

Workshop summary

# **Building Capacities for Regional Ocean Governance: Marine Genetic Resources and Area-based Management Tools**

25 August 2019  
New York, USA



## Workshop summary

The STRONG High Seas project, together with Germany, the Secretariats of the Abidjan Convention and Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) hosted a workshop titled 'Building Capacities for Regional Ocean Governance: Marine Genetic Resources and Area-based Management Tools' on 25 August 2019 on the side-lines of the third session of negotiations for an international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (IGC 3) in New York, USA.

About 40 representatives from international organisations, academia, and NGOs as well as UN negotiators from the Southeast Pacific, Southeast Atlantic and Southwest Pacific regions took part in this workshop with the objectives to:

- Discuss marine genetic resources (MGRs) in the context of the global negotiations: from in-situ sampling to digital sequences; the role of marine science and using environmental DNA as a conservation tool;
- Exchange on lessons learnt and best practices in regional ocean governance, particularly with regard to the conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction through the application of area-based management tools (ABMTs);
- Highlight the importance, opportunities and challenges of regional ocean governance approaches for the implementation of a future BBNJ agreement under UNCLOS, including the perspectives of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for participation and implementation;
- Provide a networking opportunity for participants from different regions and countries and ensure mutual learning.

## Annex I: Agenda

**9h30-10h**      **Arrival and Coffee**

**10h-10h15**    **Welcome**

- Ilka Wagner, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
- Ben Boteler, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
- Dr. Essam Yassin Mohammed, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

### **Block I: Building Capacities for Regional Ocean Governance: Marine Genetic Resources**

*Facilitator: Kristina Gjerde (IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature)*

**10h15-11h**      **Marine Genetic Resources: from Sampling to Commercialisation**

- Prof. Marcel Jaspars, University of Aberdeen
- Q&A

**11h-11h45**    **Strengthening Marine Science and Building Capacities**

- Dr. Judith Gobin, University of the West Indies
- Q&A

**11h45-12h30**   **Discussion**

**12h30-13h30**   **Lunch and Coffee**

### **Block II: Exchange on lessons learnt and best practices in regional ocean governance**

*Facilitator: Dr. Carole Durussel (IASS, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies)*

**13h30-14h15**   **The African Perspective**

- Dr. Essam Yassin Mohammed, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Abou Bamba, Abidjan Convention Secretariat
- Q&A

**14h15-15h**      **The South American Perspective**

- Ambassador Méntor Villagómez, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
- Q&A

**15h-15h45**    **The Pacific Islands Perspective**

- Tekau Frere, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC)
- Q&A

**15h45-16h30**   **Discussion**

## Annex II: Participants

Babajide Alo, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

Adnan Awad, International Ocean Institute

Abou Bamba, Abidjan Convention/UN Environment

Jessica Battle, WWF

Ben Boteler, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

Jane, Collins, KU Leuven University & ABS-int

Klaudija Cremers, IDDRI

Vito De Lucia, K. G. Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea

Carole Durussel, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

Veronica Frank, Greenpeace

Tekau Frere, Office of the Pacific Islands Forum

Andres Garrido, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Kristina Jered, IUCN

Judith Gobin, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Alistair Graham, WWF International

Carolina Hazin, BirdLife International

Marcel Jaspars , University of Aberdeen

Jean Kenfack, Ministry of Environment; Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development

Ronan Long, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute

Carl Gustaf Lundin, IUCN

Jeffrey Marlow, Harvard University

Clement Yow Mulalap, Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations

Mayen Payendee, Australian National University



Muriel Rabone , Natural History Museum

Elizabeth Rodriguez-Santiago, American Society of International Law

Lamine Sidibe, Ministry of Environment

Matthias Steitz, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Catherine Tinker, Tinker Institute on International Law and Organizations

Sofia Tsenikli, Greenpeace

Marjo Vierros, Coastal Policy and Humanities Research and Global Ocean Forum

Méntor Villagómez, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

Suzanne von der Porten, Global Ocean Forum

Beatriz Yannicelli, UdelaR\_UCN

Wei Zhou, Greenpeace

### About the STRONG High Seas Project

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. It is coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and implemented together with the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (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 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.

For more information about the STRONG High Seas project, please visit:

<https://www.progocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas/> or contact: [stronghighseas@iass-potsdam.de](mailto:stronghighseas@iass-potsdam.de).

### Partners of the STRONG High Seas project



Supported by:



The STRONG High Seas project is part of the International Climate Initiative. The Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

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