

STRONG High Seas Online Workshop

High Seas Marine Protected Areas: Vast, Remote  
and Costly? 15 -16 February 2022



## ***Summary Report STRONG High Seas Online Workshop***

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

15-16 February 2022

The workshop agenda can be found [here](#).  
The workshop presentations can be found [here](#).

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

On 15 and 16 February 2022, IDDRI, in the context of the STRONG High Seas project and in cooperation with the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), organised an online informal workshop under the Chatham House rule entitled “*High Seas Marine Protected Areas: Vast Remote and Costly?*”.

The negotiations for an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) – more commonly referred to as the “high seas” or BBNJ negotiations – was initiated by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2017. Three negotiating sessions, held at the UN headquarters in New York, took place between September 2018 and August 2019 and the fourth, originally scheduled for March 2020 but postponed because of the pandemic, took place in March 2022.

The future instrument will create a global process by which marine protected areas (MPAs) in ABNJ can be established and managed, 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 marine regions.<sup>1</sup>

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 compliance by ocean users with agreed upon conservation and management measures.

This workshop gathered more than 50 participants involved in BBNJ, MPA and MCS processes, including State representatives, MPA practitioners, scientists and representatives of international organisations and civil society. It offered 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. Participants discussed lessons learned from the management of existing large-scale MPAs and exchanged on opportunities to make the draft BBNJ treaty fit for MCS purposes.

The key messages from the workshop can be summarised as follows:

## 1) Emerging technologies do not replace the human factor of MCS

In recent years, traditional MCS tools such as patrol vessels have been complemented by different types of emerging technologies such as satellite sensors, remote sensing, drones and synthetic aperture radars to detect or monitor vessel movements and activities. Detection capability requires response capability to ensure illegal human activities do not go unpunished. This is why traditional tools such as patrol vessels and aircrafts remain relevant as well as ensuring there is sufficient capacity for port authorities to bring non-compliant operators to justice. As high seas MPAs will likely cover remote and isolated areas, States need to come up with a robust MCS solution that uses a range of MCS tools, data and human resources.

MCS tools that are already used by enforcement officials for existing MPAs provide relevant “real world” examples that can be used for the first generation of high seas MPAs. Enforcement officers often use a risk assessment through which they assess what kinds of risks or threats (e.g. illegal fishing or pollution) the MPA is facing. Not every MCS tool can be applied to every risk, so they use this assessment to identify the most appropriate tools based on the specific risk or threat. Moreover, there are many tools available to collect data, but they are only as good as the information that goes into them as well as what is done with the findings. That is why the human capacity to analyse data and to take better informed policy decisions based on the analysed data remains important.

The control of fishing activities in MPAs can be classified into: 1) output controls that limit what can be removed (in no take MPAs: no fishing; if fishing is allowed, there are quotas/TACs or landings, catches and discards are monitored) and 2) input controls that limit input, fishing efforts and capacity (the number

---

<sup>1</sup> Cremers, K., Wright, G., Rochette, J., “Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction”, STRONG High Seas Project, 2020.

and/or size of vessels). Both types of control activities are often meant to protect vulnerable stocks and their habitats in addition to spatial and temporal controls, e.g. who can go where to catch what when.

## 2) Funding is a key factor for successful MCS in MPAs

There is currently a significant financial gap for research into and management of the marine environment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 on life below water often mentioned as one of the least financed SDGs.<sup>2</sup> The BBNJ treaty will create additional obligations for States in terms of ocean management. States signing up to the treaty are responsible for ensuring management organisations have adequate resources to meet the objectives of the treaty. There are three potential entry points to deliver adequate funding:

**Data infrastructure** – satellites can play a significant role in marine protection, especially on the high seas. How can we get to an ocean data infrastructure and what are the components? Many States want more funding to invest in patrol vessels and aircraft, but States might also want to look into strengthening port State measures to ensure there is an infrastructure in place to share information between ports and flag States.

**Capacity development** – high seas protection will only work if all countries are engaged. This means looking at financing from a State point of view while linking capacity and finance discussions. The BBNJ text could, for example, anchor financing efforts in the text by including a management and financing strategy as part of ABMT proposals.

**Ocean finance architecture** – BBNJ negotiators should think about the ocean finance architecture that they would like to use before finalising the treaty. This could include multilateral development banks, public-private partnership approaches or a finance committee under the BBNJ CoP.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations provide some important lessons learned for the BBNJ context as financing was only considered in the later stages of the negotiations and then it took 15 years of CoPs before a technology and finance mechanism as well as the Green Climate Fund were created. It might be useful to assess how well these climate change funding structure function and deliver on their objectives. BBNJ negotiators might wish to already identify additional financial mechanisms to ensure that States will have sufficient resources to be able to meet the objectives of the treaty.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) could play, for example, a role in financing the future implementation of the BBNJ treaty. It is currently already investing into projects on the high seas. However, GEF alone is not sufficient to scale up finances for BBNJ implementation. This means that many initiatives look at ways to mobilise private funds, such as a special climate or adaptation fund. This is also how the Seychelles Blue Bond was created, which brought together the World Bank, American NGO The Nature Conservancy and the private sector.

It is unclear whether existing bodies, such as regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), have sufficient capacity to contribute to MCS activities on the high seas. Also, other existing bodies such as the International Seabed authority (ISA) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) could possibly contribute to MCS activities in ABNJ and one should determine with which capacities and under which framework. That is why a capacity needs assessment is necessary to find out what kind of financing capacity existing organisations and bodies active in the high seas have and how they could finance additional responsibilities that might follow from the BBNJ treaty. Creating a joint finance plan could also be a way to take a more coherent approach within BBNJ together with existing bodies.

There is not much research available on the costs of MCS activities in MPAs, especially on the high seas. That is why it is challenging to estimate the costs of managing a MPA per hectare. In coastal areas, staff costs represent the majority of the costs, but this may not be the same for high seas MPAs. In any case, for high seas MPAs, there needs to be an MCS/enforcement framework in place once the high seas MPA has been created with adequate funding.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/oecd-launches-tool-to-analyze-sdg-finance/>

The overall benefits of MPAs depend on the income of formerly active fisheries, the level of compliance and the economic priorities of managing States. The example of Kiribati rolling back their Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) from a no take zone to a managed area due to a perceived negative economic model of the no take zone illustrates this. It is important to assess what has happened. Is this a missed opportunity to maximise the potential benefits of the no take MPA, an issue with being able to assess the complete economic situation of the park, or was the economic model for the park unrealistic and a managed area potentially best from a socio-economic perspective. Would a finance mechanism such as Seychelles Blue Bond potentially have helped to justify PIPA?

Besides funding coming from States parties to the agreement, there might be ways to involve ocean users and international donors in the funding of MCS activities. States can also look into marine compensation schemes, which are *ad hoc* projects that provide a one-off payment for MPA management.

### 3) A political momentum to conserve and sustainably use BBNJ

The BBNJ negotiations provide a once-in-a-generation opportunity to set up a framework to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in ABNJ. The treaty currently does not holistically consider MCS. However, there is still time to change the text as many provisions remain in brackets. As developed and proposed in IDDRI's research on MCS in ABNJ, the treaty can strengthen MCS by: 1) reinforcing MCS obligations and principles, 2) requiring an MCS strategy be developed as a component of ABMT/MPA proposals and 3) developing a strong role for the clearing-house mechanism.<sup>3</sup>

The clearing-house mechanism will serve as a centralised information repository or an open-access platform that could enable States Parties to access and publicise information on capacity-building and technology transfer opportunities, as well as facilitate enhanced transparency and international cooperation and collaboration. In relation to MCS, this mechanism could, for example: encourage States Parties to share best practices; increase capacity for the design and implementation of MCS technologies and policies; and highlight opportunities to collaboratively monitor activities at sea.

Besides the BBNJ negotiations, there are also discussions going on at the CBD to set a "30x30" target, which aims to protect 30% (by surface area) of terrestrial ecosystems and 30% of marine ecosystems worldwide by 2030.<sup>4</sup> Further details that negotiators still have to agree on regarding this target as well as efforts to implement it in the future keep the momentum going to create the first generation of high seas MPAs. That is why it is crucial that States and other stakeholders already start thinking about what kind of management plan and MCS capacity will be necessary to make these MPAs effective.

MPAs are now often seen as potential management tools to protect biodiversity, but with the merging of biodiversity and climate change agendas,<sup>5</sup> they are more and more perceived as a management measure to mitigate climate change impacts.

### 4) Learning lessons from existing large-scale MPAs

<sup>3</sup> Cremers, Klaudija; Wright, Glen; and Rochette, Julien. "Strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance of human activities in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction: Challenges and opportunities for an international legally binding instrument," Marine Policy 122 (2020);

<https://www.iddri.org/sites/default/files/PDF/Publications/Catalogue%20Iddri/Autre%20Publication/Briefing%20for%20negotiators%20on%20Strengthening%20MCS%20through%20the%20BBNJ%20treaty.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/blog-post/last-stop-kunming-cop15-what-are-priorities-genevas-biodiversity>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.iddri.org/sites/default/files/PDF/Publications/Catalogue%20Iddri/Etude/202104-ST0521\\_EN.pdf.pdf](https://www.iddri.org/sites/default/files/PDF/Publications/Catalogue%20Iddri/Etude/202104-ST0521_EN.pdf.pdf)

Existing large-scale MPAs provide important lessons that decision-makers should keep in mind to prevent reinventing the wheel once declaring next generation high seas MPAs. There are five essential and mutually supportive steps for an effective MCS system for MPAs:

1. Establishment of an entity with clear responsibility and leadership to manage the MPA;
2. Adoption of a robust and supportive legal structure and framework that is future looking;
3. Creation of detection capability – through a robust suite of MCS “tools”;
4. Development of an enforcement response capacity through a variety of mechanisms; and
5. Establishment of effective adjudication procedures for cases of non-compliance.

Lessons learnt from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park illustrate that decision-makers should set realistic expectations and goals to ensure management plans are realistic in terms of capacity and funding. MCS considerations should be embedded in discussions from the very beginning. This will ensure the highest probability that rules will be enforced and MPAs will meet objectives. An MCS strategy for an MPA should look into what the biggest capacity needs are which should be informed by the outcomes of a risk assessment specific to the MPA and provide training to enforcement officers accordingly to anticipate implementation challenges and avoid paper parks by directing and prioritizing resources in response to the most significant risks identified. At the same time, the strategy should be flexible enough in case risks or management priorities change over time. It is also important to monitor and assess the effectiveness of MPAs by using a regular, transparent and simple format to measure whether the MPA management measures meet the objectives set.

In addition, enforcement officers should not forget about the areas outside the MPA when managing the ocean. In certain cases, such as in the Galapagos Marine Reserve, fishing effort displaced to the area outside the boundaries of the MPA.<sup>6</sup> The potential risks of this “border” or “spillover” effect of displaced fishing effort and potential consequences for the wider ecosystem needs to be assessed in MPA management plans.

RFMOs can play a key role in establishing the MCS framework for an MPA and ensuring high levels of compliance can be achieved. In the British Indian Ocean Territory MPA (no take zone; national MPA), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) places pressure on flag States to take action on IUU fishing and IOTC is developing a centralised VMS system. A centralised or single centrally administered VMS system is beneficial, because it requires, facilitates or encourages a degree of routine data sharing amongst members and cooperating non-contracting parties of RFMOs which can in turn lead to more transparency, timeliness and consistency of data, better coverage of fleet monitoring, usefulness for science.<sup>7</sup>

The Ross Sea region MPA (zoned use with some commercial fishing permitted; high seas MPA) is managed by the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and includes 100% observer coverage (with at least 2 observers on board), hourly reporting by vessels using a centralised VMS system and a catch documentation scheme. Vessels in apparent breach of CCAMLR conservation measures are reported to their flag State for further investigation and potential enforcement action.

In the Northeast Atlantic, NEAFC requires all vessels to carry VMS and record catches daily both in the high seas as well as in EEZs. States Parties also conduct joint inspection patrols. NEAFC also established an electronic exchange system in order to more effectively share information with and between flag States authorities.

Lastly, MPAs will be more effective if States create a culture of compliance and sustainability as part of their fisheries management strategy. In this respect, the buy-in of and consultation with ocean users is key.

---

<sup>6</sup> Relano, Veronica; Palomares, Maria Lourdes Deng; and Pauly, Daniel, “Comparing the Performance of Four Very Large Marine Protected Areas with Different Levels of Protection,” *Sustainability*, 13, 9572 (2021).

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-vessel-monitoring-system-study-options-paper-strengthening-vms-iotc>



## 5) Cooperation and coordination with existing management bodies

There is a great likelihood that areas considered for high seas MPAs are already covered by a management framework of a RFMO, and as such, there may be existing tools that have already been established to cover MCS in that region. We are not starting from square one. The challenge of future high seas MPAs will be to ensure that there is sufficient cooperation and coordination between the BBNJ instrument and existing frameworks and bodies with a mandate to create high seas MPAs. The BBNJ treaty will have to strengthen and not undermine these existing bodies or frameworks.

Transparency, cooperation, and information sharing are essential for an MCS system to be effective. However, it is important to keep in mind that data on vessel activities belongs to States and not to RFMOs. RFMOs need to be equipped with adequate resources to facilitate transparency and reporting.

The clearing-house mechanism could also be useful to share information on MCS. It is important to create a confidentiality agreement to clarify what kind of information can be shared. This can take the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between organisations that indicate who can do what kind of activity where.

Although the MCS of MPAs is often looked at from a fisheries perspective, decision-makers will have to also consider other human activities taking place in the high seas that should be addressed in management plans such as shipping, research, the collection of marine genetic resources and potentially deep-sea bed mining. This requires extensive engagement at a cross-sectoral level with other global, regional, and sectoral organisations. In addition, management plans should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changes in management priorities or the emergence of new risks or threats as well as be flexible enough to consider cumulative impacts resulting from climate change and pollution, for example.

### Annex 1: List of Participants

Name	Affiliation
Fariz Ahmadov	Canada
Professor Babajide Alo	University of Lagos, Nigeria
Hrannar Mar Asgeirsson	NEAFC
Aurore Beyel	IDDR
Thomas Binet	BlueSeeds
John Bohorquez	Stony Brook University
Ben Boteler	IASS
Johnny Briggs	PEW
Birgir Hrafn Búason	Iceland
Darius Campbell	NEAFC
Clément Chazot	IUCN
Joachim Claudet	National Center for Scientific Research, France
James Moir Clark	MRAG
Waldemar Coutts	Chile
Klaudija Cremers	IDDR
Guillermo Ortuño Crespo	Stockholm Resilience Centre
David Curnick	Zoological Society of London
Christopher Cusack	EDF
Kurt Davis	Jamaica
Kjell Kristian Egge	Norway
Minna Epps	IUCN
Adriana Fabra	Independent Consultant
Joseph Ferdinando	Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence
David Freestone	Sargasso Sea Commission
Tekau Frere	Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner
Monica Gamboa	Asociacion Costa Rica por Siempre/Fundacion PACIFICO
Carla Fonseca Grafino	Portugal
Shannon Hampton	IOI-South Africa
Janos Hennicke	Germany
Julio Herrera	Independent Consultant
Tia Hobson	OceanMind
Marie Houdart	DG Mare
Jean Kenfack	Cameroon
Charlie Kilgour	Global Fishing Watch
Fred Kingston	NAFO
Kristin von Kistowski	FAO
Rafael Almeida Magris	Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, Brazil
Anna Metaxas	Department of Oceanography, Dalhousie University
Sophie Mirgaux	Belgium
Meba T. Pagnibam	Togo



Alexia Pognonec	France
Madhu Rao	IUCN
Marc Richir	DG Mare
Julien Rochette	IDDRI
Alex Rogers	REV Ocean Norway
Gwilym Rowlands	Oxford Martin Sustainable Oceans Programme
Fae Sapsford	Sargasso Sea Commission
Lucia Solano	Colombia
Aur�lie Spadone	IUCN
Torsten Thiele	IASS
Viviana Tinoco Monge	Costa Rica
S�bastien Treyer	IDDRI
Felipe Paredes Vargas	IUCN
Lizette Voges	SEAFO
Samantha Watts	United Kingdom
Glen Wright	IDDRI
Mark Young	IMCS Network
Luis Alonso Zapata Padilla	WWF Colombia

## Annex 2: Workshop 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)	<p><b>Welcome and introduction of household rules</b></p> <p><i>Moderated by Klaudija Cremers, Research Fellow, IDDR I</i></p> <p>Opening of the workshop by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director, IDDR I</li> <li>• Minna Epps, Director, Global Marine and Polar Programme, IUCN</li> <li>• Mark Young, Executive Director, IMCS Network</li> </ul>
15:15-16:30 (1 hour and 15 mins)	<p><b>Session 1: The multiple faces of MCS</b></p> <p><i>Moderated by Mark Young, Executive Director, IMCS Network</i></p> <p>This session will look into what kind of MCS tools are at our disposition today to conduct MCS activities in MPAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keynote presentation</b> by James Moir Clark, Director, MRAG, on the MCS tools used in the British Indian Ocean Territory and CCAMLR (10 min).</li> <li>• <b>Discussant:</b> Dr Darius Campbell, Secretary, NEAFC, on the MCS tools used for fisheries closures in the NEAFC Regulatory Area (7 min).</li> </ul>
16:30-16:45 (15 mins)	Break
16:45-17:55 (1 hour and 10 mins)	<p><b>Session 2: MCS in large-scale MPAs: how does it work?</b></p> <p><i>Moderated by Dr Felipe Paredes Vargas, Vice Chair for Marine WCPA, IUCN and Glen Wright, Senior Research Fellow, IDDR I</i></p> <p>This session will draw lessons from existing large-scale MPAs and explore the challenges and opportunities in terms of MCS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keynote pre-recorded presentation</b> by Dr Jon Day, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University, on lessons learned from existing large-scale MPAs (15 min).</li> </ul>
17:55-18:00	Key conclusions and closing remarks

(5 mins)	<i>Moderated by Klaudija Cremers, Research Fellow, IDDRI</i>
----------	--

## Day 2. Wednesday 16 February 2022, 15:00-17:45 (CET)

14:45-15:00 (15 mins)	Online platform open for participants to login
15:00-15:05 (5 mins)	Welcome and introduction to day 2 <i>Moderated by Klaudija Cremers, Research Fellow, IDDRI</i>
15:05-16:15 (1 hour and 10 mins)	<p><b>Session 3: MCS in large-scale MPAs: how much does it cost?</b></p> <p><i>Moderated by Glen Wright, Senior Research Fellow, IDDRI</i></p> <p>This session will draw on lessons from large-scale MPAs to provide an overview of what kind of financing mechanisms and options exist to fund the MCS of MPAs in the high seas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keynote presentation</b> by Torsten Thiele, Founder of Global Ocean Trust, on financing options for MPAs in the high seas (10 min).</li> <li>• <b>Discussant:</b> Dr Thomas Binet, Founder of BlueSeeds, on existing financing mechanisms for MPAs (7 min).</li> </ul>
16:15-16:30 (15 mins)	Break
16:30-17:30 (60 mins)	<p><b>Session 4: Making the BBNJ treaty fit for MCS purposes</b></p> <p><i>Moderated by Dr Julien Rochette, Ocean Programme Director, IDDRI</i></p> <p>This session will look into whether and to what extent the BBNJ treaty text should be modified to better integrate lessons learnt from MPA experiences, especially on MCS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation</b> by Klaudija Cremers, Research Fellow at IDDRI, on options to strengthen MCS through the BBNJ treaty (10 min).</li> </ul>
17:30-17:45 (15 mins)	<p><b>Key conclusions and closing remarks</b> by Dr Julien Rochette, Ocean Programme Director, IDDRI.</p> <p><b>Closing statement</b> by Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, French Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic for the One Ocean Summit.</p>

**Annex 3:** List of webinars and scientific reports relevant to the Southeast Pacific region published under the STRONG High Seas project to date

### STRONG High Seas Reports

- Cremers, K., Wright, G., Rochette, J., “Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction”, STRONG High Seas Project, 2020, <https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Cremers-Wright-and-Rochette-2019.-Strengthening-Monitoring-Control-and-Surveillance-in-Areas-Beyond-National-Jurisdiction-1.pdf>
  - Version en français: <http://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Cremers-K.-et-al-Renforcer-le-SCS-dans-les-ZAJN.pdf>
  - Versión en español: <http://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Cremers-K.-et-al-Fortalecer-el-MCS-en-ABNJ.pdf>
  - Briefing for negotiators: <http://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Briefing-for-negotiators-on-Strengthening-MCS-through-the-BBNJ-treaty.pdf>
- Cremers, K., Wright, G., Rochette, J., “Options for Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Human Activities in the Southeast Pacific Region”, STRONG High Seas Project, 2020, <https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/STRONG-HS-MCS-CPPS-Report-1.pdf>
  - Versión en español: [https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/STRONG-HS-MCS-CPPS-Report\\_ES.pdf](https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/STRONG-HS-MCS-CPPS-Report_ES.pdf)
- Cremers, K., Bouvet, M., Wright, G., Rochette, J., “Options for Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Human Activities in the Southeast Atlantic Region”, STRONG High Seas Project, 2021, <https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Cremers-K.-Bouvet-M.-Wright-G.-Rochette-J-Options-for-Strengthening-MCS-of-Human-Activities-in-the-Southeast-Atlantic-region.pdf>
  - Version en français: <https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/202111-MCS-report-FR.pdf>

### STRONG High Seas Fact Sheets

- STRONG High Seas Project, Monitoring, control, and surveillance in areas beyond national jurisdiction, Fact Sheet, 2020, [https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/STRONG-High-Seas\\_FactSheet\\_MCS.pdf](https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/STRONG-High-Seas_FactSheet_MCS.pdf)

### STRONG High Seas Policy Briefs

- Kladija Cremers, Glen Wright, Julien Rochette, ‘Keeping an Eye on the High Seas: Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance through a New Marine Biodiversity Treaty’, STRONG High Seas Project, 2019, <https://www.prog-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Cremers-et-al-2019-Keeping-an-Eye-on-the-High-Seas.pdf>

### STRONG High Seas Online Seminar

- STRONG High Seas Online Seminar – [Strengthening Monitoring control and surveillance through a High Seas Treaty](#) (11/2020)
- STRONG High Seas Online Seminar (in Spanish) – [Strengthening MCS in the Southeast Pacific](#) (11/2020)
- STRONG High Seas Online Seminar (in English) – [Towards a better management of Western African marine resources](#) (11/2021)

### 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.prog-ocean.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:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

The STRONG High Seas project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI; <http://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/>). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.