

## In This Issue

- Welcome!
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Focus on GOBI Partners:
  - UNU-IAS
  - MCBI
  - UNEP-WCMC
  - BirdLife International
  - CSIRO
- European Marine Biology Symposium
- Upcoming Meetings
- GOBI Brochure
- GOBI Website
- Join GOBI

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the September Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative newsletter!

The GOBI newsletters will give you an update on GOBI's progress and achievements, portray our Partners' work as well as present the development of marine biodiversity conservation on the high seas.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to interested parties. If you would like to be added to or removed from this list please e-mail Carole Durussel, GOBI Project Officer, GIS: [carole.durussel \[at\] iucn.org](mailto:carole.durussel[at]iucn.org).

Missed an issue? You will find all GOBI newsletters on the GOBI Website under: [www.GOBI.org/news](http://www.GOBI.org/news)

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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Galapagos blue-footed booby

Credit: Rod Mast/Marine Photobank

Have you ever wondered what EBSAs are and how EBSA criteria can be used?

How are these criteria applied with depth and what impact climate change may have?

What type of scientific data exist for marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and what capacity building tools are available?

You will find the answers to these questions and more on the GOBI Website: [www.gobi.org/faqs](http://www.gobi.org/faqs)

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## Focus on GOBI Partners: UNU-IAS

By Marjo Vierros, UNU-IAS



Located in Yokohama, Japan, the United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) is amongst the newest in the international network of 15 research and training centres within the UNU system. The Institute conducts research, postgraduate education and capacity development, both in-house and in cooperation with an interactive network of academic institutions and international organisations. The

thematic direction of IAS research concerns the interaction of social and natural systems. Thus, this research combines the social sciences with some of the physical and life sciences and is aimed at the development of informed policy-making to address global concerns.

The UNU-IAS Global Marine Governance Project (GMG) is an active partner in GOBI. The overall aim of the GMG is to assist United Nations agencies and their member States through targeted research and capacity building to achieve conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources and biodiversity. The GMG also seeks to contribute to the ongoing scientific and policy debates relating to marine ecosystems, the pressures they are facing, and means for their improved management. Recent work has focused on topics such as marine genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction, implementation of the ecosystem approach in deep and open ocean areas, the role of traditional knowledge in management of marine and coastal resources, and the role of marine biodiversity in climate change adaptation. The GMG has also undertaken a number of activities in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity.

As a collaborating partner in GOBI, UNU-IAS will focus on developing activities related to capacity building, including through regional workshops.

For more information, please visit: [www.ias.unu.edu/](http://www.ias.unu.edu/)

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## Focus on GOBI Partners: MCBI

By Jeff Ardron, MCBI

Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI) is a non-profit, tax-exempt US-based organisation dedicated to advancing the emerging science of marine conservation biology. The high seas team is composed of eight marine experts (5 PhDs + 3 Masters) focussed on marine conservation issues, such as marine reserves, bottom trawling, predictive coral habitat modelling, ocean zoning and ocean acidification. MCBI researchers publish and are quoted in academic journals, scientific books and the electronic and print media. MCBI also organises and participates in scientific workshops and symposia. All of our projects seek to connect good decision-making with good science.



Current GOBI-related projects include the development of the online GOBI EBSA submission tool (with Duke University); analysing oceanographic, satellite, and biological data to delineate the extent of the Sargasso Sea; a global analysis of benthic and pelagic complexity; and predictive deep-sea coral and sponge habitat mapping. MCBI believes in taking a collaborative approach to most of its projects, drawing in researchers and other organisations with expertise in the issues. MCBI has been a long-time member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC) and is one of the founding Partners of GOBI, serving on its Science Board.

For more information, please visit: [www.mcbi.org/](http://www.mcbi.org/)

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## Focus on GOBI Partners: UNEP-WCMC

By Louisa Wood and Colleen Corrigan, UNEP-WCMC



The United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre is based in Cambridge, UK, and leads on the synthesis, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity knowledge. With a growing staff of 80 people, UNEP-WCMC's main aim is to provide authoritative, strategic and timely information for conventions, countries, organisations and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions.

The Centre has contributed as a founding member of GOBI through its early contributions to the Convention on Biological Diversity on spatial databases for areas beyond national jurisdiction. Since 2007, it has been building its work around high seas protection issues by producing substantive documents, maps and web-based interactive mapping products that can assist with access to information and decision-making.

In addition to contributing to the overall functioning and objectives of GOBI, there are three specific areas in which UNEP-WCMC continues to engage. The first involves the further development of tools such as an online ocean data viewer, which will provide access to the key spatial datasets required for planning marine conservation and sustainable management in the open ocean and deep seas. The second area is the development of regional approaches for identifying EBSAs as well as linking with existing political and science-based initiatives to expand ocean protection. The pilot phase of this work is taking place in the Pacific Ocean region. The third area involves planning for capacity building activities, such as toolkits and the generation of lessons learned, that can improve high seas protection processes in the future.

For more information, please visit: [www.unep-wcmc.org/](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/)

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## Focus on GOBI Partners: BirdLife International

By Ben Lascelles, BirdLife International



BirdLife International is a global Partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. We're the world's largest partnership of conservation organisations and have Partners in over 110 countries and territories.

Seabirds, particularly albatrosses, are becoming increasingly threatened and at a faster rate globally than all other species-groups of birds; they face a wide variety of threats both on land and at sea.

We know that seabird conservation needs to be addressed globally, and consequently set up BirdLife's Global Seabird Programme to:

- Address seabird conservation issues at a global level, as appropriate, and engage relevant stakeholders regionally and internationally;
- Facilitate existing, and promote new, initiatives to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds by fisheries, particularly in respect of longlining;
- Establish and support a network of BirdLife Partners and others to influence global and regional policies affecting seabirds.

An important aspect of the Global Seabird Programme is the identification of marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs). IBAs are priority sites for conservation, which are critical for the long-term viability of bird populations and other associated taxa and habitats. They are chosen using quantitative, standardised, globally agreed criteria.

An initial list of candidate marine IBAs has been compiled, and this summarises those IBAs considered marine because of the seabird populations they contain. At present complete national marine IBA inventories have been compiled by BirdLife Partners in Spain (SEO / BirdLife) and Portugal (SPEA). Over 40 Birdlife Partners are currently engaged in work to identify marine IBAs, so many more inventories are soon to follow.

If you'd like to find out more about BirdLife's Global Seabird Programme work, please click a link below:

- Global Seabird Programme home
- Marine Important Bird Areas
- Save the Albatross
- Global Agreements
- Alien Eradications
- Seabird News
- Contact and Information

For more information, please visit: [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)

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## Focus on GOBI Partners: CSIRO

By Piers Dunstan, CSIRO



CSIRO is Australia's national science agency, encompassing a diversity of research areas. Its mission is to deliver great science and innovative solutions to Australian business and industry, Australian governments and their agencies, and the Australian and international communities. CSIRO's ocean research is delivered through the Wealth from Oceans Flagship – Australia's largest marine science programme.

By taking a national-scale approach and integrating ocean and coastal understanding,

the Flagship is helping Australia address national challenges and secure enduring social, environmental and economic wealth from its vast coastline and ocean territory. The Flagship's research covers marine biodiversity assessment and conservation, sustainable food production from marine sources, innovative ocean modelling and observing technologies, the ocean's role in climate change and variability, climate change impacts on marine ecosystems and industries, offshore energy and mineral resource exploration and production, novel marine industries and multiple-use management for marine and coastal ecosystems.

The Wealth from Oceans Flagship is supporting management of multiple human activities in the marine and coastal zone to reap social and economic benefits while maintaining the integrity of the environment. Across CSIRO and through partnerships, the Flagship's research portfolio taps strengths in biophysical research, socio-economics, statistics and data assimilation, and sensor networks, assembling a world-leading team with unique capacity to address coastal and marine management issues.

For more information, please visit: [www.csiro.au/](http://www.csiro.au/)

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## European Marine Biology Symposium

By Malcolm Clark, CenSeam



The 45<sup>th</sup> European Marine Biology Symposium (EMBS) was held at Heriot-Watt University just outside Edinburgh, Scotland (23-27 August 2010). There were about 200 participants at this highly diverse meeting, which included sessions on marine disease, biotechnology, renewable energy, climate change, invasive organisms, seamounts, and conservation.

The sessions on Seamounts, and Marine Conservation had several papers that were of interest and relevance to GOBI. The UK is actively pursuing a programme to establish a deep-sea marine protected area network. Some of the background to this, and research being done to support it, were described by speakers from the Joint Nature Conservation Council and University of Plymouth. The emphasis is on identifying areas of coral and sponge, which can be recommended as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and recent surveys have been carried out on Rockall Bank and Anton Dohrn Seamount. Actual survey work complements a broader benthic classification scheme which has described over 50 "biotopes", a study on the effectiveness of using predictive species distribution modelling to identify "proxy areas", and modelling which combines physical, oceanographic and biological data to predict the distribution of biotopes.

The session on Seamounts also had two presentations which summarised the key results from the last 5 years of research by CenSeam (the Census of Marine Life on Seamounts programme of CoML).

For more information, please visit the conference website: <http://www.sls.hw.ac.uk/EMBS2010/>

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## Upcoming Meetings

**World Ocean Conference**, San Francisco, USA, 7-10 September 2010

**World Seabird Conference**, Victoria, Canada, 7-11 September 2010

**Census of Marine Life Press Briefing**, London, UK, 4 October 2010

**CBD 10th Conference of Parties (COP 10)**, Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010

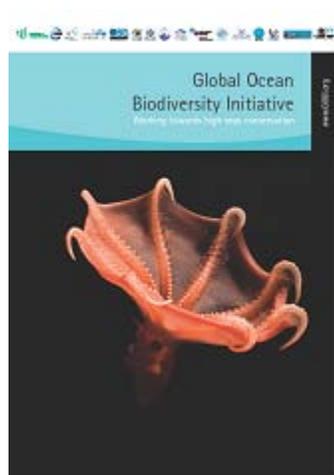
**American Association for the Advancement of Science**, Washington DC, USA, 17-21 February 2011

**International Marine Conservation Congress**, Victoria BC, Canada, 12-14 May 2011

**World Conference on Marine Biodiversity**, Aberdeen, UK, 26-29 September 2011

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## GOBI Brochure



The GOBI brochure entitled “*Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative: Working Towards High Seas Conservation*” was launched in February 2010. It gives an overview of GOBI’s work and provides an example of how each of the CBD EBSA criteria can be applied.

The GOBI brochure can be downloaded at: [www.gobi.org/About](http://www.gobi.org/About). Hard copies can be sent on request. Please contact Carole Durussel, GOBI Project Officer: [carole.durussel \[at\] iucn.org](mailto:carole.durussel@iucn.org).

All the GOBI publications can be found on the GOBI website under: [www.gobi.org/Library](http://www.gobi.org/Library)

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## GOBI Website



The GOBI website provides you with more information about the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, its work and partners.

A revolving globe shows the location of the GOBI illustrations and gives information about the application of the CBD EBSA criteria for each of these illustrations.

Please visit the GOBI website under: [www.GOBI.org](http://www.GOBI.org)

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## Join GOBI



Stoloteuthis sp. Squid  
Credit: Sarah Gotheil/IUCN

The Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative continues to seek collaborators and to involve a larger number of experts from science, governments, international and non-governmental organisations, as well as industry and traditional communities to help bring the best science and data to improve the capacity to evaluate and identify ecologically significant areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

We welcome and encourage interested parties to become involved in the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative. Please contact:

**Patricio Bernal**, GOBI Project Coordinator: [patricio.bernal \[at\] iucn.org](mailto:patricio.bernal@iucn.org)

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