



## **Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic**

Marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) cover about half of the planet's surface, have high biodiversity and deliver important ecosystem services. While there is a growing economic and political interest in exploitation of marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction, there is no comprehensive legal regime for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in these areas to date. In this regard, the international community agreed in 2015 to develop a global, legally binding agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction under the UN Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS). Pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 72/249 of December 2017, the negotiations of this instrument will start in April 2018.

The STRONG High Seas project is a five-year project that aims to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Working with the Secretariat of the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS; Permanent Commission for the South Pacific) and the Secretariat of the West and Central Africa Regional Seas Programme (Abidjan Convention), the project will develop and propose targeted measures to support the coordinated development of integrated and ecosystem-based management approaches for ocean governance in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The STRONG High Seas project has the following overarching objectives:

- 1) Facilitate the development of improved management approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic regions;
- 2) Identify best practices and provide support to regional institutions and national authorities for implementing existing regional instruments;
- 3) Develop options for regional governance in a future international instrument under UNCLOS and transfer regional lessons learned to the global level to promote ocean governance.

This workshop will be the opportunity to bring together stakeholders within the region to discuss the current status and challenges for global and regional ocean governance, foster exchange and build new networks, as well as identify the key interests and challenges in ocean governance faced by the region. With the objective of kicking off the discussions and the work of the STRONG High Seas project in the Southeast Atlantic region, this workshop will particularly:

- Present and characterise the current status and challenges for ocean governance in the Southeast Atlantic, especially with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, with a focus on areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Identify and define key interests and challenges for ocean governance in the Southeast Atlantic, especially with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Topics to be covered include: a) environmental

pressures; b) biodiversity and marine ecosystems; c) socioeconomic costs and benefits; and d) management and governance.

- Prioritise current and future needs for strengthening ocean governance and identify pathways for successfully linking regional needs and opportunities with a global vision of ocean governance.
- Take initial steps towards fostering exchange between relevant actors and stakeholders in the Southeast Atlantic. This workshop will provide an opportunity to identify existing networks and discuss options as well as lay the groundwork for establishing regional platforms for exchange.
- Identify and assess opportunities, challenges, overlaps and gaps in the current legal and institutional framework in the Southeast Atlantic. Research undertaken by the STRONG High Seas project will be shared with participants and will provide a basis for discussion.

Partners of the STRONG High Seas project:



Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

The STRONG High Seas project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI; [www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/](http://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/)). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

## Workshop Agenda

27 June 2018	
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	<i>Registration and Welcome Coffee</i>
<b>9:00 – 9:45</b>	<p><b>Session 0: Welcome and Opening of the Meeting</b></p> <p>Moderated by Ben Boteler (IASS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open of the meeting Abou Bamba (Abidjan Convention Secretariat) (5 mins)</li> <li>• Welcome on behalf of the STRONG High Seas project Julien Rochette (IDDRI) (5 mins)</li> <li>• Welcome behalf of Germany Ambassador Michael Grau (German Embassy in Abidjan) (5 mins)</li> <li>• Welcome on behalf of host country Côte d'Ivoire TBD (5 mins)</li> <li>• Review of agenda, aim of the workshop and approval by participants Ben Boteler (IASS) (5 mins)</li> <li>• Tour de table (all) (20 mins)</li> </ul>
<b>9:45 – 11:00</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Introduction to the State of Play in Ocean Governance and the STRONG High Seas Project</b></p> <p><b>Session 1.1: State of Play in Regional and Global Ocean Governance</b></p> <p>Objective: Presentation of current status and challenges of ocean governance, with a focus on areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) at both regional and global levels.</p> <p>Moderated by Ben Boteler (IASS)</p> <p>Presentation: Marine Biodiversity and the State of the High Seas — overview on the importance of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, human activities taking place in ABNJ and their pressure on biodiversity, connectivity between areas of national jurisdiction and ABNJ. Ross Wanless (BirdLife International) (20 mins + 10 mins questions)</p> <p>Presentation: Regional and Global Ocean Governance – overview on the importance of ABNJ and the state of regional and global ocean governance. Julien Rochette (IDDRI) (20 mins + 10 mins questions)</p> <p>Discussion – 15 minutes</p>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break and Group Photo</i>
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Introduction to the State of Play in Ocean Governance and the STRONG High Seas Project</b></p> <p><b>Session 1.2: Introduction to the STRONG High Seas Project</b></p> <p>Objective: Present the STRONG High Seas project, its objectives and planned work programme as well as the plan and objectives for the two day workshop.</p> <p>Moderated by Ben Boteler (IASS)</p> <p>Presentation: Ocean governance in the Southeast Atlantic– overview of the Abidjan Convention’s work in the Southeast Atlantic region, including current and planned activities in regard to ABNJ. Abou Bamba (Abidjan Convention Secretariat) (20 mins + 5 mins questions)</p> <p>Presentation: STRONG High Seas Project – introduction to the project, its partners, work programme, scientific objectives and research, with a particular focus on current research on the institutional and legal framework of the Southeast Atlantic. Ben Boteler (IASS) (20 mins + 5 mins questions)</p> <p>Discussion – 10 minutes</p>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Key Interests and Challenges for Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic</b></p> <p>Objective: Identify key interests and challenges for ocean governance in the Southeast Atlantic</p> <p>Moderated by Ross Wanless (BirdLife International)</p> <p>Prepared statements and open discussion for further statements from other workshop participants.</p>

<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	<p><b>Session 2.1: Key Interests and Challenges - Break-out Groups</b></p> <p>Objective: Identify and prioritise the key components of ABNJ including with regard to human activities (socioeconomics), environmental pressures, and biodiversity and marine ecosystems to create a regional visualisation of the social-ecological system. In addition to developing the visualisation, the break-out groups are intended to provide a space for stakeholders to discuss and exchange about key topics.</p> <p>Moderated by Ross Wanless (BirdLife International)</p> <p>Three groups of mixed stakeholders. Each group to cover all three topics together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human activities (socioeconomic costs and benefits)</li> <li>• Environmental pressures</li> <li>• Biodiversity and marine ecosystems</li> </ul>
<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>	<p><b>Session 2.2: Key Interests and Challenges - Plenary Summary</b></p> <p>Moderated by Ross Wanless (BirdLife International)</p> <p>Objective: Reporting back by group moderators and rapporteurs to plenary and present findings from the break out groups. (5 mins per group)</p> <p>Discussion – 15 minutes</p>
<b>19:00</b>	<i>Meeting dinner – Restaurant Maquis du Val</i> [Cocody Val Doyen 2, rue Sainte Marie, Abidjan]

<b>28 June 2018</b>	
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	<i>Welcome coffee</i>
<b>9:00 – 9:15</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Summary of Day 1 Discussions</b></p> <p>Moderated by Ben Boteler (IASS)</p>
<b>9:15 – 10:00</b>	<p><b>Presentations by other invited experts</b></p> <p>Objective: This session is used to enable other invited guests conducting research or other activities relevant to ocean governance in the region to make a presentation and update participants on their work and relationship to the STRONG High Seas project.</p> <p>Moderated by Ben Boteler (IASS)</p> <p>Presentation: Mami Wata Project – Richard Dacosta (Abidjan Convention Secretariat) (15 mins + 5 mins questions)</p> <p>Presentation: Collective Arrangement between OSPAR and NEAFC – Darius Campbell (NEAFC Secretariat) (15 mins + 5 mins questions)</p> <p>Discussion – 5 minutes</p>
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Legal, Institutional, and Stakeholder Analysis</b></p> <p>Objective: Highlight the importance of stakeholder participation to governance processes within the current legal and institutional framework.</p> <p>Moderated by Ben Boteler (IASS)</p> <p>Presentation: Stakeholder Participation and Governance of the High Seas – Overview of the link between stakeholder participation and good governance, including critical conditions for stakeholder participation, examples from other processes and regions, and ideas for defining stakeholders for ABNJ. Adnan Awad (IOI) (10 mins)</p> <p>Discussion – 20 minutes</p>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>11:00 –</b>	<b>Session 3.1: Stakeholder Analysis and Participation - Break-out Groups</b>

<b>12:30</b>	<p>Objective: Identify and define the key stakeholders, their main interests, influence, and challenges regarding participation in ocean governance as well as opportunities for improving participation.</p> <p>Moderated by Adnan Awad (IOI) (10 mins)</p> <p>Three groups of mixed stakeholders. Each group to cover all topics together.</p>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Session 3.2: Legal and Institutional Analysis and Stakeholder Platform - Break-out Groups</b></p> <p>Objective: Identify the legal and institutional challenges in high seas governance in the Southeast Atlantic and discuss the design and establishment of a stakeholder platform. The break-out groups are intended to provide a space for stakeholders to discuss and exchange about key topics.</p> <p>Moderated by Adnan Awad (IOI)</p> <p>Three groups of mixed stakeholders. Each group to cover all three topics together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder Analysis and Participation (cont.)</li> <li>• Stakeholder Platform</li> <li>• Legal Framework</li> </ul>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<p><b>Session 3.3: Legal, Institutional, and Stakeholder Analysis - Plenary Summary</b></p> <p>Objective: Reporting back by group moderators and rapporteurs to plenary and present findings from the break out groups. (5 mins per group)</p> <p>Moderated by Adnan Awad (IOI)</p> <p>Discussion – 15 minutes</p>
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	<p><b>Outlook and Next Steps</b></p> <p>Objective: Wrap up the workshop and inform participants of plans and potential proposals for future collaborative efforts. Short round to field any questions from above sessions and discuss with participants if they have proposals for the role of the STRONG High Seas project. Identify priorities for collaboration and potential opportunities.</p> <p>Short anonymous survey to be given to all participants at the end of the workshop to gauge their experience and satisfaction with the workshop (10 mins).</p> <p>Moderated by Ben Boteler (IASS)</p> <p>Discussion – 30 minutes</p>
<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>	<p><b>Closing of Workshop</b></p> <p>Moderated by Ben Boteler (IASS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing of the meeting Abou Bamba (Abidjan Convention Secretariat) (5 mins)</li> <li>• Closing on behalf of the STRONG High Seas project Julien Rochette (IDDRI) (5 mins)</li> </ul>