

Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic – Dialogue Workshop 1

Workshop Summary

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. Collaborating with the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention, the project aims to develop and propose targeted measures to support the coordinated development of integrated and ecosystem-based management approaches for ocean governance in the Southeast Atlantic.

Representatives from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Togo and Senegal as well as, global and regional organisations, regional scientific institutions, academia and NGOs took part in a two-day workshop. 37 participants attended the workshop (see Table 1). The workshop took place from 27-28 June 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and provided the participants with an opportunity to discuss the current status, interests and challenges for global and regional ocean governance, foster exchange and build new networks.



Group picture. Photo by IASS.

A photo gallery from the workshop can be found [here](#).
The workshop agenda can be found [here](#).
The workshop presentations can be found [here](#) (English and French).

For more information about the STRONG High Seas project, please visit: <https://www.iass-potsdam.de/en/research/strengthening-regional-ocean-governance-high-seas-strong-high-seas> and <http://www.prog-ocean.org/strong-high-seas-iki-project-launched-at-un-ocean-conference/#more-275> or contact: stronghighseas@iass-potsdam.de.

Key messages

- **High seas biodiversity both globally and to the region of the Southeast Atlantic** was identified as highly important for human activities, such as fisheries, as well as ecosystem services, such as climate change regulation. Other human activities taking place in the Southeast Atlantic region highlighted during the workshop include navigation and transport, underwater cables, exploitation of marine genetic resources, and deep sea mining (in the future). IUU was specified to be a critical issue within the region placing pressure on marine biodiversity
- **Key pressures on the high seas in the Southeast Atlantic** were identified to be pollution through materials and waste (land based), overexploitation of marine resources, destruction of marine habitats, noise pollution, contamination through fuels and ballast water disposal, ocean warming and acidification, and collisions. Workshop participants agreed that most of these pressures will likely increase in the future as activities on the high seas will expand
- A critical factor affecting the status of marine health and ultimately human wellbeing was highlighted to be the **connectivity between marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and coastal areas**.
- Workshop participants agreed that **knowledge exchange, collaboration and cooperation among different stakeholders in the region should be improved**, especially in view of the UN negotiations on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and with regard to regional actions.
- In general, there was agreement that **existing organisations should be reinforced to ensure the implementation of existing agreements** and build a base for the implementation of the future international instrument. Within much of the Southeast Atlantic region, there are limited or weak national mechanisms as well as integration of sectoral ocean departments.
- **Lack of awareness** about issues related to ABNJ amongst decision makers and civil society was identified as a key challenge in the Southeast Atlantic region. Participants suggested that an information-sharing mechanism or tool where stakeholders can connect, share and access information could be an important mode to reach a broad audience and create awareness about the high seas within the region.
- **Expanding the mandate of the Abidjan Convention to include ABNJ was discussed during the workshop**. The Abidjan Convention Secretariat was identified as having a highly important convening role in the region in terms of coordinating collaboration between member States. Strengthening its links to other regional actors, such as Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), could also be considered by the contracting parties. An example of such collaboration can be demonstrated for instance by the Collective Arrangement in Northeast Atlantic between OSPAR and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).
- The **launch of an ABNJ working group under the Abidjan Convention** specifically tasked with covering the topic of ABNJ could help strengthen collaboration and facilitate the development of a shared vision for the region. Such an initiative should build on previous efforts and include biological as well as socioeconomic considerations.
- **Capacity building and technology transfer was identified as the most important BBNJ topic for the region** and the basis for the other BBNJ elements (i.e. area-based management tools, environmental impact assessments, and marine genetic resources) to be negotiated at the UN.
- To date, African countries have had limited participation in the BBNJ discussions. Capacity building workshops covering key issues of the BBNJ negotiations were identified as important for Abidjan Convention member States and **as a key requirement** to enable ministry representatives involved in the BBNJ process to actively take part and shape the BBNJ discussions and negotiations.
- Public and private sectors, civil society and academia are relevant stakeholders in the ABNJ discussions **and there is a need to involve a broader group of stakeholder in future workshops** in the region.

- At the national level, there is a lack of coordination between the negotiators involved in the BBNJ process and the experts of the Ministry of environment, including the Abidjan Convention Focal Points. Procedures should be established to ensure a better exchange of information between New York and the capitals.

Outlook and next steps

The workshop was the first in a series of five planned in the Southeast Atlantic region. All future workshops will be planned in close consultation with the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, its member States, and other stakeholders in order to identify topics of relevance, need and interest for the region as well as an adequate methodological approach. **Abidjan Convention member States and other interested stakeholders are welcome to propose specific topics they want to be presented and discussed at future workshops.** A number of assessments (reports) are planned within the scope of the STRONG High Seas project, which will require active participation and collaboration from the Abidjan Convention member States and relevant regional stakeholders to ensure such assessments include available knowledge, expertise and data from the region. **Abidjan Convention member States and other interested stakeholders are welcome to contribute to and comment on the scientific reports to be developed under the STRONG High Seas project.** Drafts will be circulated to facilitate commenting and inputs.

Summary of the presentations and discussions

Welcome and Opening of the Workshop

The two-day dialogue workshop, entitled 'Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic', was opened by Abou Bamba (Head of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat), Julien Rochette (Ocean Program Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, IDDRI), and Ambassador Michael Grau (German ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire).



Ben Boteler, Abou Bamba, Julien Rochette and Michael Grau at the opening of the workshop. Photo by Carole Durussel, IASS.

The opening panel highlighted the **importance of the ecosystem services the high seas provide to humanity in general and the Southeast Atlantic region.** The **transboundary nature of the ocean,** the activities that depend on it, and the pressures placed upon it, means that to adequately manage marine areas within national jurisdiction, the ABNJ must take into account. The panel pointed out the lack of an international framework for ABNJ and stressed the need for a collective, ecosystem-based management approach for the ocean to preserve ocean health and guarantee the health of marine areas within the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). In December 2017, **states agreed to convene an [Intergovernmental Conference](#)** to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). Four rounds of negotiations will take place between 2018 and 2020, with the first meeting planned from 4 to 17 September 2018. The **engagement of regional organisations in the BBNJ process is seen as crucial** as they can provide regional lessons learned for the global level, support the implementation of a future instrument under UNCLOS and provide a platform for States in the regions to coordinate

their regional positions. As defined in the UN General Assembly Resolution on the development of a new international agreement under UNCLOS (A/RES/72/249), the future BBNJ agreement will need to incorporate and respect the current mandates of existing global, regional and sectoral organisations. **The STRONG High Seas project** has been highlighted as an opportunity for the Abidjan Convention member States and other key stakeholders in the region to collaborate and initiate a dialogue on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ, to contribute technical expertise and build regional capacity for the BBNJ negotiations, to share lessons learnt and disseminate knowledge, and to provide support for a regional approach to addressing the challenges of marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources in the Southeast Atlantic. A working group on ABNJ is expected to be launched at the next Abidjan Convention bureau meeting.

State of Play in Regional and Global Ocean Governance

Ademola Ajagbe (BirdLife International) presented an overview of the importance of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. Human activities taking place in ABNJ place pressure on marine biodiversity within ABNJ, but these pressures can also extend to areas within national jurisdiction. At the same time, activities and pressures taking place in areas within national jurisdiction create pressures on the ABNJ. To this day there is a **lack of data about marine ecosystems**. We know more about the surface of the moon than the ocean floor. It is known that a high level of biodiversity exists in, for example, Canary Current, Gulf of Guinea, and the Niger delta. Trophic layers and marine environments are complex systems. The example of Namibia shows how overfishing can lead to the collapse of a whole food web and should be taken as a warning. **Different ecosystems are strongly connected through migrating seabirds and fish species, meaning that addressing environmental concerns requires an integrated and regional approach.** Data from the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#) shows that currently 90% of fish stocks are fully fished or overfished with very little room for growth in fisheries. **Climate change** is another major pressure **which negatively impacts the size, reproduction and distribution of small pelagic fish and the carnivores** that are dependent on them. Fishing fleets are going farther into the high seas looking for high value fish stocks. Coastal countries are very dependent on protein from fish-based sources, making an ecosystem-based, regional approach towards managing marine resources all the more important.

Julien Rochette (IDDRI) presented an overview of the importance of ABNJ and the state of regional and global ocean governance. After outlining the different maritime zones and their legal status (ABNJ is divided into the high seas (water column), which falls under the Freedom of the High Seas, and into The Area (seabed), which falls under the Common Heritage of Mankind). **UNCLOS** is the umbrella convention for the ocean and provides important legal obligations, including the duty to collaborate, to protect the marine environment and to conserve marine living resources. **Sector specific conventions** notably on navigation, fishing, deep seabed mining, dumping and biodiversity further specify legal obligations for the regulation of specific activities. In addition, numerous global and regional **organisations have identified ecologically important marine areas**, including vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs; currently only identified within national jurisdiction) under the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Areas of Particular Environmental Importance (APEIs) under the International Seabed Authority (ISA), Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Whale Sanctuaries under the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and World Heritage Sites under UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC, currently only identified within national jurisdiction).

Challenges in the current ocean governance are due to the fragmented and sectoral-based nature of the legal and institutional framework, a lack of coordination and cooperation between organisations as

well as gaps in the coverage of certain regions or species. At the regional level, Regional Sea Programmes (RSPs) and RFMOs play an important role. Most RSPs cover EEZs, with currently only four of them having a management mandate for ABNJ (these are: the Northeast Atlantic under the OSPAR Convention, the Mediterranean under the Barcelona Convention, the Southwest Pacific under the Noumea Convention and the Antarctic under the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources - CCAMLR). The collaboration between OSPAR and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) provides a good example of cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration at the regional level. This example, however, also shows that management measures established through regional cooperation under these organisations need to be recognised through a global legally binding instrument as otherwise the regulations established by the regional organisations are only legally binding to their respective member States (third party rule).

In this context, states progressively move towards a new international agreement for ABNJ. This process started in 2004 with the creation of a working group on ABNJ. In 2011, the working group agreed that any future agreement should address the following issues 1) marine genetic resources (MGRs); 2) area-based management tools (ABMTs); 3) environmental impact assessments (EIAs); and 4) capacity building and the transfer of marine technology. The first round of negotiations will take place from 4 to 17 September 2018. To this date it is not clear which entities would be in charge of implementing EIAs or setting up marine protected areas and what kind of benefit-sharing regime will be applied in the case of MGRs. Workshop participants stated their preference for applying the Common Heritage of Mankind principle.

Ocean governance in the Southeast Atlantic

Abou Bamba (Head of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat) presented an overview of ocean governance in the Southeast Atlantic, focusing on national and regional interests in ABNJ and the current and planned activities of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat in regard to ABNJ. The countries in the region are **interested in the economic aspects of activities connected to ABNJ, such as fishing, shipping, deep seabed mining, telecommunications, MGRs, carbon sequestration, oil and gas exploration and aquaculture**. A main concern is the **lack of capacity to deal with the resources in ABNJ and the lack of control over the resources**. Since there is limited control on exploitation of marine resources within the EEZs, **some countries have reservations about dealing with ABNJ**, especially since this might imply competing with developed nations. The Abidjan Convention is currently representing 22 countries (3 non-ratified). In COP decision 11.10, the member countries agreed to create a working group on conservation and sustainable use of the marine biodiversity in ABNJ. The group is expected to be launched before the first BBNJ negotiations in September 2018. The aim of the working group is to come up with a strong Africa (West, Central and Southern Africa) group statement and look into a regional ocean governance mechanism. The idea is to **build on existing initiatives and focus on socio-economic aspects**. Currently no regional approach to the conservation of marine biodiversity in ABNJ exists, also not within the EEZ. Challenges to achieve this include a lack of capacities, cross-sectoral cooperation, financial means and other ocean governance aspects.

Within the STRONG High Seas project, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat has a proactive role in the overall project's strategy, including in the development of the scientific assessments, and functions as a representative and coordinating body for the countries of the Southeast Atlantic region.

Introduction to the STRONG High Seas Project

Ben Boteler (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS) presented the [STRONG High Seas project](#) and the objectives of this kick-off dialogue workshop, which is the first in a series of five to be

organised in the Southeast Atlantic region. The STRONG High Seas project is a five-year project (2017-2022) funded through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). It is coordinated by the IASS and implemented together with IDDRI, BirdLife International, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) – Southern Africa, the Universidad Católica del Norte (UCN), WWF Colombia, and WWF Germany. Working with the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention and the Secretariat of the Permanent Commission for the Southeast Pacific (CPPS), this project focuses on **two focal regions (Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific)** and has **three main components**:

- 1) Focus on the two focal regions: Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic: This component aims to facilitate the development of comprehensive, cross-sectoral approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ in the two focal regions. For this, different scientific assessments of the regions (incl. legal and institutional analysis; state of the high seas – ecological baseline and human pressures analysis; socio-economic assessment of human activities; conservation and management measures analysis; stakeholder analysis) will be undertaken and shaped through strategic dialogues with stakeholders to co-develop new approaches for high seas governance. Capacity building in the form of capacity building workshops will also be the focus of this project component.
- 2) Focus on strengthening dialogue between marine regions: This component aims to identify best practices and lessons learnt and share them with other marine regions. This is to facilitate joint learning and develop common approaches and a community of practice to strengthen ocean governance at the regional level. So far, three marine regions for exchange have been identified for the project: the Western Indian Ocean, the Southwest Pacific, and the Arctic regions. Under this project component, case studies of other non-focal marine regions will be done and dialogues involving the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt between these regions initiated.
- 3) Focus on linking the regional and the global level: The objective of this final component is to develop possible options for regional governance in a future international instrument under UNCLOS and transfer regional lessons learnt to the global level to promote ocean governance at different scales. Scientific assessments and case studies on how regional organisations can be included in the new BBNJ instrument and how coherence between the regional and global levels can be ensured will be done. Capacity building in the form of capacity building workshops organised on the side of the BBNJ negotiations in New York will also be the focus of this project component.

The STRONG High Seas project team is facilitating the development of this project, with no political objectives. The purpose of these annual dialogue workshops is to bring together relevant actors of the regions and to facilitate discussion between them. The STRONG High Seas project welcomes any inputs in the form of relevant reports, data and knowledge that can help shape the project and contribute to the scientific assessments done under this project.

Key Interests and Challenges for Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic

Representatives of a broad stakeholder range highlighted the interests and challenges regarding ocean governance in the Southeast Atlantic.

Felicia Chinwe Mongo (Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)) explained that there are several challenges regarding ocean governance in the region. Pollution is a big challenge due to the multiple sources of pollution, such as noise pollution by ships, sewage (black and

grey water), ballast water, solid waste, off shore waste, marine litter and aquaculture. **While regulations exist, they are often not being properly enforced and the coordination with related instruments is lacking.** In general the **political will to deal with ocean issues is not very big.** The management or mitigation of climate change impacts is another challenge for the region. A calculation of the wealth and value of blue natural capital would help to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable use and conservation of marine resources. Also, the designation of special sites for dumping and ballast water exchange might help to curb pollution issues.

Kamal Deen Ali (Centre for Maritime Law and Security) stated that key aspects and interests in Southeast Atlantic include policies, regulations and their enforcement, fishing, oil and gas exploration, shipping and international trade and technology. All of these are linked to capacity building. A frequent argument is that **nations are concerned that there is already limited capacity to deal with national water issues, and therefore they are not engaging with high seas issues.** Capacity building therefore remains a key issue on the way forward for the ABNJ discussions.

Mamadou Diallo (Marine Conservation and Fisheries Biologist (Senegal)) explained **that to date many African countries did not attend/participate effectively in the BBNJ negotiations.** Africa should be well represented; if not binding decisions will be taken without the involvement of African perspectives. It will be important to have people with the capacity to deal with the elements that will be discussed in New York (area based management, EIAs, MGRs, capacity building and technology transfer). On this note, workshop participants highlighted the importance for African countries to take actively part in the negotiations in New York. Participants recommended that the Abidjan Convention Secretariat be the coordinating mechanism to ensure that its member States are aware of the discussions, have one strong regional voice, and can have ministry representatives attend the negotiations in New York to reinforce their delegation representation there.

Kristina Gjerde (IUCN) stated **that the BBNJ package deal elements (i.e. ABMTs, EIAs, MGRs and capacity building/technology transfer) are all interlinked.** Especially capacity building and technology transfer are very transversal topics. Due to improved technology and information we know that prohibiting fishing in certain areas helps to increase the resilience of ocean ecosystems to climate change and other stressors by enhancing carbon storage, marine genetic diversity, population size and internal diversity of species. At the moment, 319 EBSAs have been identified. Through the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (**2021-2030**) coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, stakeholders from around the world will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of a common framework for ocean science, which will also be able to help with addressing information gaps with regards to ABNJ.

Ibrahim Cissé (Greenpeace / African Union Expert for Fish Products) highlighted that **IUU fishing is a big challenge in the region.** Poor working conditions and illegal catching methods prevail in many parts due to weak monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) and a lack of transparency. A regional task force was established to deal with IUU fishing in the coast from Morocco to Sierra Leone (managed by Greenpeace). However, this shouldn't be the task of an NGO. Strong regional fisheries management and collaboration with the government and scientists is needed to collect data and enforce existing regulations.

Key Interests and Challenges - Break-out Groups



Work in the breakout groups. Photo by Carole Durussel, IASS.



Work in the breakout groups. Photo by Carole Durussel, IASS

Participants formed three groups of stakeholders with diverse expertise and experiences. The three moderated groups were tasked to identify and prioritise the key human activities (in terms of socioeconomic importance) and environmental pressures (in terms of impact on biodiversity) in the ABNJ of the Southeast Atlantic region. These topics were used as basis for discussions around interests and challenges as well as the complexity of human uses of marine resources in ABNJ and functioned as a starting point for future analyses under the STRONG High Seas project during 2018-2019.

Reporting back in the plenary session, the three groups highlighted that many data gaps exist and that economic activities taking place in ABNJ need to be assessed more systematically in order to develop a coherent understanding. Envisioning the future developments of economic activities and environmental pressures was challenging due to uncertainties linked to economic trends and ecosystem behaviour. Nevertheless, participants generally agreed that is very likely that macroeconomic factors such as a growing global population will lead to an increase in economic activities in marine areas (shipping) and rising demand for both living and non-living marine resources (fishing and deep sea mining). In that regard, it was mentioned that it will be crucial to work on ways to increase economic activities while at the same time decreasing the related environmental pressures. The importance of scientific knowledge was also raised and participants emphasised the necessity to further develop research capacities in the region.

The following **major socioeconomic activities** and related **environmental pressures** were defined (listed in order of importance):

Although **fisheries** in the high seas are significantly less active than coastal fisheries, they are not insignificant. To date, the revenues from fishing in ABNJ go mostly to distant water fishing nations (DWFNs), not to the region. A majority of participants suggested that fishing activities of regional states in ABNJ will increase in the near future as technologies advance and demand increases due to the increase in population and the depletion of resources within the EEZs. Different opinions were raised regarding the question if fish capture will level out or decrease in the long term as a result of overfishing and an increase of aquaculture. The expected increase in fishing activities will further increase the pressure on marine biodiversity and potentially lead to the extinction of certain species. Concerns were raised about large amounts of biomass being taken out and what this does to the ecosystem. It was noted that the removal of the largest individuals of a species leads to the species decreasing in average size and might also lead to a change in trophic structure. Some fishing methods such as bottom trawling also lead to habitat destruction. An ideal scenario would be a strong international BBNJ agreement and good regional enforcement. In that way, biodiversity loss from

fisheries would decrease. The impact of climate change would however still persist. Environmental pressures related to fishing were mentioned to be pollution through materials and waste, overexploitation of marine resources, destruction of marine habitats and incidental capture.

About 90% of world trade is carried out by **maritime transportation**. In the near future, there is likely to be an increase in the demand for foreign goods because (a) there is a growing world population and (b) a greater proportion of the population has the economic means to buy these goods. Along with the expected increase in shipping, the related port based services will increase, bringing a benefit to the region. In the long term, advances in technology might lead in the future to the replacement of current means of transportation, with more energy efficient transport systems and less noise pollution. Environmental pressures related to marine transportation were mentioned to be noise pollution, contamination through fuels and ballast water disposal, greenhouse gas emission and collisions. Environmental pressures related to marine transportation were mentioned to be noise pollution, contamination through fuels and ballast water disposal, greenhouse gas emission and collisions.

Underwater communication technologies cables bring an enormous benefit to the region since they improve communications. While cable lanes currently present the biggest use of seabed, the impact on biodiversity ABNJ is perceived to be rather small. Cable laying is expected to increase at first but then level out or decrease in the long term due to the invention of new technologies.

Although **deep sea mining** is not currently taking place in the high seas of the Southeast Atlantic, participants agreed that it should be included in deliberations because it is highly likely that the seabed in ABNJ will be subject to extractive activities in the future. Especially oil and gas mining is expected to increase in the near future due to advancements of technology that would allow for exploitation. In the long term, oil and gas mining is expected to decrease due to the replacement of these resources by other resources/technologies. The exploration and exploitation of other minerals is expected to increase steadily over time. Socioeconomic benefits are expected to be rather small for the region. This will depend however on the benefit-sharing system that will be set up by the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

Currently, there is no revenue stream in place for **marine genetic resources**. It is not seen as likely that a revenue stream would be set up in the near future. An international BBNJ agreement could in the long term secure especially non-monetary benefits, such as improved science for the region.

Climate change is a critical global environmental pressure. Current predictions show that global temperatures will continue to increase in the future. This will lead notably to a loss of biodiversity as well as changes in oxygen levels in the ocean, which will impact on the photosynthesis ability of phytoplankton.

Land based pollution (largely plastic) is also seen to be increasing although it is believed that this could be changed with increase awareness e.g. initial resistance to ban plastic bags. On the west coast of Africa, upwelling regions push pollution away from the coasts. Other pollutants include excessive nutrients, toxins, medical and recreational drugs. Nutrients can be managed with more efficient fertilisers and better use thereof. Sewage is also a huge problem, but there are changes in thought about this and some groups are looking at the economic advantages of sewage management. It was suggested that the Abidjan Convention could adopt a regional agreement on plastic management.

Biofouling through ballast might be less relevant for the high seas but it is currently not effectively regulated. There exist examples of exchange of water at sea causing blooms in high seas though this may have limited impact to coastal communities. This could decrease if new regulations are in place and effective. Strong port State control measures are therefore needed and these could in turn benefit coastal countries of the Southeast Atlantic region. Inspectors and technology associated with new

regulations are likely to create jobs in the region. It is expected that this activity will increase and flatten out over time.

Presentations of other related projects

Richard Dacosta of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat presented the [Mami Wata Project](#). The development of this project was based on a resolution from the Abidjan Convention COP in Cape Town. The German government funds this project through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The project is jointly implemented by GRID-Arendal and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat. The aim of the project is to conserve marine and coastal ecosystems by enhancing marine management in West Africa, with a focus on EEZs. To facilitate this, the Abidjan Convention adopted and applied integrated ocean management approaches, which are based on EBSA information and state of marine environment assessments. Three pilot regions were identified in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin. The idea is to test the integrated ocean management approaches in these pilot regions and then upscale the experiences to the Abidjan Convention region as a whole. The work packages of the project are capacity development, tools (MamiWata focuses on Marine Environment Reporting (SoME), the identification of Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas (EBSAs) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), to support Integrated Ocean Management (IOM)), policy development, management and communication. The project runs until December 2019, with an extension for 1 more year planned. Although the Mami Wata project does not focus on ABNJ, the project is sensitive to connectivity issues and sees opportunities for collaboration with the STRONG High Seas Project.

Darius Campbell of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Secretariat presented the [Collective Arrangement between OSPAR and NEAFC](#). The OSPAR Commission (OSPAR) and NEAFC have a similar geographical scope, objectives and contracting parties. NEAFC is responsible for managing the fisheries while OSPAR focuses on pollution and biodiversity protection in ABNJ and the EEZs of the North-East Atlantic. Sustainable fisheries include social, environmental and economic aspects. The International Council for the Exploration (ICES) of the Sea are the independent scientific body which provides scientific information to both OSPAR and NEAFC. ICES provide information on certain stocks as well as an ecosystem overview. To date, there are all sorts of non-fishing activities taking place in the North-East Atlantic region that may have an impact on or link to the fisheries. Cable laying, shipping and potentially deep-sea mining are activities that need to be coordinated to achieve sustainable management. Working with other conventions, such as OSPAR, is seen as an opportunity to coordinate management measures. OSPAR and NEAFC started collaborative meetings in 2000 and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in 2008. In 2014, the Collective Arrangement between OSPAR and NEAFC created a framework for collaboration and communication (not joint management). Each organisation is respecting the competences of the other organisation, no encroachment on each other's work is happening. The Collective Arrangement facilitated the move from the sharing of information to more practical processes, such as the joint application for scientific advice from ICES. OSPAR is furthermore cooperating with the Abidjan Convention (a MoU was signed) and the Sargasso Sea Commission.

At the international level, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) facilitated dialogue between regional fisheries bodies and regional seas organisations in 2018. These processes are long-term and require a willingness to engage. The ladder of coordination (Hanssen et al. 2013) details the steps as follows: Information and knowledge sharing → common discussion → adjustment of behaviours with own sector → joint measures across sectors and levels. Other important topics to be considered in regard to RFMOS and collective arrangements include:

- UN Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA) how did it influence the behaviour of RFMOs? UNFSA created a lot of impetus; more self-review and more uniformity;
- Most of the world is covered by RFMOs, environmental management is more patchy (hope is that BBNJ might create more impetus for environmental management);
- It is difficult to develop integrated planning and management process, however in the high seas the exercise is simpler since there are less activities;
- Collaboration between a strong RFMO and strong environmental management organisation seems to work well. Perhaps the Abidjan convention could consider talking with regional RFMOs about potential arrangements;
- NEAFC contracting parties open to collaborate with other RFMOs (need to find support by contracting parties so they can demand secretariat to work on it).

Legal, Institutional and Stakeholder Analysis

In an introductory presentation by Adnan Awad (IOI-SA), the term stakeholder and the concept of stakeholder analysis were introduced. An overview of the link between stakeholder participation and good governance was provided, including critical conditions for stakeholder participation and ideas for defining stakeholders for ABNJ. In general, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation is seen as key condition for the successful conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ.

Subsequently, participants were divided into two breakout groups. Each of the groups identified the broad stakeholder groups and the key stakeholders within these groups and defined their main interests and influence as well as opportunities for improving their participation. Time restrictions did not permit to create an exhaustive list of stakeholders and discuss all identified stakeholders in depth. Nevertheless, the exercise provided a good starting point and general overview and also will also help to for determine future stakeholder engagement strategies. Table 2 in the Annex provides an overview of the identified stakeholders. The list was not considered exhaustive.



Adnan Awad presenting. Photo by Carole Durussel, IASS.

Opportunities for improving collaboration and cooperation

At the moment, there is no framework in place for cooperation and management of issues connected to ABNJ in the Southeast Atlantic. Participants identified the lack of an information-sharing mechanism and the lack of a centralised information platform with, for example, basic information on ABNJ issues and details on regional events such as conferences and workshops. It was recommended to establish a platform that would help stakeholders stay in touch and to propagate information. This platform would allow for the networking of stakeholders (e.g. also through tools such as Email and WhatsApp) and provide information that could be used to sensitise stakeholders and create awareness about the importance of ABNJ and the BBNJ negotiations. One idea is to have running “stories”, starting with a basic understanding and build on it with “chapters” and ongoing information. These “stories” could

include media such as cartoons, graphic information, YouTube videos or podcasts. This information could partly be taken from existing information sources such as the [Ocean Atlas](#). An E-mail alert could be created to inform people about newly added stories. Celebrities (artists, musicians, painters etc.) that have many followers could be contacted and asked to contribute to the “stories” and reach out to people and create awareness.

Such a tool could be created within the STRONG High Seas project and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat could be the potential host of such a platform. Another option would be to connect the platform to existing structures such as the GEF funded [International Waters Learning Exchange and Resources Network](#) (IW:Learn), [sea-sketch](#) or regional organisational centres for the large marine ecosystems (LMEs) in the region (Benguela Current, Guinea Current, Canary Current).

Abidjan Convention member States also suggested creating a shared regional vision for ABNJ through drafting an ABNJ paper, which would allow the countries to gather and agree upon key principles between them on relevant ABNJ issues. Such a paper would be useful as the region moves forward towards the UN negotiations in September 2018 and would enable countries to identify opportunities for further collaboration regarding ABNJ in the Southeast Atlantic. An agreed vision would also be highly useful regardless of the UN negotiations and could play an important role strengthening collaboration within the region. The Abidjan Convention member States also suggested that the support of national structures and the ability of different ministries to have regular inter-agency meetings is crucial for building a functional regional arrangement.

Conclusion and thank you

The workshop *Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic* convened numerous decision makers and stakeholders to share expertise, experiences and knowledge and to discuss topics of key importance regarding marine biodiversity in ABNJ in the Southeast Atlantic. This workshop kick-offs the work and research to be done under the STRONG High Seas project, including the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, in collaboration with regional decision makers and stakeholders. The workshop organisers wish to thank all participants for their active engagement and contribution to this event and look forward to continuing the collaboration over the coming years.

Table 1: List of participants

Name	Organisation
Adewumi, Ibukun Jacob	Whitaker Institute of Innovation and Societal Change, National University of Ireland Galway
Ajagbe, Ademola	BirdLife International - Africa
Ali, Kamal-Deen	Centre for Maritime Law and Security, Africa (Ghana)
Alimata, Fofana Epse Diomande	Centre Ivoirien Antipollution (CIAPOL) (Côte d'Ivoire)
Araujo, Antonio	MAVA Foundation
Ariel, Medrid	Abidjan Convention Secretariat
Auene, Pinehas	Directorate of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Works and Transport (Namibia)
Awad, Adnan	International Ocean Institute – Southern Africa (IOI-SA)
Bamba, Abou	Abidjan Convention Secretariat
Benkenstein, Alex	South African Institute of International Affairs
Beye, Diénaba	Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (Senegal)
Boteler, Ben	Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
Campbell, Darius	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
Cissé, Ibrahima	Greenpeace / African Union Expert for Fish Products (Senegal)
Dacosta, Richard	Abidjan Convention Secretariat
Diallo, Mamadou	Marine Conservation and Fisheries Biologist (Senegal)
Diedhiou, Mohamed	Laboratory of Studies and Research in Politics, Environmental Law and Health (Senegal)
Durussel, Carole	Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
Essolakina, Bafei P'Malinam	Direction de l'Environnement (Togo)
Fiati, Carl Kojo	Environmental Protection Agency (Ghana)
Gjerde, Kristina	IUCN & Middlebury Institute of International Studies
Grau, Michael	German Embassy in Abidjan
Hampton, Shannon	International Ocean Institute – Southern Africa (IOI-SA)
Hildebrand, Larry	World Maritime University
Kong Mukwele, Sheila	Ministry of External Relations of Cameroon
Epse Bekoin Adjoua Marguerite	Centre Ivoirien Antipollution (CIAPOL) (Côte d'Ivoire)
Malou, Luc Mathurin	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (Senegal)
Mogo, Felicia Chinwe	Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) (Nigeria)
Odido, Mika	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO)
Rochette, Julien	Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
Toure, Binta	Abidjan Convention Secretariat
Wienrich, Nicole	Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
Yaqub, Hawa Bint	Fisheries Commission-MOFAD (Ghana)

Table 2: Overview of stakeholders relevant to ABNJ in the Southeast Atlantic

Fisheries	Shipping	Conservation	Tele-communications	Research	Seabed Mining	Donor Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Whaling Commission (IWC) • International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) • South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) • Western and central regional fisheries • Sub-regional fisheries organisations • Interim Guinea Current Commission • Benguela Current Commission • Port State Control authorities • nationally flagged vessels, foreign vessels, national flagged but foreign owned • Maritime administrations of each nation • Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) • Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) • Local communities fishing highly migratory fish stocks • Fish processors • Community based organisations and NGOs • African Union • South African Development Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Chamber of Shipping • International Transport Federation • International Maritime Organization (IMO) • World Maritime University • United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) • Hydrographic Organisation • World Ocean Council • Ports Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWACA) • International association of ports and harbours • International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), London Convention • National Maritime administrations • National Chamber of Shipping • Ports Environmental Network-Africa (PENAf) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Wildlife Fund (WWF) • International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) • Birdlife International • Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) • UN Environment • Abidjan Convention • Greenpeace International • Africa Marine and Environmental Sustainability Initiative • Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) • Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) • International Ocean Institute (IOI) • Global Ocean Forum • Regional NGOs • PEW • Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Cable Protection Commission • Users of technology • Private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) • Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) • World Meteorological Association • Scientists from the region – universities and research institutes and international scientists doing work in the region. Interests may overlap. • Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Seabed Authority (ISA) • Contractors/responsible • IPIECA (conglomeration of oil companies looking at environment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Development Bank (Ocean program underway) • New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) • Global Environment Facility (GEF) • European Commission • World Bank • National funders • MAVA and other philanthropic foundations • United States Agency for International Development (USAID) • German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development • Nippon Foundation • Japan International Cooperation Agency • French Agency for Development • German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) • MAR Charitable

- (SADC)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- World Fisheries University in South Korea
- Confédération Africaine des Organisations Professionnelles de la Pêche Artisanale (CAOPA)

- Foundation
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)