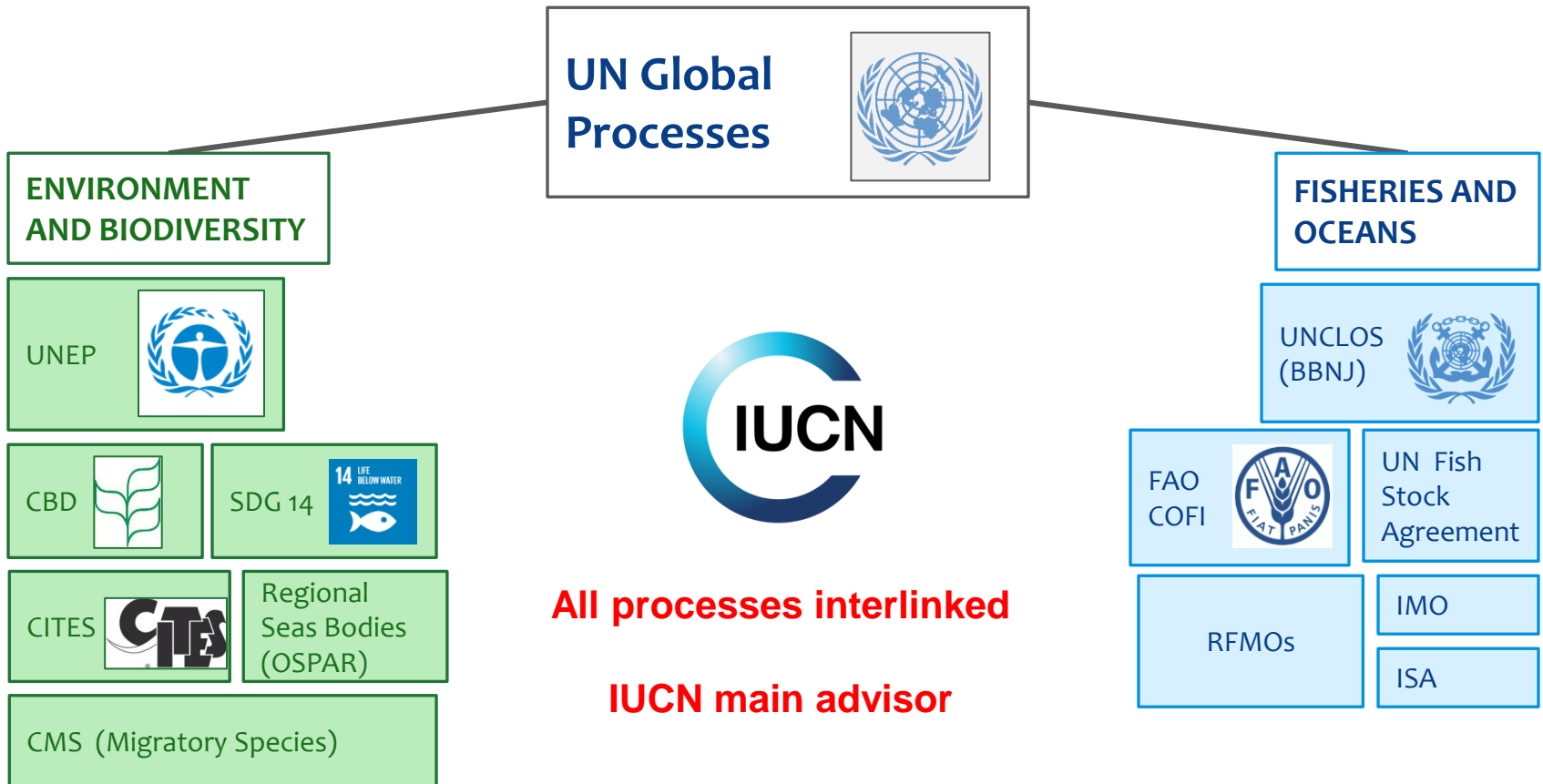
Fisheries and environment: Challenges and Opportunities

- Setting the scene
- International Ocean Governance: Overview & Next Meetings
- Global Commitments
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity key to all processes
- From Aichi Targets to the Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets
- Other fisheries and environment related processes

Setting the scene

- International Ocean Governance: very complex with different UN agencies, institutions, actors and sectors involved
- Climate Change & Environment now imperative for fisheries policy
- 2020 was to be the Super Year of Oceans & Biodiversity
- All processes postponed to 2021
- Global decisions impact regional and national policies

Overview of global ocean governance



Global Commitments

Binding commitments

- **AICHI Biodiversity Targets (CBD):**
 - **Target 6** sustainable fisheries, MSY for all stocks by 2020
 - **Target 11** achieve 10% of MPAs
- **SDGs - SDG14 for Oceans:**
 - **Target 14.4** sustainable fisheries by 2020
 - **Target 14.5** 10% MPAs by 2020
- **BBNJ:** new International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI)
- **Paris Agreement on Climate (UNFCCC)**
 - **Oceans** increasingly important

Global Commitments

Non binding commitments

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

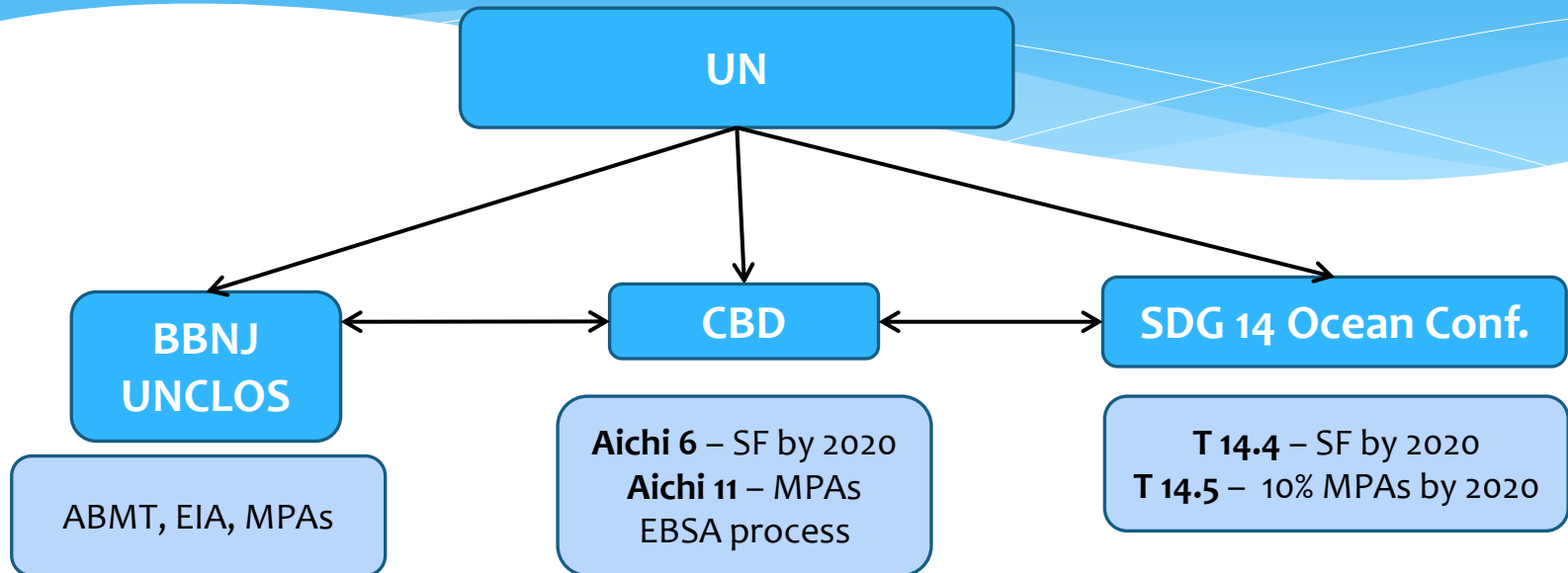
Ongoing processes postponed to 2021

Never before there have been such an interconnection between different processes

- BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference
- CBD COP (Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets)
- UN Ocean Conference: SDG 14 implementation
- IUCN World Conservation Congress
- UN Climate Change Conference
- FAO COFI (Committee on Fisheries)
- Scientific processes: IPBES (biodiversity), IPCC (climate)
- CITES, Convention on Migratory Species

Numerous webinars, intersessional work, preparatory meetings and extended consultations to advance progress

CBD central to all UN processes



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

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

From Aichi Targets to the Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets

- **Aichi Targets 2010-2020 included 2 fisheries targets: Aichi Target 6 (Sustainable Fisheries) and 11 (MPAs)**
- **Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets (2021-2030) under discussion**
- **The process run by the CBD - involves all other UN processes (BBNJ, SDG 14...)**
- **Final decision by CBD COP next year**
- **CBD/SBSTTA (Subsidiary Body) prepares the scientific basis for the final decision**

In preparation to CBD COP

- A **Post-2020 Taskforce** launched last year, met twice and produced a Zero Draft.
- **Thematic consultations** related oceans and fisheries
- **Virtual Sessions** currently taking place.
- Meeting of the **Subsidiary Body (SBSTTA)** to be held in March 2021.
- Post-2020 Biodiversity **Targets** to be **adopted at CBD COP** in China, May 2021.
- **The EU Biodiversity Strategy follows this process, led by DG ENV in consultation with DG MARE.**

What's new in these targets ?

- **No sector-specific Targets** as before
- **Much wider and embracing other processes** (BBNJ, SDG 14, Climate, CMS, CITES...)
- **5 long-term goals (2050) and 20 short-term targets (2030)**
- **IPBES** (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) : **crucial partner to CBD**
- **More interconnection between climate and biodiversity**
- **Decisions not taken by Ministries of Environment alone anymore** – Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries to be consulted
- **Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets**

What's new in these targets ?

- **Fisheries touched in different targets**

- 1. Reducing threats to biodiversity**

30% MPAs & OECMs (10% high protection currently removed),
MSP, sustainable harvest, trade and use of wild species, IUU

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

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

- 3. Implementation and mainstreaming**

Fisheries subsidies, economic incentives, eco-labelling,
biodiversity mainstreaming in fisheries, seafood supply-chain
transformation, sustainable consumption

Other processes

- **IUCN World Conservation Congress**
- **UN Ocean Conference SDG14**
- **FAO COFI**
- **BBNJ: negotiations for a new legally-binding high-seas Treaty**
- **IPBES**
- **UN Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

IUCN 2021 World Conservation Congress

- **IUCN main advisor and important player in all UN processes**
- Biggest environmental gathering with Governments, NGOs and civil society - **Marseilles, France, January 7-15**
- Oceans and fisheries high in the agenda
- Resolutions adopted although not legally binding carry a lot of weight
- The EP is preparing a delegation with MEP Catherine Chabaud

FAO COFI

- FAO increasingly **linked to UN environmental processes**
- International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability
- **2020 SOFIA Report**: “There is no alternative to sustainability”
- **FAO Declaration on Sustainable Fisheries** under discussion, to be adopted at FAO COFI, now postponed

UN Ocean Conference postponed to 2021

- **New directions for the implementation of SDG 14:** progress made and next steps will be discussed, **Portugal playing a key role.**
- **Partnerships for the implementation of SDG 14:** enhanced collaboration between governments, industry, NGOs, and science.



UN Climate Change

- COP25 in Madrid as “**The Blue COP**”
- Oceans-climate nexus to be discussed at COP26, postponed to November 2021
- **Impacts of climate change on fisheries**, MPAs as nature-based solutions, fish as low-carbon protein, offshore energy...

Conclusions

- All processes increasingly interconnected and interlinked.
- The current **EU consultation on International Ocean Governance** addresses and contributes to all these processes.
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy** follows and influences all these processes and is largely based on the CBD.
- All processes more **inter-institutional, inter-UN agency, and inter-disciplinary** oriented

Thank you!

For more information on
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