



High Seas Marine Protected Areas: Vast, Remote and Costly?

Online informal workshop, 15 & 16 February 2022

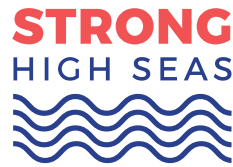
	Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, USA (New York)	Chile & Uruguay	Côte d'Ivoire & UK	Cameroon & France	South Africa	Kenya
Tentative Start Time	09:00	11:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00
Tentative End Time	12:00	14:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00

Background

The negotiations for an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction – more commonly referred to as the “high seas” – was initiated by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2017. Three negotiating sessions, held at the UN headquarters in New York, have already taken place and the fourth, originally scheduled for March 2020 but postponed because of the pandemic, is scheduled for March 2022.

The future instrument will create a global process to establish and manage marine protected areas (MPAs) in ABNJ among other things. One of the key lessons learnt from MPAs created under States’ national jurisdiction is the critical need for effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of maritime activities, which is still missing in many parts of the world.

It is therefore crucial to anticipate the implementation challenges of MPAs in ABNJ and evaluate global MCS capacities to avoid the creation of “paper parks” and ensure the compliance with agreed upon conservation and management measures.



Objectives

Organised by IDDRI in the context of the STRONG High Seas project, in cooperation with the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), this online informal workshop will gather around 50 participants involved in BBNJ, MPA and MCS processes, including State representatives, MPA practitioners, scientists and representatives of international organisations and civil society.

This invite-only workshop will offer participants the opportunity to explore the diversity of MCS tools and assess the feasibility of their implementation in ABNJ to ensure the effective management of future MPAs. Lessons from existing large-scale MPAs will be drawn and participants will discuss opportunities to make the draft BBNJ treaty fit for MCS purposes.

Format

The workshop will take place under Chatham House rules in English without interpretation. Each session will start by a presentation highlighting the main issues at stake and will be followed by an extensive, interactive discussion among participants. A workshop summary, highlighting identified key lessons learned and recommendations, will be published after the workshop.

Draft Agenda

Day 1. Tuesday 15 February 2022, 15:00-18:00 (CET)

14:45-15:00 (15 mins)	Online platform open for participants to login
15:00-15:15 (15 mins)	Moderator introduces household rules Opening of the workshop by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director, IDDRI • Minna Epps, Director, Global Marine and Polar Programme, IUCN • Mark Young, Executive Director, International MCS Network Group picture
15:15-16:30 (1 hour and 15 mins)	Session 1: The multiple faces of MCS <i>This session will explore the diversity of MCS tools, from traditional instruments to the most recent technologies.</i>
16:30-16:45 (15 mins)	Break
16:45-17:55 (1 hour and 10 mins)	Session 2: MCS in large-scale MPAs: how does it work, how much does it cost? <i>This session will draw lessons from existing large-scale MPAs and explore the challenges and opportunities in terms of MCS.</i>
17:55-18:00 (5 mins)	Key conclusions and closing remarks

Day 2. Wednesday 16 February 2022, 15:00-18:00 (CET)

14:45-15:00 (15 mins)	Online platform open for participants to login
15:00-15:10 (10 mins)	Welcome and introduction to day 2
15:10-16:15 (1 hour and 5 mins)	Session 2 (cont.): MCS in large-scale MPAs: how does it work, how much does it cost? <i>This session will draw lessons from existing large-scale MPAs and explore the challenges and opportunities in terms of MCS.</i>
16:15-16:30 (15 mins)	Break
16:30-17:00 (45 mins)	Session 3: Opportunities and challenges to optimise MCS in ABNJ <i>Based on the insights from sessions 1 and 2, participants will discuss opportunities and challenges to strengthen MCS in ABNJ.</i>
17:00-17:45 (45 mins)	Session 4. Making the draft BBNJ treaty fit for MCS purposes <i>Participants will assess to what extent the draft BBNJ treaty can improve MCS of MPAs in ABNJ.</i>
17:45-18:00 (15 mins)	Key conclusions and closing remarks



About STRONG High Seas

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.

For more information about the STRONG High Seas project, please visit the [website](#) 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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