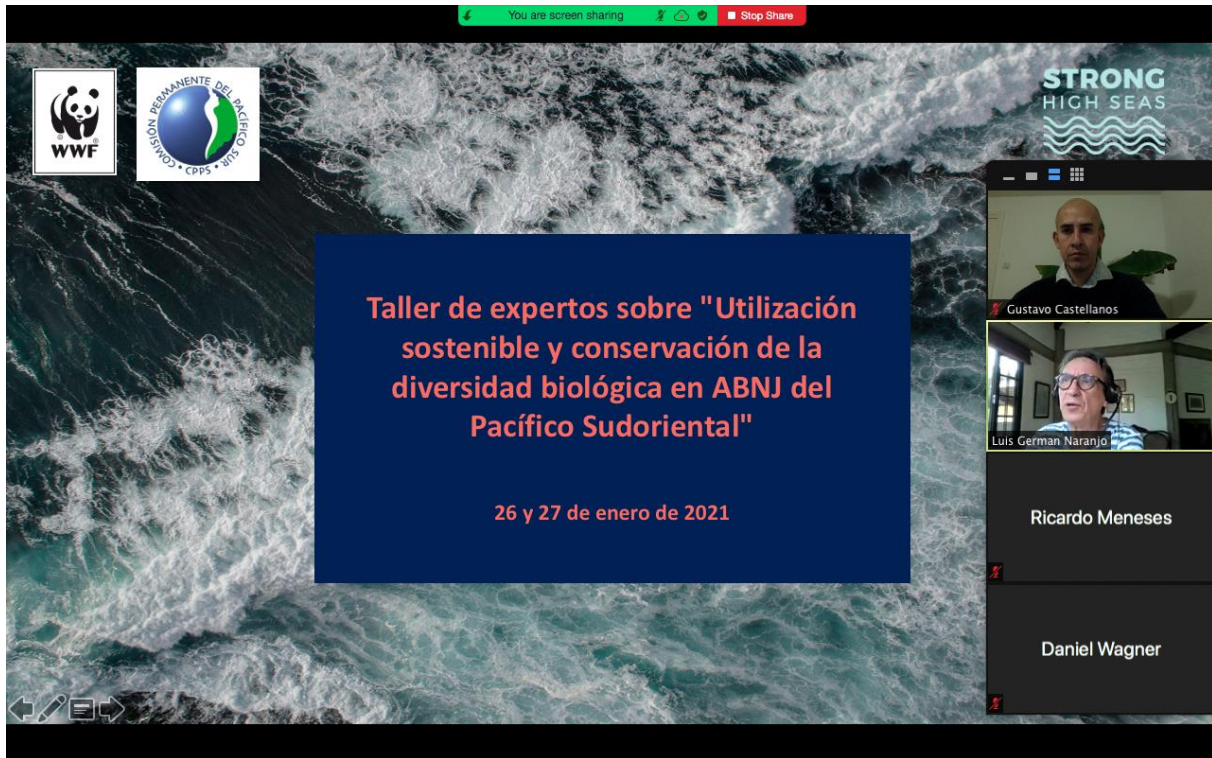


Webinar Summary



Background

Human influence on the oceans, including areas of the high seas (or areas beyond national jurisdiction - ABNJ), continues to intensify as global shipping and new technologies increase our reach to the ocean's last 'frontiers'. This human domination of the ocean implies the need to devise strategies to protect and sustainably manage marine biodiversity in both EEZs and ABNJ. Ongoing negotiations to implement an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ have outlined a number of options for protecting biodiversity in these areas.

These alternatives need to be communicated and discussed among different stakeholders in different regions in order to identify the benefits and challenges of their possible implementation. Some of these alternatives include area-based management tools such as marine protected areas, marine corridors and other sustainable use measures that have the potential to incentivise both effective conservation based on integrated ecosystem and ocean management, cooperation, increased benefit-sharing and open the way to a blue economy that sustains human needs.

The case of the South-East Pacific region is special in terms of the various existing ocean conservation and integrated regional management initiatives. These initiatives can help to outline a set of possible options for effective area-based management tools and will guide decision-making applicable to the high seas.

This workshop took place in the framework of the joint activities of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and the STRONG High Seas project, which aims to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Summary Day 1 (26 January)

Session 1 (76 attendees)

The webinar started with a brief presentation and welcome to the event by WWF Colombia. The Executive Secretary of CPPS (Ambassador Méntor Villagómez) introduced the workshop with a speech on the need for a proper balance between conservation and sustainable use in the offshore areas of the Southeast Pacific. This was followed by the first talk of the day by Jessica Battle (WWF International), who gave an overview of the different conservation measures currently available and discussed at ABNJ. Jessica ended her presentation by pointing out some questions to ask when thinking about the conservation of these offshore areas (see Figure below).

A few final thoughts for your discussion

- What outcome is being sought? The objective of a potential ABMT? Is it conservation?
- What are the sectors involved? What needs to be regulated?
- What are the jurisdictions involved?
- Who / what institution would be in charge of: designating the ABMT? ; implementing the ABMT?
- What role for coastal states, individually/collectively?
- What role for international competent organisations?
- Could there be a role for regional organisations?

The second speaker of the session was Dr. Andrés Cisneros-Montemayor, from the University of British Columbia in Canada. Andrés spoke of the need to incorporate the world's indigenous communities, many of whom have had an ancestral relationship with the sea and offshore areas, for example through understanding the migrations of species that inhabit ABNJ, into considerations of protecting the high seas. The publication on which Dr. Cisneros-Montemayor's presentation was based can be downloaded here:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marjo_Vierros2/publication/341983423_Considering_Indigenous_Peoples_and_local_communities_in_governance_of_the_global_ocean_commons/links/5ef3d4f792851c35353fa451/Considering-Indigenous-Peoples-and-

[local-communities-in-governance-of-the-global-ocean-commons.pdf](#)

This session concluded with a summary of the two talks presented by Luis Germán Naranjo, Director of Conservation and Governance at WWF Colombia.

Session 2

Work was carried out in groups by country delegation and around the following questions, which were answered at the end by each country (in total 33 participants):

- Are the measures presented well understood and applicable in the ABNJ framework?
- Do you think these measures are feasible in the South-East Pacific region?
- What are the biggest challenges facing these conservation measures?
- What do you think is needed to implement or overcome the challenges facing these conservation measures in the region?
- What additional conservation measures for ABNJ could be implemented in the region?

The main messages of the plenary discussion were as follows:

- ✓ The biggest challenge is to strike a balance between conservation and use-oriented visions.
- ✓ The ancestral relationship between human communities and migratory marine species is clear.
- ✓ The application of the measures depends on the economic resources per country, as it can be controlled in the national jurisdiction, but beyond that there would be no capacity; therefore it is necessary to think of an effective mechanism to monitor the implementation of these measures.
- ✓ It is a good option to work on tools towards fisheries management, but in other areas such as Marine Spatial Planning and other tools, there is little regional experience.

Summary Day 2 (27 January)

Session 1 (88 attendees)

This session started again with a brief introduction by WWF Colombia followed by an intervention from CPPS by Gustavo Arévalo (Director Legal Affairs), on the current status of the BBNJ negotiations. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Daniel Wagner (Conservation International) on the need to preserve a unique area in the Southeast Pacific (Salas and Gomez & Nazca Ridge). This is an exceptional area in terms of species endemism and currently, according to several sources, does not suffer from heavy fishing pressure (see associated scientific article here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104377>). Afterwards, the third talk of the session was given by the technical secretary of the Tropical Eastern Pacific Marine Corridor -CMAR, Ricardo Meneses Orellana. The talk focused on the history of CMAR and its current actions in the region. Mr. Meneses Orellana spoke about the initial interest or contacts made with other countries in the region to join the CMAR initiative.

This session concluded again with a summary of the talks presented by Luis Germán Naranjo, Director of Conservation and Governance at WWF Colombia.

Session 2

Work was carried out in groups by country delegation and around the following questions, which were answered at the end by each country (in total 46 participants):

- What other conservation and sustainable use strategies do you think could be applied in biodiverse ABNJ sites (e.g. ridges, flyways) in the Southeast Pacific?
- Looking at the CMAR initiative, how feasible is it that such initiatives could be developed in other parts of the Southeast Pacific region?
- What do you think should be the main actors involved in the design of conservation and sustainable resource use strategies in ABNJ in the Southeast Pacific?
- On the issue of conservation and sustainable use in ABNJ, what topics do you think should be addressed in future workshops?

The main messages of the discussion were as follows:

- ✓ Governance has to be based on treaties and legal issues.
- ✓ Limitation or management of fishing must go as RFMO actions
- ✓ The CMAR presentation is highlighted for the coordination between the countries in the corridor, but it is a different dynamic to the South or the CPPS area of influence and a corridor may not be possible. In this sense, they ask to review the legislation or the regulatory framework and look at the option of applying it as CPPS countries.
- ✓ The key actors in the process are the states, and other actors may participate with analysis, advice or support, but the decisions are made by the state.
- ✓ Important to work on straddling species issues and measures on distant water fishing

fleets, on which to apply regulations.

- ✓ It is important to maintain a working group on IUU, looking for conservation benefits, so that supporting projects or initiatives such as PACA could be useful. On the other hand, discussion models used by the CBD on EBSAs could also be useful.

Annex 1. Agenda

Tuesday 26 January 2021

Time	Activity
9:30 am	Introduction to the webinar (objectives and methodology)
9:40 am	CPPS intervention Méntor Villagómez Secretary General Permanent Commission for the South Pacific -CPPS
9:55 am	Expert talk #1 "The emerging global Ocean Treaty - an opportunity for holistic ocean management" Jessica Battle Senior Expert on Global Ocean Governance and Policy WWF
10:15 am	Question and answer session
10:30 am	Expert Talk #2 "The importance of Indigenous peoples and local communities in the governance of the high seas". Andrés M. Cisneros-Montemayor, PhD Deputy Director of the Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus Program Associate Research Fellow - Institute for Oceans and Fisheries University of British Columbia
10:45 am	Question and answer session
11:00 am	Concluding remarks and conclusions

Wednesday 27 January 2021

Time	Activity
9:30 am	Introduction to the webinar (objectives and methodology)
9:40 am	CPPS intervention "Current status of the BBNJ negotiations". Gustavo Arevalo Director Legal Affairs Permanent Commission for the South Pacific -CPPS
9:55 am	Expert talk #1 "Salas y Gomez & Nazca Ridge: global biodiversity hotspots in need of protection". Daniel Wagner Conservation International -CI
10:15 am	Question and answer session
10:30 am	Expert Talk #2 "CMAR: Transnational Coordination". Ricardo Meneses Orellana Technical Secretary Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor -CMAR
10:45 am	Question and answer session
11:00 am	Concluding remarks and conclusions

About STRONG High Seas

STRONG High Seas 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 (ABNJ). 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)-South Africa, the Catholic University of the North (UCN), WWF Colombia and WWF Germany. In collaboration with CPPS and the Secretariat of the West and Central African Regional Seas Programme (Abidjan Convention), this project aims to develop and propose specific actions to support the coordinated development of integrated, ecosystem-based management approaches to ocean management in the Southeast Pacific.

For more information on the STRONG High Seas project, please visit: <https://www.prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas/> or contact: stronghighseas@iass-potsdam.de.



ABIDJAN CONVENTION
CONVENTION D'ABIDJAN



International Ocean Institute
African Region



Fomentado por el:



Ministerio Federal
de Medio Ambiente, Protección de la Naturaleza
y Seguridad Nuclear

en virtud de una resolución del Parlamento
de la República Federal de Alemania

The STRONG High Seas project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI; www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/).

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) is promoting this initiative on the basis of a resolution of the German Bundestag.

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