

Workshop summary

Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) through an international instrument on high seas biodiversity

14-15 November, 2019

CPPS Headquarters, Guayaquil, Ecuador



Background

Effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) is critical for the success of marine conservation and management. Whereas States have the right to manage the marine resources within their national jurisdiction, the high seas are subject to a complex patchwork of international rules and regulations. As States begin to negotiate a new international agreement concerning areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), there is growing interest in how MCS tools and policies can be applied to this vast global commons.

The STRONG High Seas project (Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas) aims to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, including through enhanced MCS tools and policies. This five-year project is working together with key science and policy actors in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic regions to improve regional coordination and provide new lessons and approaches for high seas governance.

Workshop summary

On 14-15 November 2019, STRONG High Seas project partner IDDRI organised a regional workshop to discuss how to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) in the Southeast Pacific. This workshop was held at CPPS Headquarters, Guayaquil, Ecuador and builds on two international expert meetings previously held in Paris on technological tools (July 2018) and policy options (April 2019).

This interactive workshop provided an opportunity for regional experts to discuss current practices and capacities, lessons learned, and the potential for strengthening MCS of ABNJ. The outcomes of this workshop will contribute to a report to be published by the STRONG High Seas project and will also be fed into discussions on a new international legally-binding instrument on high seas biodiversity, currently under negotiation at the United Nations.

The workshop commenced with a roundtable on MCS activities in the CPPS member countries – Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Panama (an observer to the CPPS) – followed by an overview of lessons learned from the previous expert meetings. Participants then discussed MCS in the context of fisheries, led by presentations from Eloy Aroni (Global Fishing Watch) and Marco Quesada (Conservation International), and marine protected areas, with presentations from Mónica Gamboa Poveda (Costa Rica por Siempre/Pacifico) and Xavier Chalen (Conservation International).

On the second day, participants heard an update on the status of negotiations for a high seas biodiversity treaty from Guillermo Ortuño Crespo (Duke University) and reflections on the positions of Latin American countries from Mariamalia Rodriguez Chaves (consultant, Pew). Klaudija Cremers (IDDRI) presented possible options for strengthening MCS through a new treaty and participants broke into working groups to discuss key challenges and opportunities.

Participants noted that many countries in the region are already conducting effective MCS of their national waters, but that cooperation between countries is limited. The lack of a strong global legal framework for ABNJ and limited implementation of existing agreements were noted as key challenges. Participants agreed on the need for States to compromise in order to strengthen the legal regime for the high seas, encourage the sharing of data, complement the work of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), and strengthen capacity and cooperation.

Annex I: Agenda

Day one

9h00 – 9h30 Arrival, coffee

9h30 – 10h00 Welcome

Welcome by Mentor Villagómez, Secretary-General of the CPPS

Presentation of IKI STRONG High Seas project and meeting objectives

10h00 – 11h00 Session 1: Roundtable on Southeast Pacific MCS activities

Short presentations by CPPS Member States on national MCS activities

Discussion

11h00 – 11h30 Coffee break

11h30 – 12h45 Session 2: State of play

Overview of MCS technologies and policies

12h45 – 14h00 Lunch

14h00 – 15h15 Session 3: Case studies on MCS from the Southeast Pacific

Presentation by regional experts

Discussion

15h15 – 15h45 Coffee break

15h45 – 17h00 Session 4: MCS challenges and opportunities in the Southeast Pacific

Introductory presentation

Breakout groups discussion

Day two

9h00 – 9h30 Arrival, coffee

9h30 – 11h00 Session 5: UN negotiations

Update on the status of negotiations for a high seas biodiversity treaty

Presentation of STRONG High Seas policy brief

Discussion

11h00 – 11h30 Coffee

11h30 – 12h45 Session 6: Strengthening MCS through a new treaty

Breakout groups discussion

12h45 – 14h00 Lunch

14h00 – 15h15 Session 7: Reflections from participants

Closing statements from rapporteurs/States

15h15 – 15h30: Closure of the meeting

Annex II: Participants

Pedro Ampuero Moreno, Armada de Chile/Directemar

Eloy Aroni, Global Fishing Watch

Mary Luz Cañón, Investigadora del área de Protección al Medio Marino/Dirección General Marítima, Colombia

Bolivar Cañizales Castañedas, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Panama

Xavier Chalén, Conservation International, Ecuador

Klaudija Cremers, IDDRI

Fernando Félix, CPPS

Monica Gamboa, Asociación Costa Rica por Siempre /Fundación PACIFICO

Andrés Garrido, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Peru

Julio Gustavo Arévalo Castro, CPPS

Jose LuisHerrera Afa, Dirección General de Supervisión, Fiscalización y Sanción de Peru

Lenin Naranjo, Dirección General de Intereses Marítimos de Ecuador

Rita Orozco Moreyra, Instituto del Mar del Peru

Guillermo Ortuno Crespo, Duke University

Edwin Pinto Uscocovich, Instituto Oceanografico de la Armada (INOCAR)

Marco Quesada*, Conservation International, Costa Rica

Diana Quintana, Dirección General Marítima de Colombia

Mariamalia Rodriguez Chaves, NGO consultant

Méntor Villagomez, CPPS

Glen Wright, IDDRI

**remote participation*

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.

Partners of the STRONG High Seas project



International Ocean Institute
African Region



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

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

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