

Marine Regions Forum 2019

**ACHIEVING A HEALTHY OCEAN –
REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE
BEYOND 2020**

30 September – 02 October 2019, Berlin, Germany

CONFERENCE REPORT

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PROTECT ONE OCEAN

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CONTENT

Foreword	3
1 Welcome	5
2 Key Messages	8
3 Summary Notes	17
3.1 Plenaries	18
Welcome and Opening Plenary Achieving healthy oceans – Challenges and opportunities	18
Plenary Ocean Governance post-2020 – The role of marine regions	25
Closing Plenary Accelerating progress, creating new pathways	30
3.2 Dialogue Sessions	37
Theme 1 Achieving SDG 14	38
Theme 2 Underpinning global processes	57
Theme 3 Knowledge for ocean action	76
3.3 The Ocean Realm – Exhibitions and side events	92
Graphic recording – Leave your mark	92
Meet & Greet Space	92
MSP Challenge board game	92
VR corner – Take a virtual plunge into the ocean	93
Photo exhibition – Tropic Ice_Dialog between places affected by climate change	93
Young Ocean Professionals Daily debriefing	93
3.4 Public Event Berlin am Meer/Berlin by the sea	95
4 Conference Agenda of the Marine Regions Forum 2019	96
5 Participating organisations	100
6 The Marine Regions Forum Team	104

ABBREVIATIONS

2030 Agenda	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
ABMT	area-based management tool
ABNJ	areas beyond national jurisdiction
BBNJ	biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	conference of the parties
EBM	ecosystem-based management
EBSA	ecologically or biologically significant marine areas
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
EU	European Union
FARI	Forum for Academic and Research Institutions
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISA	International Seabed Authority
IUU	illegal, unreported, and unregulated
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LMMA	locally managed marine areas
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
MPA	marine protected area
MSP	marine spatial planning
NDC	nationally determined contribution
PSMA	Agreement on Port State Measures
REMP	regional environmental management plan
RFMO	regional fisheries management organisation
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SDG	sustainable development goal
SEA	strategic environmental assessments
SPP	Science to Policy Platform
SROCC	Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
TEK	traditional ecological knowledge
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
WIOMSA	WIOMSA Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

FOREWORD



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German Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Karmenu Vella

European Commissioner for Environment,
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

When we think about the ocean, we likely all have manifold and ambivalent associations: we see beaches and holidays, but also plastic waste; a vast blue space, but also green algae blooms; food - and overfishing; oil platforms and wind turbines, shipping and global trade, migration and sea rescue, rising sea levels and floods.

Together with the multiple benefits we gain from the ocean, there also comes a complex mix of issues: Today, our seas and oceans are already highly impacted by pollutants and nutrients, by waste, fishing and other activities, and by climate change. In its recently launched special report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reminded us of the dramatic effects of climate change on the ocean: sea levels are rising and the waters are warming, acidifying and losing oxygen, together causing serious impacts on marine ecosystems.

Not only do we need to make progress on climate mitigation, we also need to ensure that our marine ecosystems can adapt in order to limit negative impacts to the maximum extent possible. We must strengthen the resilience of these systems, protect and preserve marine habitats, and use marine resources in a sustainable way. Networks of marine protected areas can play an important role, while the ongoing negotiations for an agreement on the protection of biodiversity on the high seas are a historic opportunity. We need to make sure that effectively managed networks of protected areas can be developed to protect high seas biodiversity, that ecologically valuable marine areas identified within the framework of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity serve as a basis for advancing such developments, and that environmental impact assessments are conducted according to the highest professional standards.

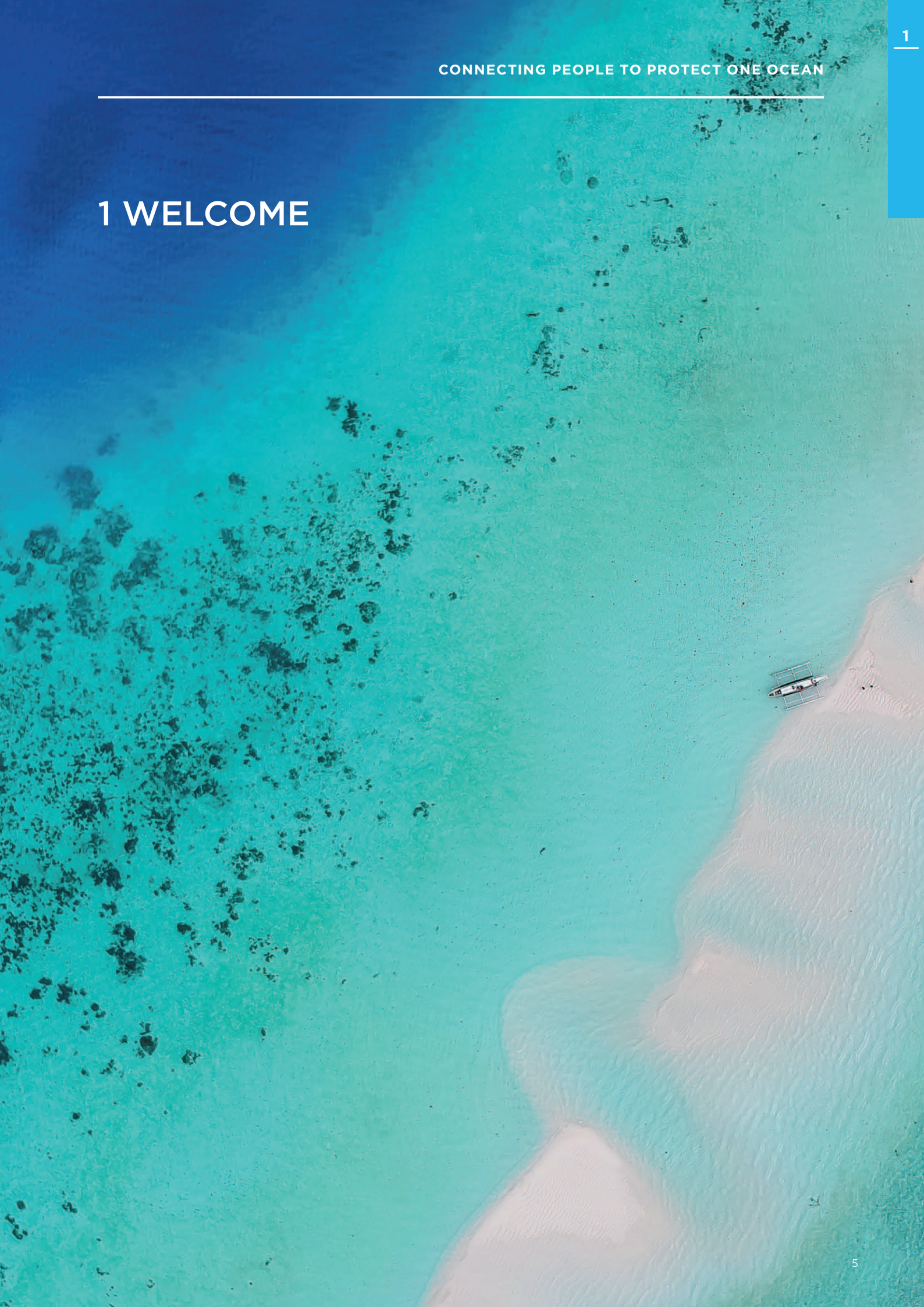
But first and foremost we need integrated thinking and action to successfully meet the pressing challenges and ensure a healthy ocean – and human well-being. In order to protect the seas and oceans more effectively, disparate interests must be better linked and balanced. The regional level can play an indispensable role, but we need a proper structure for dialogue and coordination in order to bring about change and foster positive outcomes.

At the Our Ocean conference in Malta 2017, the European Union and Germany therefore committed to set up a platform for regional ocean governance by 2020, following up on an initial commitment by Germany at the UN Ocean Conference in New York earlier that year. Regional ocean governance is a central element of our ocean policies, our international ocean governance agendas and our contribution to the sustainable development goal (SDG) 14. It is the link between the national rights and responsibilities and the international objectives and duties, and well suited to address the ocean's issues.

We are proud to deliver on that commitment with the first meeting of the Marine Regions Forum successfully held in Berlin, Germany, from 30 September to 2 October 2019. The Marine Regions Forum is filling a critical gap in the ocean policy landscape. It brings ocean actors and stakeholders together to exchange experiences, discuss common problems and to develop new, cross-sectoral solutions to some of our most urgent challenges, such as the strong decline of marine biodiversity. Taking place outside of formal negotiations and beyond the usual silos, our hope is that the Forum will help galvanise international ocean governance and help us deliver on SDG 14.

We established the Marine Regions Forum to help dismantle structural barriers we are facing in ocean governance and to offer a space to jointly develop new approaches and partnerships that will lead us to govern the ocean jointly, and thus more effectively. SDG 14 cannot be achieved by individual countries acting alone – our governance structures need to be as interconnected as the ocean itself. We would like to thank all participants for attending this Forum, and for bringing their expertise and passion. We would also like to thank the organisers of the Marine Regions Forum, in particular our colleagues from the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and the TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability (TMG).

1 WELCOME



1 WELCOME

In 2017, at the UN Ocean Conference in New York and the Our Ocean Conference in Malta, Germany and the European Union announced their support for establishing a “cross-sectoral and cross-boundary multi-stakeholder platform for regional ocean governance” under the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG)¹. This important commitment was delivered through the development of the *Marine Regions Forum*, a participatory, knowledge-based platform at the science-policy-society interface.

The first Marine Regions Forum was held from 30 September to 2 October 2019 in Berlin, under the banner *Achieving a healthy ocean – Regional ocean governance beyond 2020*. The Forum provided a unique space for open and productive exchange on pressing ocean issues, bringing together over 200 leading experts from 50 countries representing diverse marine regions and backgrounds, from academia and research, policy and decision-making, non-governmental organisations and industry, the arts and media. Keen to move beyond simply restating the challenges, participants jointly explored the obstacles that need to be overcome in order to achieve the sustainable development goal (SDG) 14 and developed new pathways and solutions for accelerating progress. Discussions focussed on the role of regional governance approaches in particular and underpinned the importance of integrating knowledge and decision-making for sustainable ocean futures.

In addition to eighteen parallel dialogue sessions running under the three conference themes *Achieving SDG 14* (Theme 1), *Underpinning global processes* (Theme 2) and *Knowledge for ocean action* (Theme 3), the Marine Regions Forum 2019 had daily plenary sessions that ensured the infusion of new ideas and ways of thinking and helped to deepen the debates among participants. Keynote speakers and plenary panellists from different sectors and marine regions reflected on the Marine Regions Forum’s discussion topics and shared their views on the role of regions and options for accelerating progress. Side activities offered during conference breaks helped to create an inspiring Ocean Realm and offered space for reflection and networking.

The Marine Regions Forum 2019 came at a crucial time for global ocean governance. Our ocean is in crisis, threatening the health of marine ecosystems and the vital ecosystem services they provide to humankind. There is nonetheless cause for hope, as the international community is proactively responding by: implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 14; negotiating a new legally-binding instrument for biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ); integrating ocean issues into the climate discussions; and developing the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030). Although these actions offer windows of opportunity, they require strong engagement, coordination and cooperation by marine regions. The year 2020 will be a year of stock-taking and critical review to determine whether our actions are sufficiently ambitious to meet the challenges.

The Marine Regions Forum 2019 has shown that the Forum is well positioned to provide solution-oriented input into these processes by bringing together the expertise and insights of actors and stakeholders from different backgrounds and regions, helping to develop integrated answers to the most pressing challenges, and facilitating collective strategies for the period beyond 2020.

¹ Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance: International Forum for Advancing Regional Ocean Governance (#OceanAction18439), URL: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18439>.

This conference report aims to provide a summary of the discussions held and recommendations developed during three intense but invigorating conference days. It has been prepared in cooperation with the organisers, moderators, co-hosts and rapporteurs of the dialogue sessions, plenaries and side activities. The conference organisers have, in consultation with the participants of the Marine Regions Forum, prepared conclusions that have emerged from the Marine Regions Forum 2019. These conference messages will be submitted as a solution-oriented input to key ocean governance processes.

It is thanks to the over 200 participants and their open dialogue and sharing of experiences that the space and arrangements became a room for ocean solutions and delivered clear messages to the international ocean governance community.



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2 KEY MESSAGES

2 KEY MESSAGES²

Marine Regions Forum 2019: Achieving a healthy ocean – Regional ocean governance beyond 2020

Introduction

1. The Marine Regions Forum 2019 took place at a critical moment for the future of the ocean. The current crisis demands a radical shift in the way we treat the ocean, its precious wildlife, and its invaluable natural resources. We are witnessing continued loss of biodiversity, overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and many other serious impacts from human activities – all compounded by climate change, ocean deoxygenation and acidification. The 2019 IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services warns that 66% of the ocean is experiencing increasing cumulative impacts from human activities and the 2019 IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate highlights the impact that climate change is already having on our Blue Planet.
2. 2020 is the deadline for meeting four of the ten targets of the United Nations (UN) sustainable development goal for the ocean, SDG 14, but these targets will most likely not be reached. Existing governance frameworks are fragmented and have proven inadequate in addressing the challenges facing our ocean. Ocean governance should be strengthened by taking an ecosystem-based approach that aligns regulatory frameworks with interconnected natural and social systems. This demands urgent action at all levels, from the local to the global, and across boundaries and sectors. Marine regions are well-placed to ensure the engagement and action that is needed.
3. At the 2017 UN Ocean Conference³ and the Our Ocean Conference⁴ respectively, the German Government and the European Commission committed to develop and host the Marine Regions Forum, together with the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), and TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability (TMG), with the aim of strengthening regional ocean governance for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

More than 200 participants from 50 countries attended the Marine Regions Forum 2019, representing the world's diverse marine regions. They identified and discussed effective approaches and solutions, including networks of marine protected areas (MPAs), ocean-based solutions for climate action, regional ocean governance strategies for SDG 14 implementation, and governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

² Prepared by the organisers of the Marine Regions Forum 2019: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) e. V., Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability (TMG)

³ <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18439>

⁴ https://ourocean2017.org/sites/default/files/ooc-2017-list-of-commitments_en.pdf

4. The Marine Regions Forum provides a new form of science-society-policy interface where decision-makers, scientists, civil society representatives and other actors meet outside formal governmental processes to engage in open exchanges and develop new solutions to sustainability challenges. The Marine Regions Forum thereby complements ongoing scientific and policy processes by bringing together the different kinds of knowledge needed to achieve ocean sustainability.
5. The ocean has never been higher on the international agenda. The “Blue” COP 25 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2019 drew attention to the impacts of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems and the potential for ocean-based solutions. The 2020 UN Ocean Conference will take stock of action taken to ensure ocean health. Negotiations for a legally-binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) are scheduled to be completed by 2020. The international community is considering options for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and a wide range of societal actors have committed to support ocean action. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) will spur renewed interest and investment in ocean science, and numerous regional processes and initiatives are dedicated to reversing the decline in ocean health.
6. The Marine Regions Forum 2019 concluded that cooperation, coordination and implementation in marine regions will be critical to address the immense challenges facing our global ocean and making progress in achieving global agreements. It was demonstrated that transparent and engaging dialogue processes across different sectors and relevant actors can help to guide the needed transformation. By tapping into the wealth of knowledge and experiences at the regional level, facilitating the sharing of good practices between different regions, and developing new approaches, the Marine Regions Forum helps to strengthen cooperation within regions, between regions and between the global and regional level.
7. The decisions taken and implemented now and in the next decade will be decisive for the future of the ocean. Accelerated implementation and a transparent process of monitoring and review needs to start now, with strengthened regional ocean governance frameworks playing a key role.

Key messages from the Marine Regions Forum 2019

8. Building on the discussions at the Marine Regions Forum 2019 and invited comments from participants following the event, the conference organisers IASS, IDDRI, and TMG have derived the following key messages:

- (1) Address climate change, deoxygenation and ocean acidification in marine regions through ocean-based solutions and adaptive governance.**

Policymakers should, at all scales, build on the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate and develop robust measures aimed to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts on the ocean. Examples include the implementation of nature-based solutions

and the development of regional strategies to adapt to moving fish stocks. In this regard, regional and sectoral organisations have a key role to play in supporting ocean resilience to climate change by reducing other human pressures on the marine environment, especially by facilitating inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination. The upcoming UNFCCC COPs provide important opportunities for strengthening the integration of ocean-related issues into the climate discussions. In addition to ambitious land-based mitigation action, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) should include marine components, as this will be key to reducing climate impacts. This could be facilitated through regional arrangements or dedicated initiatives.

(2) Adopt a strong and comprehensive agreement for biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

Areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) cover 43% of the surface of our planet; yet there is no comprehensive legal regime to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of its marine biodiversity. The adoption of a robust and comprehensive global legally-binding agreement for ABNJ is needed to sustain marine life and vital ocean services. A future global regime for biodiversity in ABNJ must be underpinned by a strong implementation framework that integrates all current and future aspects of ocean use and management, while ensuring cooperation and coordination across sectors and governance levels. This should be based on shared principles, objectives, and collaborative processes for science across sectors and governance levels. Regional arrangements are particularly effective to engage and coordinate relevant stakeholders and facilitate the exchange of information and data. While decision-making might best be done at the global level through a Conference of the Parties under the new agreement, regional arrangements could play a key role in the implementation and coordination of globally-agreed measures, including monitoring, control, and surveillance.

Whilst there is considerable momentum towards an agreement for the conservation of biodiversity in ABNJ, the regime for deep seabed mining in the Area that is developing in parallel through the International Seabed Authority (ISA) has the potential to further increase pressure on the marine environment. It will be important to ensure consistence between the emerging regimes for the conservation of marine biodiversity in ABNJ and deep seabed mining as well as other sectoral uses, such as fisheries. Regional environmental management plans (REMPs) should be established as a precondition for possible deep seabed mining, developed through an inclusive and collaborative cross-sectoral approach that includes the transparent consultation of regional organisations and other stakeholders.

(3) Develop coherent networks of effective and well-managed marine protected areas, including in ABNJ, which are coordinated at the regional level.

The development of coherent networks of effective and well-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) and other area-based management tools (ABMTs) is critical to ensure the conservation and resilience of biodiversity and recovery of overexploited marine ecosystems. Marine regions are particularly well-placed to reflect ecosystem properties in the network design and ensure the protection of species throughout their whole life cycle, including for migratory species by considering their migratory pathways and habitats. In order to be effective, MPA networks need to cover considerable parts of the ocean. Scientists recommend that networks of MPAs, including zones

that prohibit human uses, should cover between 30% and 50% of the world's ocean. These areas should be subject to effective management, and monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS).

Discussions on how to facilitate the systematic establishment of a coherent network of MPAs have not yet taken place at the United Nations negotiations for a treaty on ABNJ. This is a significant issue that warrants attention in future negotiations in order to fully employ MPAs to conserve marine biodiversity in ABNJ and to meet objectives agreed by the international community. Ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) that have been identified through regional workshops under the CBD, as well as Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems identified under regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), could be used as a starting point to identify marine areas in need of protection. Regional approaches and capacities for coordinating ABMTs and establishing MPA networks should be strengthened to facilitate network coherence, appropriate MPA design, placement and size, and effective management, as well as monitoring and reporting against set targets.

(4) Combat all sources of marine pollution through regionally coordinated strategies across sectors and governance levels.

Marine pollution, including through litter, plastics, chemicals and nutrients, is a persistent challenge. Whereas chemical and nutrient pollution have been continuous problems in the past decades, other types of pollution, in particular plastic, have been identified as a recent, growing risk that requires urgent responses. Significantly reducing marine litter by 2025, as envisaged by target SDG 14.1, requires a concerted approach involving business, government, and civil society; yet current governance strategies provide a fragmented approach and regional strategies face a range of barriers.

Successful initiatives to implement regional marine litter action plans to reduce marine litter have targeted various levels of governance, focused on the full range of response options (prevention, mitigation, control, recovery) and engaged an array of different actors. In an effort to reduce plastic pollution, a cross-sectoral approach is crucial at all stages, from prevention of waste to waste management and clean up, and to awareness raising activities. To fight micro plastic pollution, specific focus needs to be given to integrated approaches, including improved waste water management. Opportunities for closer cooperation between sectors have become more common, especially as the global momentum around the negative impacts of marine litter has fostered a more receptive audience.

Regionally coordinated marine litter strategies should be developed and implemented with a view to facilitating circular economy and comprehensive waste-prevention approaches, in coordination with the sectors responsible. Global approaches, such as through a potential future legal instrument on marine litter, could compliment and be underpinned by existing, effective regional strategies. Regional collaboration, sharing lessons learnt, and identifying new solutions could support global governance and national action.

(5) Make tourism compatible with a healthy ocean.

Tourism is an important source of revenue and a means for development but also a source of negative externalities, especially in coastal and marine areas and for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Tourism has been estimated to generate around 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions and can also have detrimental effects on the natural environment through waste production, energy and resource consumption, and the construction of built infrastructures, all of which contribute to biodiversity loss, land use change, and the alteration of fragile ecosystems.

Tourism is also a blind spot in ocean governance, with limited collaboration among neighbouring states, despite shared interests. It is therefore crucial to integrate tourism more systematically into the agenda of regional organisations, to encourage the joint development of sustainability strategies among states sharing a marine ecosystem, and to drive the private sector towards sustainable practices.

Marine regions have a lot to learn from each other and the organisation of regular exchanges would help to encourage sharing of expertise and practices on key sustainability issues, such as the growth of cruise tourism, the integration of local communities into decision-making, and the use of certification and eco labelling.

(6) Accelerate action for achieving the ocean dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 14, through cooperative and coordinated regional ocean governance.

The implementation of SDG 14 and other ocean – related SDGs requires “nexus thinking”. The regional level has proven to be successful in bringing together different sectors, whilst operating at an appropriate ecosystem scale and taking into account the priorities and needs of the range of actors and institutions. The regional level is a good starting point to bridge prevalent sectoral approaches in ocean governance, and to achieve consistency across sectors, targets, and indicators. In an effort to coordinate policymaking and measures, cooperative narratives for SDG implementation focusing on important ecosystems, such as coral reefs, or “common enemies”, such as algal blooms, should be developed.

Regional cooperation can play an important role in translating global ambitions and targets into regionally relevant, achievable, harmonised and quantitative agreements. To this end, tailor-made regional and cross-sectoral ocean governance strategies or action plans should be agreed upon to identify common objectives for coordinated action and to take into account interactions, including trade-offs and synergies between ocean-related SDGs. Given the slow progress in implementing SDG 14, dedicated accelerator approaches that help to speed up action for regional and national priorities should be developed and applied.

(7) Scale up science-policy-society interfaces for marine regions and promote integration of all kinds of relevant knowledge in decision-making.

Strengthening the science-policy-society interface is needed for robust and integrated decision-making. In order to successfully link knowledge production and decision-making, capacities and resources need to be enhanced, relevant stakeholders involved, and milestones and goals set in a co-creation process linked to the policy frameworks. Marine regions should take action and establish boundary organisations as key actors for science-policy-society practices, or support existing organisations to take on such a task, and ensure continuous dialogue and feedback between science, policy, and society.

Global assessments addressing ocean affairs should be developed through processes that facilitate the co-production of knowledge and include contributions from regional and national levels. Partnerships with regional organisations could facilitate new forms of assessments that take stock of regional perspectives. In order to support transformation to sustainable pathways, regional and global assessments should be supported by harmonised data and information systems, and be better aligned with policy frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and engage with the key actors.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development provides a unique opportunity to support both global and regional institutions by stimulating scientific cooperation and the delivery of policy-relevant knowledge. The Decade should be inclusive and ensure wide participation of regions and disciplines alike in order to meet its ambitious aims. The scientific community should use the opportunity to increase coordination and ensure that the produced knowledge is both relevant and visible to policymakers.

(8) Develop a robust global post-2020 ocean governance framework supported by strengthened regional bodies.

Decisions taken in the next ten years will be critical for the ocean. The global community will have to decide how to take forward ocean sustainability between 2020 and 2030, including in the ocean dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, and the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Whilst updated and new sustainability goals are needed for the ocean, previous practice of setting ever-more ambitious targets for the distant future instead of achieving current targets must be avoided. New ocean-related goals should be underpinned and built upon a robust and implementation-focused post-2020 strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. Strengthened frameworks for integrated ocean governance at the regional scale will be important building blocks. The 2020 UN Ocean Conference provides a unique opportunity to agree on such an action-oriented approach that should be based on shared objectives and targets, and brings together all relevant policy strands.

About

The Marine Regions Forum 2019 took place from 30 September to 2 October 2019 in Berlin, Germany under the banner “Achieving a healthy ocean – Regional ocean governance beyond 2020”. The Forum aimed to develop clear recommendations, catalyse actionable outputs, and build partnerships for strengthening regional ocean governance in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 “Life Below Water” and other ocean-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. The key messages presented in this document have been developed by the conference organisers as a summary of the main conclusions from the conference to inform relevant ocean governance processes as well as governments, international organisations, researchers, civil society, and the private sector in their efforts to improve ocean health.

The Marine Regions Forum 2019 provided a unique space for open and productive exchange on pressing ocean issues, bringing together over 200 leading experts from 50 countries representing diverse marine regions and backgrounds, from academia and research, policy and decisionmaking, non-governmental organisations, industry, the arts, and media. As a multi-stakeholder and cross sectoral platform, the conference developed new pathways and actionable solutions for accelerating progress regarding prevailing ocean governance challenges that need to be overcome to achieve SDG 14. Discussions focussed on the role of regional governance approaches in particular and underpinned the importance of integrating knowledge and decision-making for sustainable ocean futures. The key messages outlined in this document can also be found in the Conference Report, which includes the comprehensive program of the Marine Regions Forum 2019. The Conference Report can be accessed here: www.marineregionsforum.org.

Contact

Web: <https://www.marineregionsforum.org>

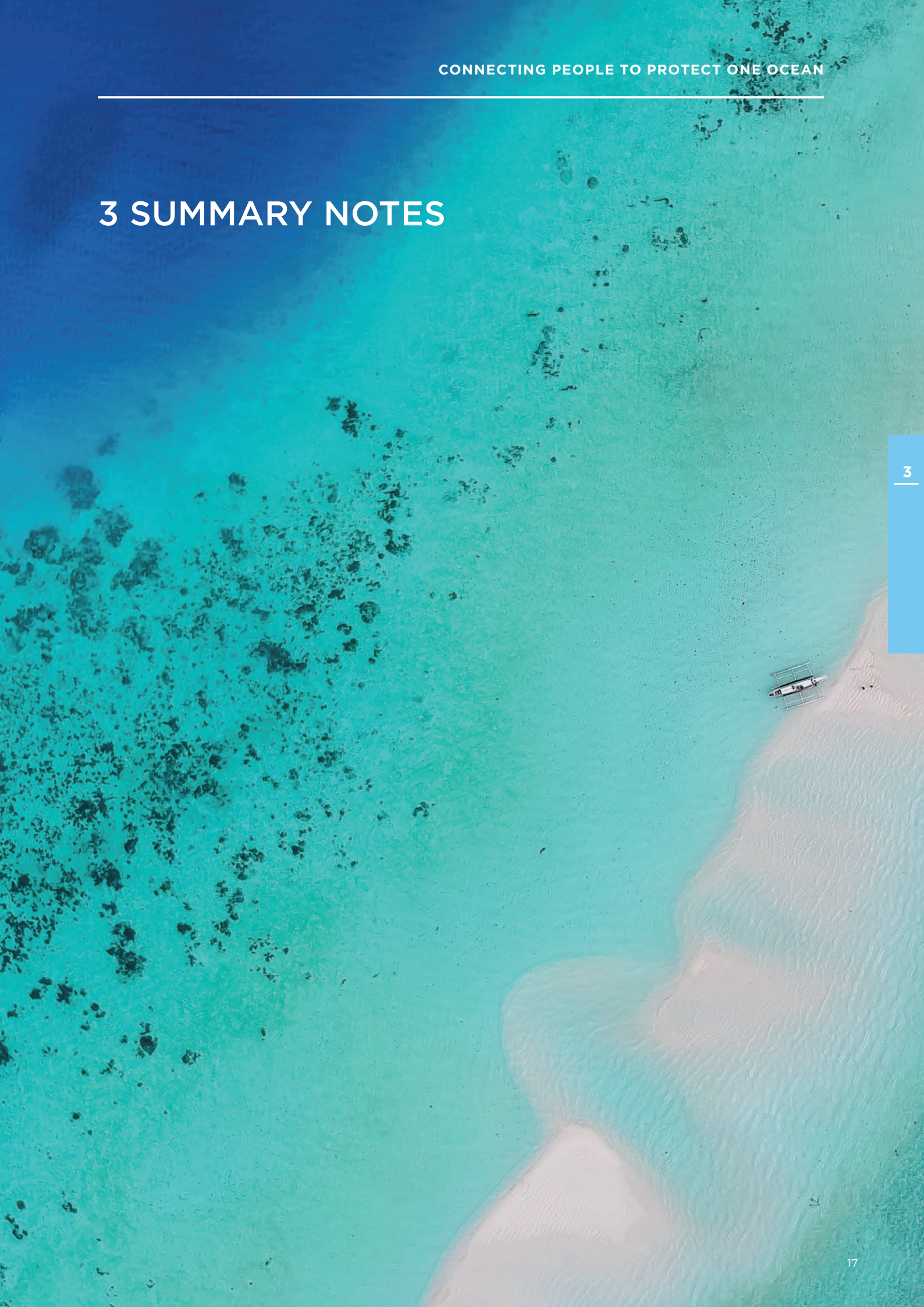
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3 SUMMARY NOTES



3 SUMMARY NOTES

3.1 Plenaries

Welcome and Opening Plenary | Achieving healthy oceans – Challenges and opportunities

Moderator **Alexander Müller**, Managing Director, TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability, welcomed participants for the opening plenary of the Marine Regions Forum 2019. He stressed that marine regions are key to addressing the interconnected challenges of ocean sustainability and explained how focusing on a regional approach can support implementation of SDG 14 and other ocean-related SDGs.

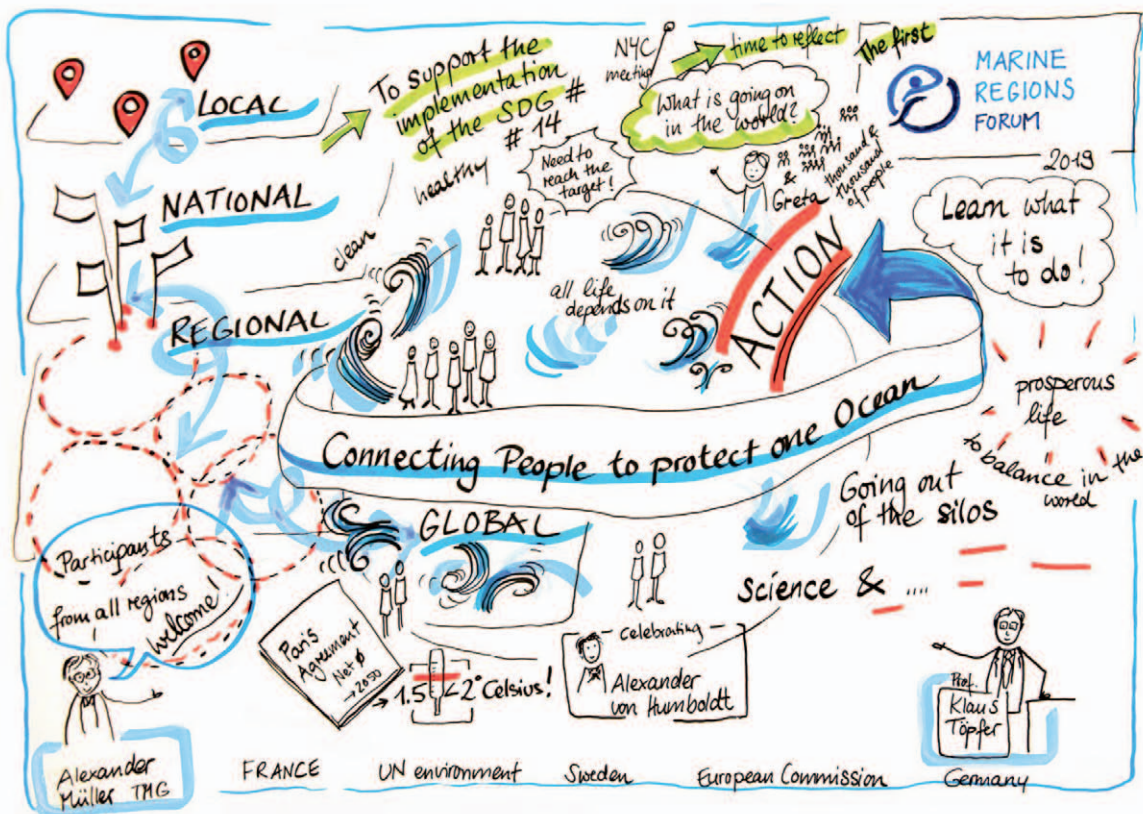


Figure 1: Graphic recording of the welcome remarks by Alexander Müller and Klaus Töpfer. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

Klaus Töpfer, Founding Director of TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability, then opened the Forum and offered a warm welcome on behalf of the three organising institutes – the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), and TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability (TMG). He highlighted the need to think outside of narrow institutional “silos” and to better integrate science and policy in ocean governance. He recalled Alexander von Humboldt’s call to integrate scientific findings, leaving boundaries behind and viewing the ocean as a true global commons. Reflecting critically on global policy goals, Mr. Töpfer highlighted the tendency to set ever-more ambitious targets for the distant future instead of achieving current targets, thereby undermining trust in the political process. He elaborated on upcoming threats for ocean health such as deep-sea mining and ocean engineering, and remarked that topics

currently in the spotlight, such as marine plastic litter, do not necessarily reflect the wide range of issues the ocean is facing. He emphasised that complexities in implementing the SDGs require guidance, noting that science-policy platforms such as the Marine Regions Forum can play a transformative role by facilitating learning processes across sectors and stakeholders. He thanked the German government and the European Commission for their collaboration and commitment to develop this Forum.

Regina Dube, Director-General, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, noted that 2020 is a critical year for ocean governance, with highlights including the negotiations for a new agreement for high seas biodiversity and the submission of long-term climate strategies. Drawing attention to Germany's experience in cooperation with regional seas conventions, she called for an integrated role for regional cooperation under a strong global body for the governance of the high seas. Ms. Dube also pointed to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference as an opportunity to stimulate greater cooperation across sectors. In closing, Ms. Dube welcomed the Marine Regions Forum as an important venue for discussing how to accelerate progress through regional cooperation and for connecting global goals with issues and initiatives at the regional and local levels.

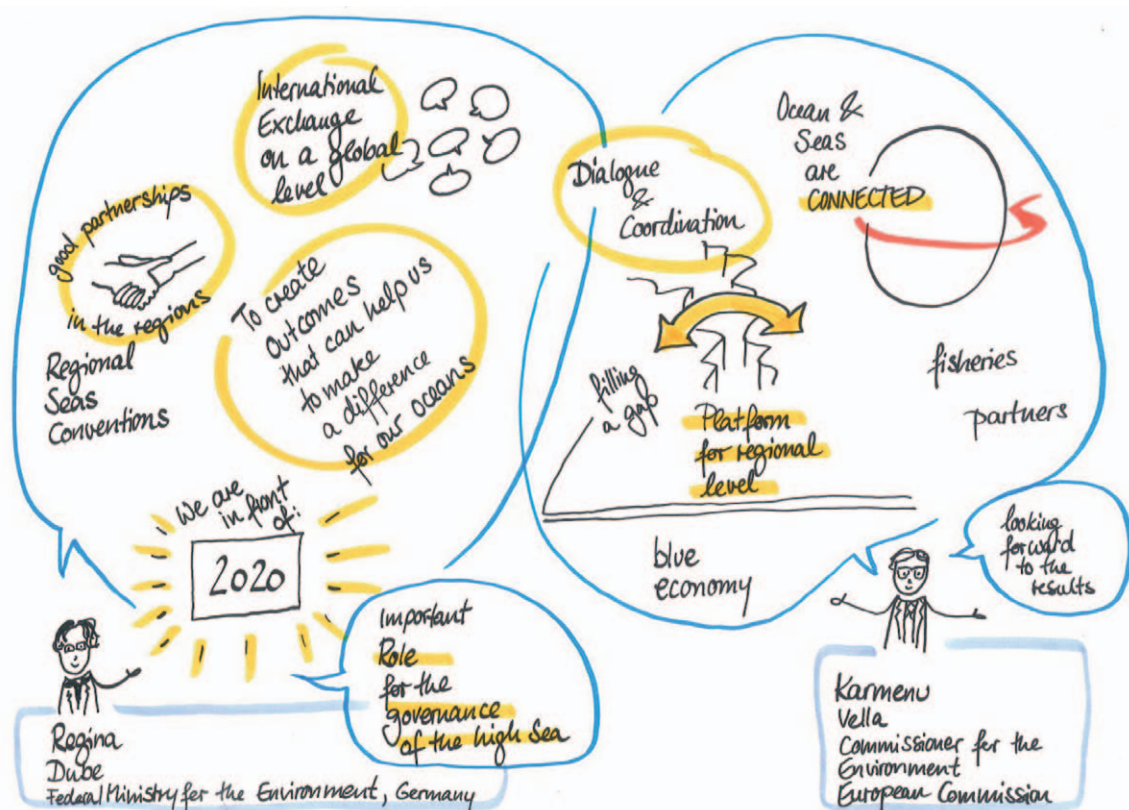


Figure 2: Graphic recording of the keynote by Regina Dube and the video message by Karmenu Vella.
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In his video message, **Karmenu Vella**, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission, stressed that regional ocean governance provides the link between national rights and responsibilities, and international objectives and duties, which is why it is central to European policies and vital to the international ocean agenda. He added that regional ocean governance helps define management measures according to ecological boundaries and dynamics, and reduces



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management inefficiencies. He highlighted that SDG 14 cannot be achieved by any one country alone, so the Marine Regions Forum is filling a critical gap in the ocean policy landscape by providing a space for enhancing collaboration and moving toward collective action on shared goals and priorities.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme, highlighted in her keynote the following ocean priorities: ensuring effectiveness of the Paris Agreement on climate change; promoting sustainable fisheries, including through ending subsidies; addressing pollution beyond plastics, especially by investing in circular economy and minimising land-based pollution; and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems. She further called for measurable and ambitious targets under the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and stressed that “we cannot deal with ocean governance without tackling climate change”, calling for rapid decarbonisation, notably by removing fossil fuel subsidies. Ms. Andersen highlighted the regional level as a critical element of governance and stressed that it must be based on “people, politics and economies”.



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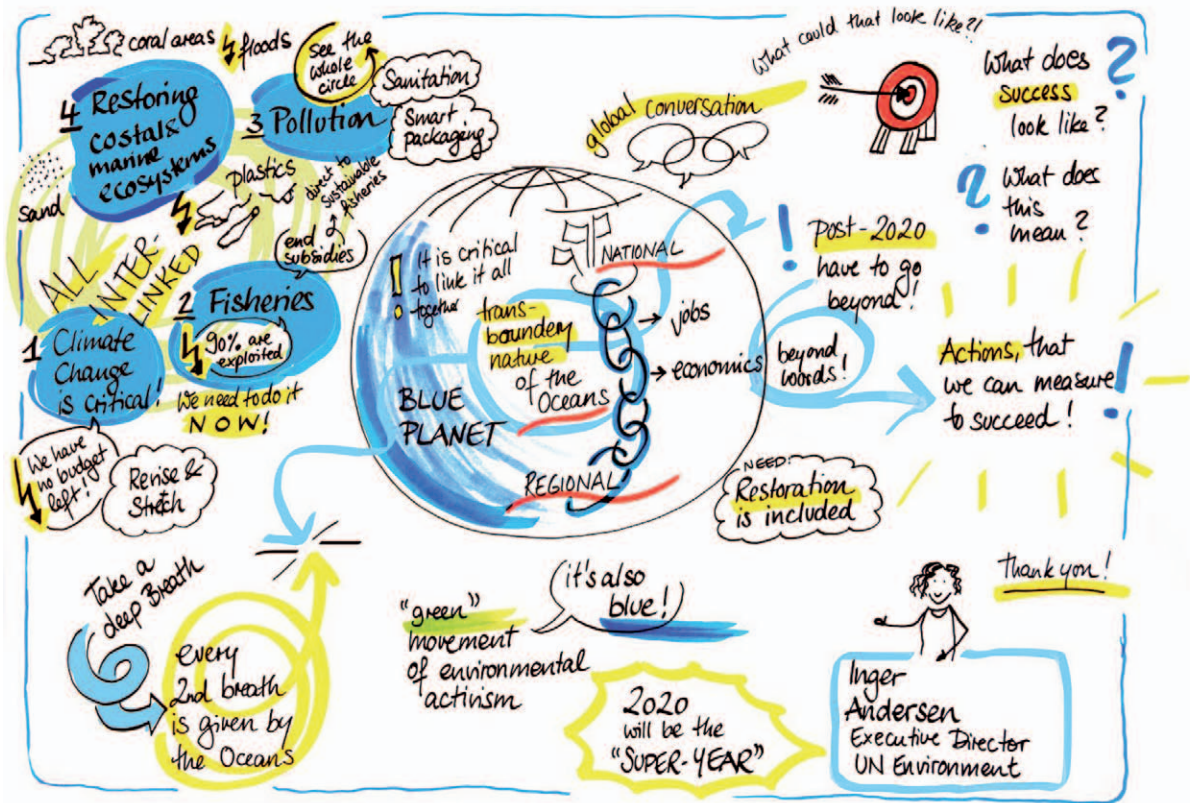


Figure 3: Graphic recording of the keynote by Inger Andersen. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

Antje Boetius, Director, Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, cautioned against oversimplification, noting the risk of disregarding important interlinkages between ocean-related issues. She echoed others’ concerns regarding climate change, describing it as an “immensely urgent threat”, and underlined the crucial role a healthy ocean plays in the carbon cycle. She stated that monitoring is key to ensure that commitments are kept, highlighted the need to engage more strongly with banks and insurance industries, and stressed that adaptation is a neglected part of the climate/ocean discussion that demands greater attention.

David Obura, Director, Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa, highlighted the importance of regional frameworks and the further work needed to understand connectivity – both amongst EEZs and among EEZs and the high seas. He highlighted the diversity between regions, not only in terms of ecosystems and environmental impacts but also in terms of capacity and means of implementation. He noted the value of participatory scenario exercises in identifying a common vision among stakeholders at the regional level and underlined the need for an overarching “apex target” to guide objectives, actions and enabling conditions.

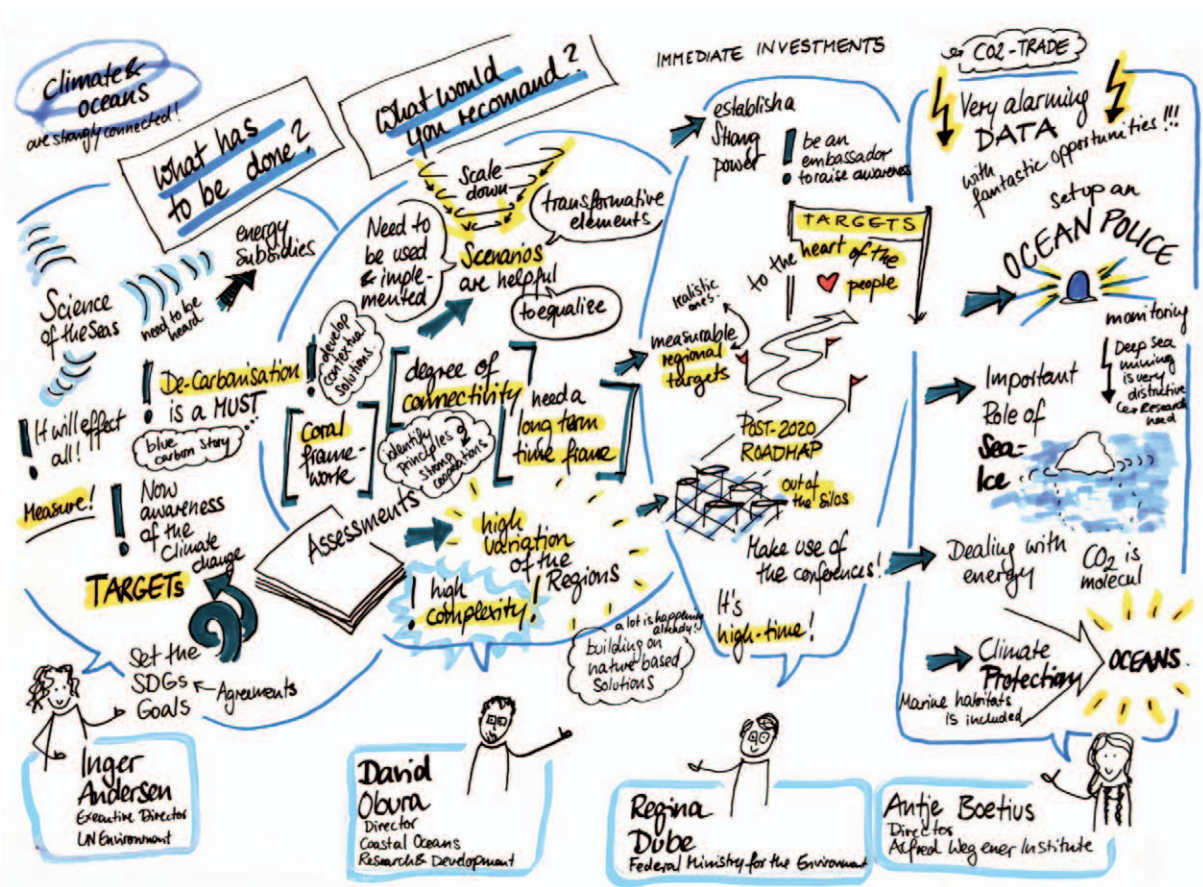


Figure 4: Panel discussion at the Welcome and Opening Plenary. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

In the ensuing panel discussion, participants addressed among other issues the expectations regarding the BBNJ negotiations, how local actors can support regional governance, the possible benefits of setting short-term goals, the consequences of deep-sea mining, and the role of marine biodiversity in tackling climate change. Ms. Andersen stressed the importance of stronger global governance and enhanced implementation of commitments. Ms. Boetius called for more research on the capacity of marine ecosystems to assist us in generating “negative emissions”, with a view to achieving the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement and providing economic benefits. Ms. Dube said that deep-sea mining can be avoided by investing in resource efficiency; Ms. Boetius added that there is no way that deep-sea minerals can be exploited in a sustainable manner.



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Alexander Müller shared key takeaways, including the kind of governance needed to interact with complex systems and already agreed targets, the need to share more success stories, and the important role regions play in achieving the SDGs. **Sébastien Treyer**, Executive Director, IDDRI, recalled that the ocean is a global common good, and deciding how to protect it requires negotiation between countries and other stakeholders. In finding political agreement on ocean governance, he pointed out the importance of strong regional cooperation to go “closer, further, faster”, and of individual countries achieving sustainable development without impeding other countries’ capacity to do so.

Sébastien Treyer, together with **Patrizia Nanz**, Scientific Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), noted the objectives of the Marine Regions Forum, including: providing space for exchange of experiences and joint learning between regions and stakeholders; promoting new developments within marine regions; and forwarding the conclusions to key global and regional processes, including the BBNJ negotiations, the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, and the negotiations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

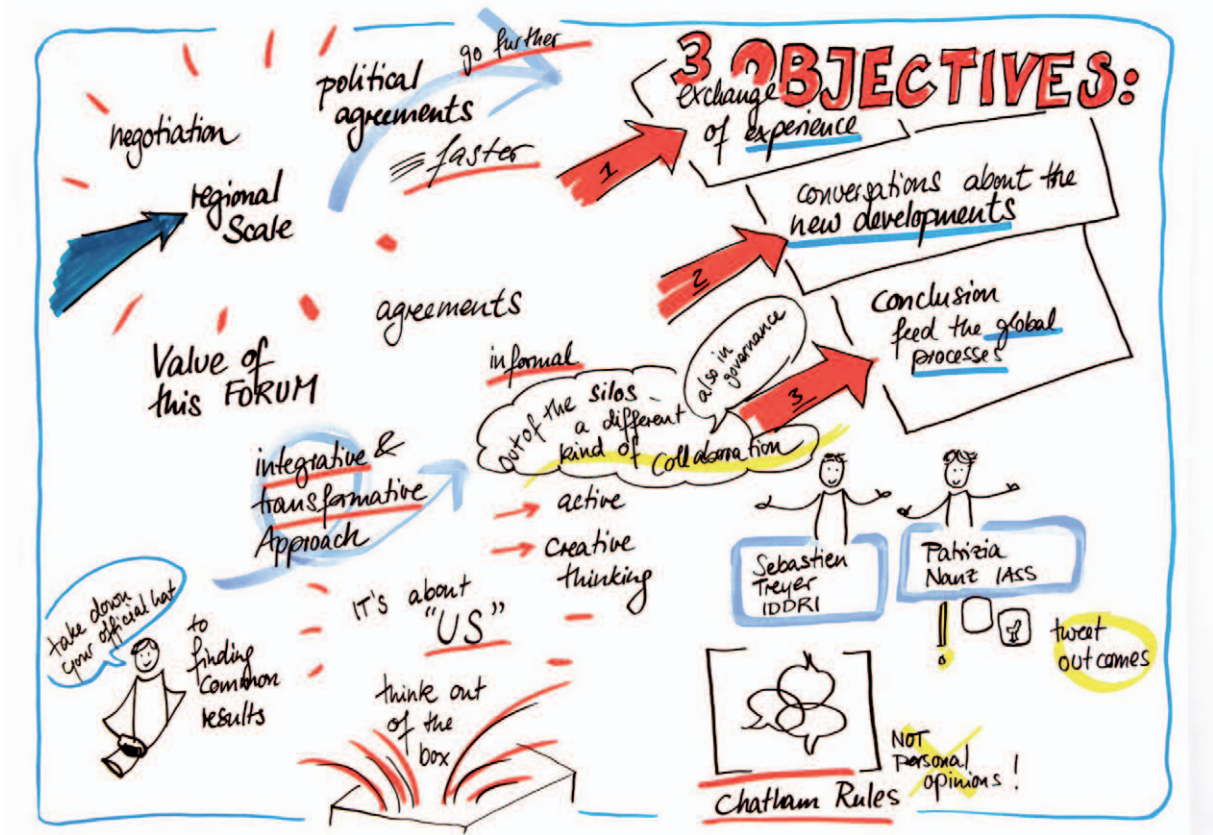


Figure 5: Objectives of the Marine Regions Forum 2019 as presented by Sébastien Treyer (IDDRI) and Patrizia Nanz (IASS) during the opening plenary. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow.com

MODERATOR

Alexander Müller, Managing Director, TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability

SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

Klaus Töpfer, Founding Director, TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability

Regina Dube, Directorate-General, Department Water Management, Resource Conservation and Adaptation to Climate Change, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme

Antje Boetius, Director, Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar und Marine Research

David Obura, Director, Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa

Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPORTEURS

Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Nicole Wienrich, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Plenary | Ocean Governance post-2020 – The role of marine regions

Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director, IDDRI, opened the plenary session by reflecting on how institutions and initiatives at the regional scale are well-placed to mediate between global processes and national action. He recalled upcoming milestones and ongoing global processes with relevance for the issues and themes discussed at the Marine Regions Forum.

In an opening keynote, **Hans-Otto Pörtner**, Co-Chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), then presented the main conclusions of the IPCC’s Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC). He highlighted that that human-induced climate change is significantly altering ocean chemistry and physics, reducing the mass of ice sheets, and committing the planet to long-term sea-level rise. Some marine ecosystems, such as warm water coral reefs and mangroves, are especially vulnerable and remain at high risk of extinction, even if the world stays below 1.5°C warming. Regarding solutions, he noted: the benefits of establishing networks of protected areas to maintain ecosystem services, including carbon uptake and storage; the relocation of species; rebuilding overexploited fisheries; and restoration efforts, such as “coral gardening”. Regional institutions and initiatives can be instrumental in building the cooperative framework needed for the implementation of such solutions and to ensure adaptation to changing conditions. Responding to questions from the audience, Mr. Pörtner said that local adaptation conditions must be accounted for, but that solutions are nonetheless only possible within a supportive global framework with clear government arrangements. Local policymakers should therefore call on regional and international actors to act more decisively. He noted that the recent series of IPCC special reports led to unprecedented attention and action, especially from younger generations, and spurred policymakers to act. However, he also noted that policymakers appear to think they can bargain with the science, so actions currently remain insufficient.



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Figure 6: Keynote by Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of Working Group II of the IPCC.
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Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, delivered a video message, stressing the urgency of global action to address the planetary emergency unfolding around a “common enemy” – as illustrated by the recent reports of the IPCC and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). He pointed out that “the choice is not between optimism and pessimism. It’s between action and inaction” and stressed the need for radical transformation of consumption and production patterns, a robust BBNJ agreement, and application of the precautionary principle. Mr. Thomson noted that marine regions are ideally placed to support the UN processes and recognised that the Marine Regions Forum can be central to the development of a strategic approach to bringing together different ocean-related processes, while also recognising varied regional priorities and needs.

A panel discussion ensued, moderated by **Sébastien Treyer**.

Waldemar Coutts, Ambassador of Chile to Norway and Iceland, drew attention to the upcoming COP 25 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), remarking that the sense of urgency conveyed by the IPCC report sustains action. He stressed the difficulty of introducing ocean as a new factor to the climate negotiations and highlighted that Chile is currently working on an oceanic nationally determined contribution (NDC) and an assessment of co-benefits for mitigation and adaptation in marine protected areas (MPAs). In closing, Mr. Coutts referred to his participation in the High-level Panel for a Sustainable Blue Economy and ongoing work regarding the establishment of a MPA network in Antarctica.



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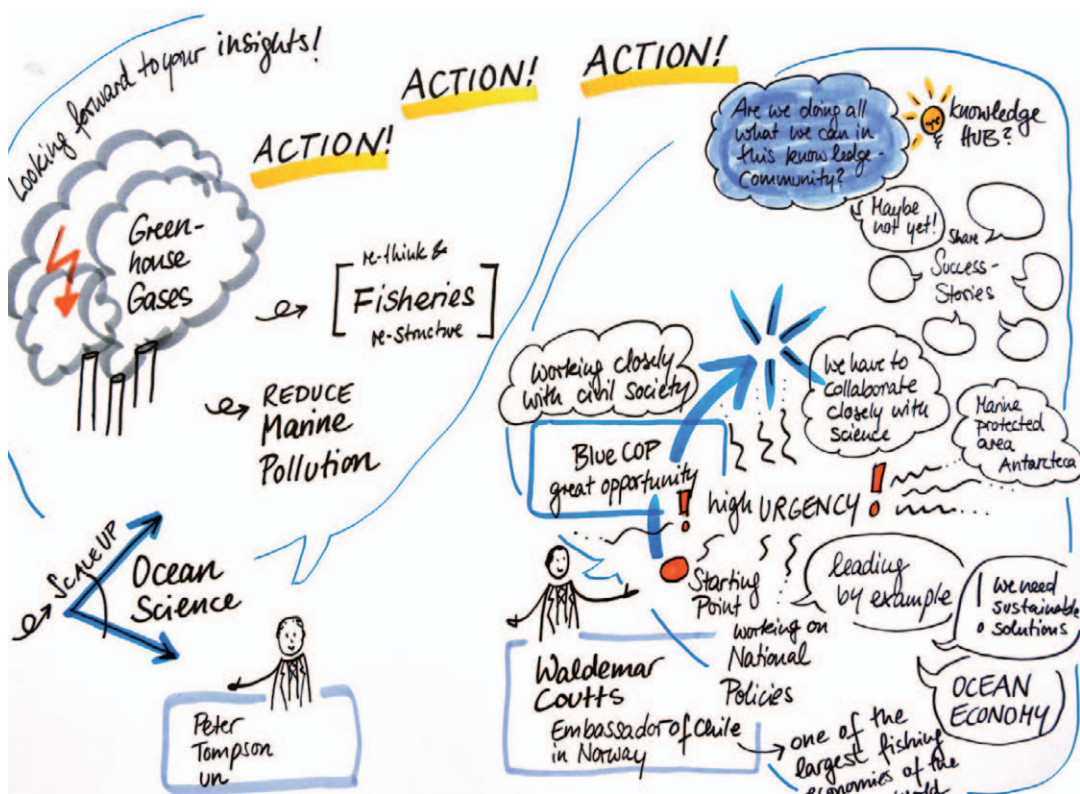


Figure 7: Video message by Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean.
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David Johnson, Coordinator of the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), shared his views on a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, highlighting: the need to be more proactive; interpret IPCC reports regionally; better articulate linkages with other sets of global targets; support regional leaders and their requests; include targets on the high seas; and undertake a reality check on current SDG targets, taking into account factors such as growing population, the need to change lifestyles, and ways to build resilience and restore ecosystems. He remarked that the EBSA workshops provide a grounding and rationale which should be used in the regions.

Charlotte Karibuhoye, Director, MAVA Foundation West Africa, stressed that Western Africa is rich in biodiversity and has made a lot of progress, such as in the area of regional MPA networks. She highlighted that the region is facing development challenges, including a lack of capacity to implement existing legal instruments on coastal management and fisheries. National priorities are driven by economic growth and there are deficiencies in knowledge. Ms. Karibuhoye pointed out that the regional level is crucial for enhancing ocean governance through economies of scale and mutual enforcement, and that regional actors such as regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and the Abidjan Convention are important stakeholders.

Andreas Papaconstantinou, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Head of Unit Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea and Arctic Policy, European Commission, highlighted that the European Union's International Ocean Governance (IOG) Agenda has demonstrated the EU's global leadership in ocean policy and diplomacy and its full commitment to the implementation of



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SDG 14. Reflecting upon a post-2020 governance framework, he stressed the importance of the BBNJ negotiations and highlighted that the EU is fully determined to finalise a robust agreement by 2020. Further, he outlined the EU's positive experience with regional approaches developed and implemented on a range of issues, including: fisheries; environmental management; and the development of the blue economy. He highlighted regional ocean governance providing a vital link between national rights and responsibilities, and international goals and objectives. Finally, he informed participants about the launch of the EU International Ocean Governance Stakeholder Forum in the first half of 2020 to support follow-up and further development of the EU's IOG Agenda. As strengthening regional ocean governance is subject to several actions in the Agenda, the Marine Regions Forum will also be invited to contribute.

Kristina Gjerde, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), reflected on the status of BBNJ negotiations, noting that the negotiation text is on the table, that the process has been quite inclusive, and that now there is a need to step up ambition and create a sense of urgency. She suggested that universal membership should not be sought at the expense of ambition, and that states can showcase leadership by making use of the power they have as port states, flag states, and markets. Ms. Gjerde emphasised the need to strengthen regional organisations such as RFMOs and regional seas organisations, and to hold them accountable through a strong mechanism for reporting on regional progress to the international community. She furthermore highlighted the importance of the precautionary principle and of science in underpinning the BBNJ process, proposing to invite sectoral organisations to undertake regional assessments and develop strategic action plans.

In the ensuing discussion, participants reflected on the implications of the IPCC reports, the challenges and progress in regional leadership, and the state of the BBNJ negotiations and its effects on other intergovernmental processes.

Three theme ambassadors then reported back from the dialogue sessions:

Theme 1: Dixon Waruinge, Coordinator, Nairobi Convention Secretariat, highlighted that raising awareness is vitally important to catalysing a society-wide effort, that regional mechanisms already exist in many regions but differ in terms of their strength, and that implementation of SDG 14 needs to be linked with other SDGs.

Theme 2: Jessica Battle, Senior Expert Global Ocean Policy and Governance and Lead Deep Seabed Mining Initiative, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International, stressed the importance of including oceans in climate negotiations, of working across jurisdictions and sectors, and of not undermining existing provisions.

Theme 3: Martin Visbeck, GEOMAR – Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, emphasised that an inclusive framing of “knowledge” should comprise not only science, but also traditional knowledge and the experiences of practitioners. He stressed the need to establish knowledge-action hubs which provide cross-sectoral and inclusive knowledge and that the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development gives us an opportunity to establish a strategic approach.

Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director, IDDRI, concluded the discussion highlighting that 2020 is a year of opportunity for regional organisations, noting that the challenges to be addressed relate to leadership, implementation mechanisms, and the strategic use of knowledge.

MODERATOR

Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of Working Group II of the IPCC, Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar und Marine Research

Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

Waldemar Coutts, Ambassador of Chile to Norway and Iceland

David Johnson, Coordinator of the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, Seascope Consultants

Charlotte Karibuhoye, Director, West Africa, MAVA Foundation

Andreas Papaconstantinou, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Head of Unit Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea and Arctic Policy, European Commission

Kristina Gjerde, Senior High Seas Advisor, Global Marine and Polar Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Dixon Waruinge, Coordinator, Nairobi Convention Secretariat

Jessica Battle, Senior Expert Global Ocean Policy and Governance and Lead Deep Seabed Mining Initiative, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International

Martin Visbeck, Head of the Research Unit Physical Oceanography, GEOMAR – Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

RAPPORTEUR

Nicole Wienrich, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Closing Plenary | Accelerating progress, creating new pathways

The closing plenary was convened under the theme *Accelerating progress, creating new pathways* and was moderated by Alexander Müller (TMG) and Sébastien Treyer (IDDRI).

Svenja Schulze, German Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, highlighted climate change-related threats to the ocean, and stressed the need to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and to use the ocean sustainably. She drew attention to MPA networks in the high seas as a tool to increase resilience, emphasising the historic opportunity presented by the BBNJ negotiations. Ms. Schulze furthermore pointed to the great risks of deep-sea mining, stressing the need to ensure that a comprehensive regulatory framework is in place before exploitation begins. In managing future demand for resources, priority should be given to improved resource efficiency and reduced consumption of raw materials. In closing, she stressed the need to significantly step up cooperation across all sectors in order to better link and balance usage and conservation needs, emphasising that the Marine Regions Forum was established as a contribution to dismantling the structural barriers that make such cooperation so challenging.



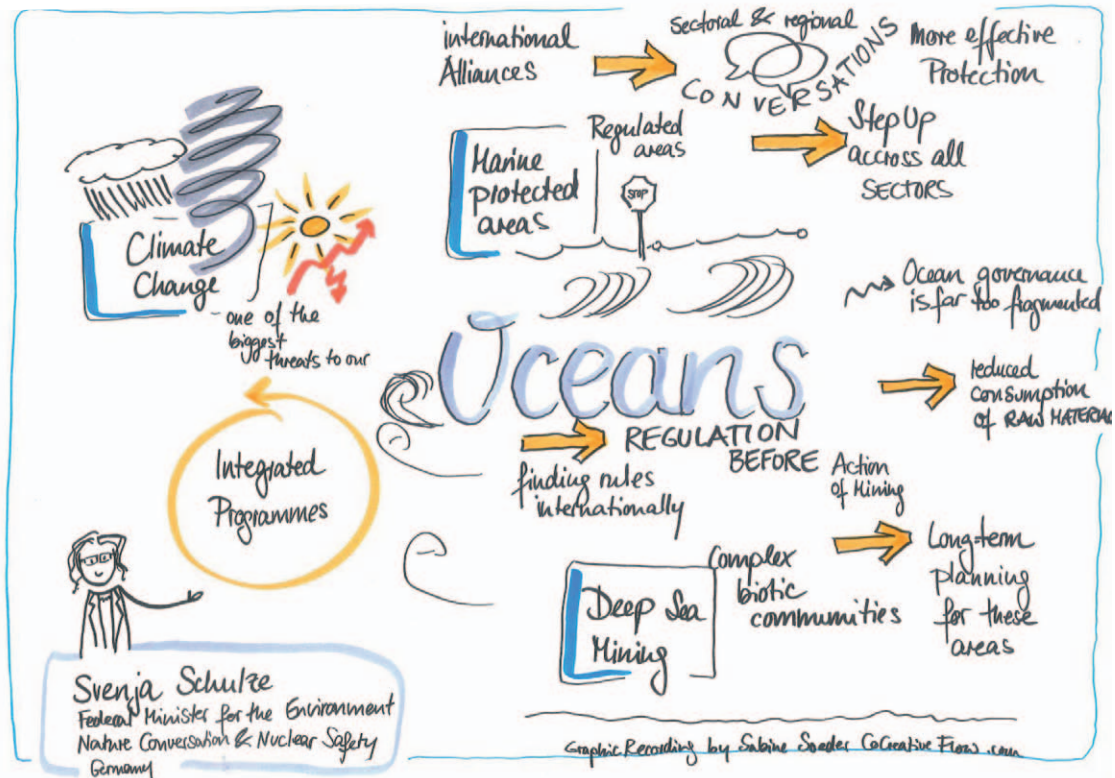


Figure 8: Keynote by Svenja Schulze. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

Bernhardt Esau, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia, pointed to the main threats to the ocean as being climate change, loss of biodiversity caused by illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfishing, and pollution through plastics, agricultural runoff and dumping of toxic substances. He stressed that these threats are best solved through international cooperation. Through the BBNJ negotiations, the world has a unique opportunity to address the challenges on the high seas and the missing link of ocean biodiversity, including fisheries. He added that threats to ocean health must be clearly communicated to politicians and citizens, for example by talking about food security, economic value and livelihoods that are at stake since “people protect what they understand and what they can relate to”. Mr. Esau closed by cautioning to not make things worse by conducting deep-sea mining activities without taking into account environmental considerations.

Alexander Müller and **Sébastien Treyer** then presented an initial draft document with first conclusions by the conference organisers, stressing that the Marine Regions Forum 2019 was a successful “experiment” that provided an informal space for genuine exchange about complex issues that are usually addressed in isolation. They pointed to the role of regions in closing the gap between global agreements and national as well as local action, and emphasised the importance of the regional level in supporting implementation of global agreements, and spurring ambitious action and concrete implementation pathways on the ground. Key conditions under which regions can fill the implementation gap are political leadership, inclusiveness, and sufficient resources. They further advised that the best scientific advice needs to be broad in order to be implemented on a regional level, that all relevant sectors and in particular fisheries need to be integrated, that global long-term goals need to be broken down into measurable action to make the different stakeholders accountable, that the specific needs of vulnerable regions need to be accounted for, and that regional leadership and mutual learning needs to be pushed, for example through providing platforms for learning of examples and frank exchanges.

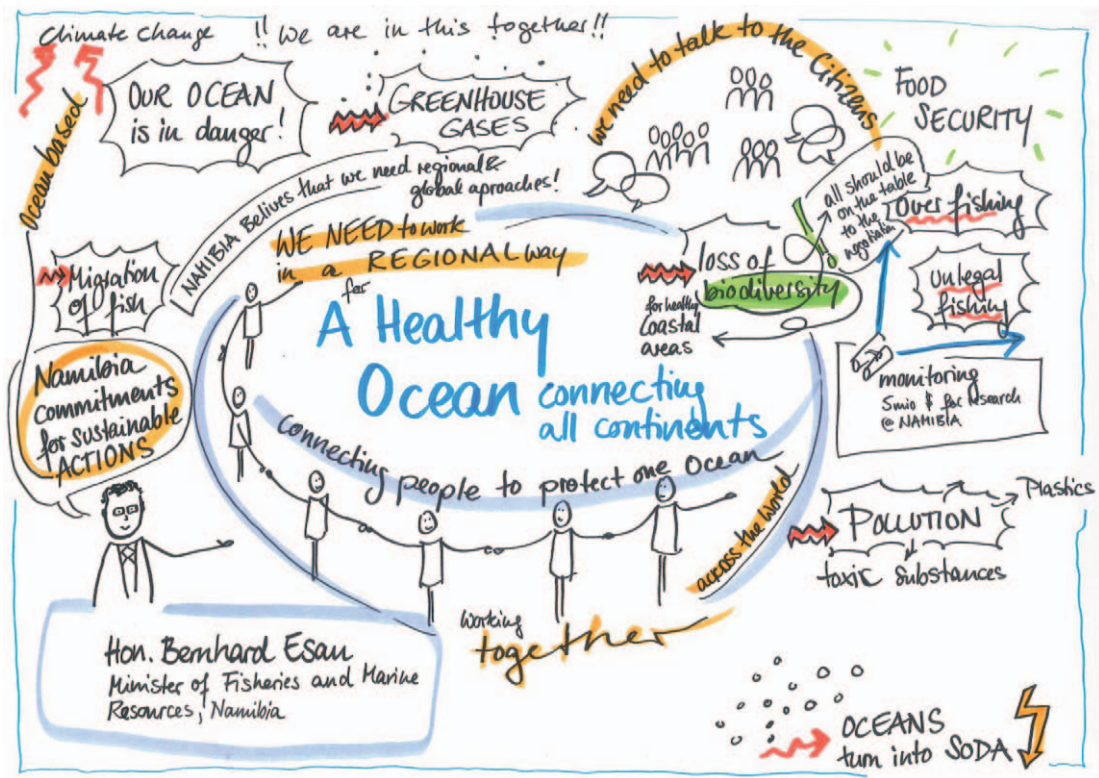


Figure 9: Keynote by Hon. Bernhard Esau. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

In the ensuing panel discussion, **Jens Frølich Holte**, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, pointed out that in order to move forward with implementing SDG 14, it is important to recognise moments of change and take advantage of such events. Having political momentum is also key. Numbers are equally important, such as the statistics in the IPCC reports. He furthermore highlighted that the regional approach has proven a valuable tool for Norway in ensuring effective ocean governance.

Maria Damanaki, Global Managing Director Oceans, The Nature Conservancy, stressed that time is a “common enemy” as the IPCC report highlighted that climate impacts will be worse and faster than expected. The IPCC report also shows how the ocean can be part of the solution, but urgent action is needed, especially regarding the protection of marine ecosystems. Ms. Damanaki stated that private sector involvement is “the only realistic way to fight the enemy (time)” and expanded upon her experience in working together with insurance companies on blue carbon credits in Mexico.

Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, stressed that sustainability can be achieved through inclusive management systems and enhanced cooperation between different ministries and institutions. He noted the importance of involving relevant stakeholders from industries and listening to practitioners on the ground.

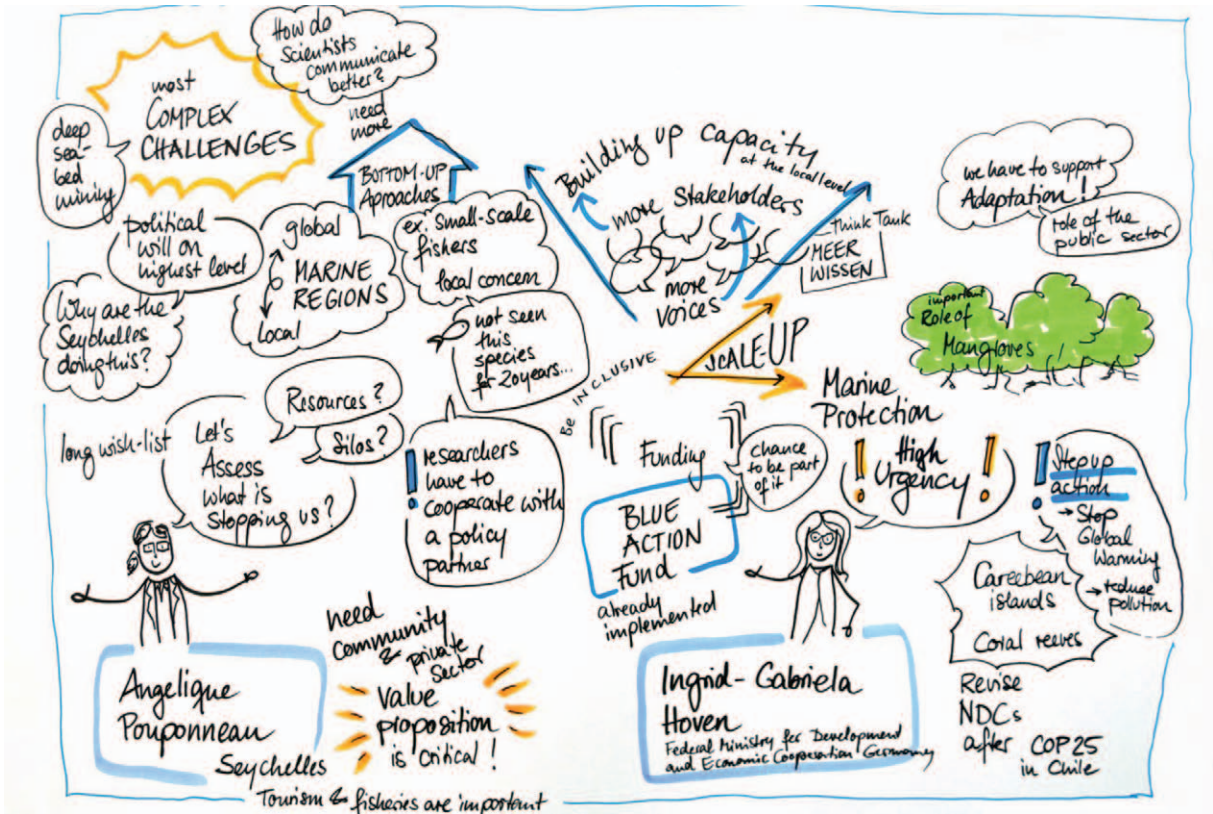


Figure 10: Graphic recordings of the panel discussion during Closing Plenary. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

Angelique Pouponneau, Chief Executive Officer, Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), recommended addressing the obstacles to achieving the 2030 Agenda, including lack of resources and capacity and the tendency to work in silos. She highlighted that in the Seychelles, there is political will at the highest level. She then provided an example of small-scale fishers piloting and managing a voluntary no-take area in the Seychelles as a bottom-up approach to achieve sustainable development targets. She also cautioned against assuming that simply making finance more readily available is a complete solution, as long-term sustainability requires a range of other supporting conditions, including political will and awareness.

Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Director-General, Global Issues—Sector Policies and Programmes, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, spoke about cooperation projects in Africa and the value of nature-based solutions. She drew attention to the Blue Action Fund to support ocean and coastal conservation in the developing world, and the *MeerWissen* initiative, which is creating partnerships between African and German marine researchers.

Yvonne Waweru, Network of Women in Marine Science, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), summarised the daily Young Ocean Professionals debriefings, noting that advances in governance and political will are not keeping pace with the gravity of the situation. She also called for ocean governance initiatives to be inclusive, including by ensuring good representation of sectors and generations in future Forums.

During the discussion, participants highlighted the need to make the business case for private sector engagement in blue carbon conservation and restoration. Furthermore it was stated that ocean science and knowledge is a niche subject which should be supported politically to take ocean science “from niche to norm”. Participants also supported the breaking down of long-term goals to better fit the timescale of politicians' mandates and thus increase their accountability, including through introducing actionable measures into the political cycle, and stressed the need for informal and dialogue-oriented exchange between regional actors and across sectors.

In closing, **Alexander Müller** and **Sébastien Treyer** explained that the draft document with the organisers' initial conclusions will be further elaborated on the basis of the dialogue sessions and plenary discussions and submitted, together with the conference summary report, to participants for commenting.

Finally, participants viewed a short video documentary showcasing impressions from the event and highlighting key messages on improving ocean governance, including through better regional cooperation.

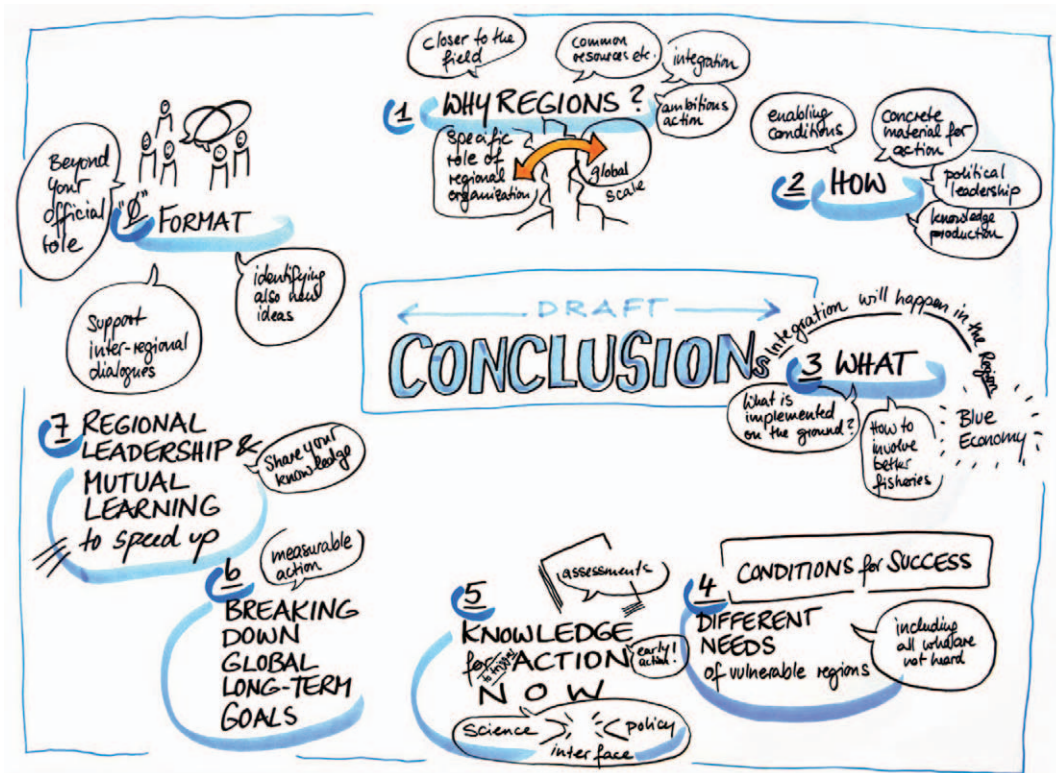


Figure 11: Draft conclusions of the conference organisers and moderators as presented by Alexander Müller and Sébastien Treyer. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

MODERATORS

Alexander Müller, Managing Director, TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability

Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Hon. Bernhard Martin Esau, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia

Jens Frølich Holte, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Maria Damanaki, Global Managing Director Oceans, The Nature Conservancy

Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agriculture Organization

Angelique Pouponneau, Chief Executive Officer, Seychelles’ Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust

Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Director-General, Global Issues, Federal Ministry for Development and Economic Cooperation, Germany

Yvonne Waweru, Network of Women in Marine Science, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

RAPORTEURS

Klaudija Cremers, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Nicole Wienrich, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

3.2 DIALOGUE SESSIONS

Under the banner *Achieving a healthy ocean – Regional ocean governance beyond 2020*, the Marine Regions Forum 2019 focussed on three major themes: *Achieving SDG 14* (Theme 1), *Underpinning global processes* (Theme 2), and *Knowledge for ocean action* (Theme 3). Under these themes and selected sub-topics covering issues at the core of current regional ocean governance processes, interactive dialogue sessions were convened.

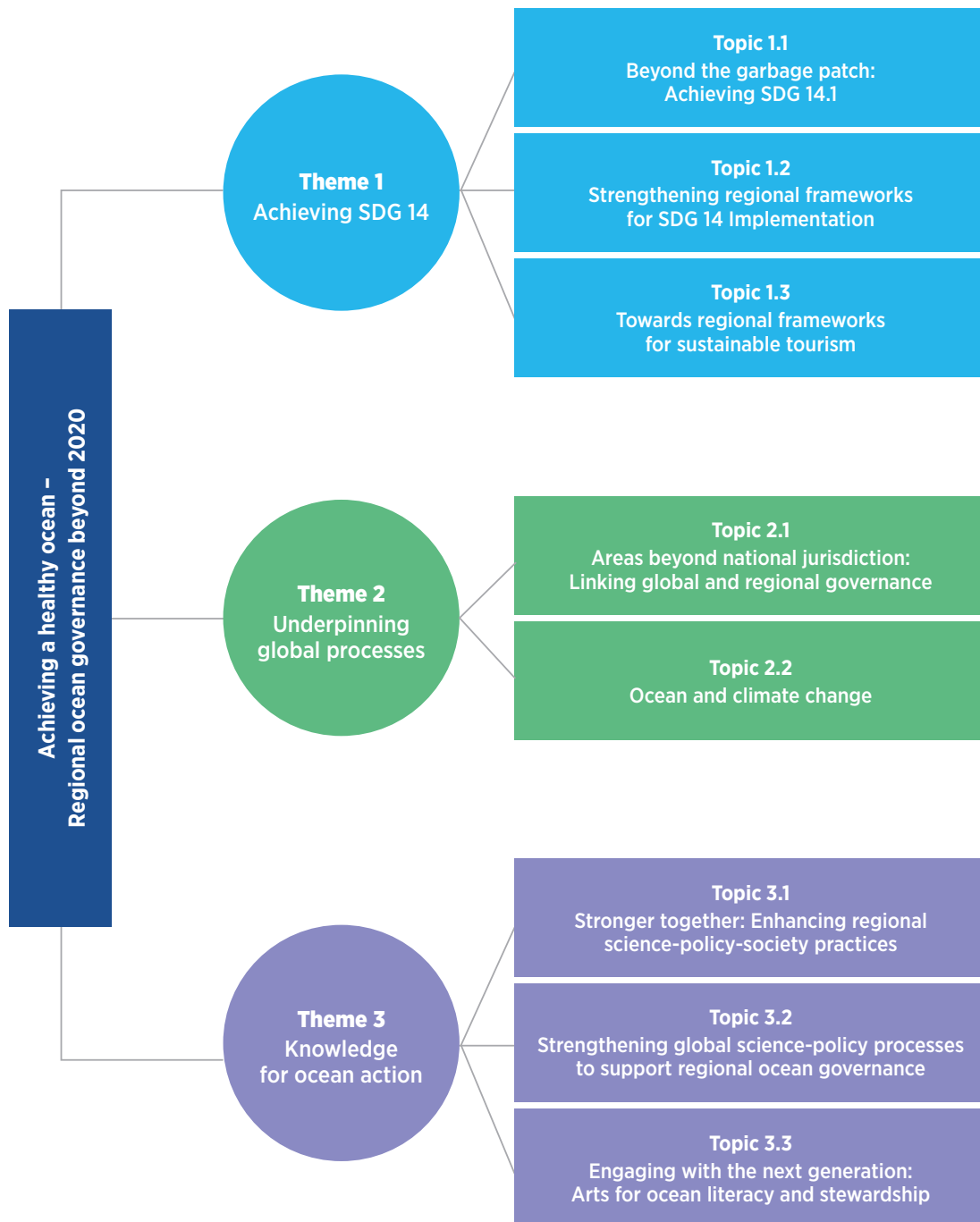


Figure 12: Overview of the themes and topics that shaped the Marine Regions Forum 2019

Theme 1 | Achieving SDG 14

Acknowledging the central importance of a healthy ocean, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets clear targets for tackling the pressing issues facing the marine environment. While responsibility for achieving the SDGs lies with the member states of the United Nations, meeting the ocean goal SDG 14 will require integrated and ecosystem-based governance approaches that reflect the interconnected nature of marine ecosystems and address the cumulative impacts of human activities. There is therefore a strong impetus for governments and stakeholders to collaborate across sectors and boundaries.

Under this theme, participants discussed how marine regions can effectively collaborate to meet these ambitious global goals. Three thematic topics looked to address key regional issues, such as the fight against plastic pollution, the development of sustainable coastal and marine tourism, solution-oriented models for enhancing regional collaboration, and accelerating progress in delivering the ocean SDG.

Topic 1.1 | Beyond the garbage patch: Achieving SDG 14.1

More than 8 million tons of plastic are dumped into the ocean each year. Multiple initiatives are urging states to combat marine litter, but only a few countries currently have specific legislation on the control of plastic production, minimisation of waste, or the setting of recycling targets. Barriers to improved governance include a lack of coordination among the various frameworks, a lack of implementation and enforcement of regional agreements, and an absence of integrated waste management involving all stakeholders, including the private sector. To achieve target SDG 14.1 there is therefore a need to significantly enhance cross-sectoral and intergovernmental collaboration in order to tackle the marine litter issue at regional and global scales.

The dialogue session held under this topic looked at the regional challenges of preventing and significantly reducing marine litter and developed recommendations for improving cross-sectoral cooperation at the regional level.

Session 1.1.1 | Putting plans into action: Implementing regional marine litter action plans

INTRODUCTION

Significantly reducing marine litter by 2025, as envisaged by target SDG 14.1, requires a concerted and coordinated effort at multiple levels. Current governance strategies provide a fragmented approach and regional marine litter action plans face a range of barriers to successful implementation. The objective of this session was to understand regional challenges and achievements in implementing marine litter action plans through the sharing of lessons learnt.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Following up on a presentation on the G7 and G20 action plan by **Gaetano Leone** from the Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat at UN Environment, three cases were presented as input for the discussions:

- I. HELCOM, by **Marta Ruiz**, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission HELCOM,
- II. OSPAR, by **Pedro Sepulveda**, OSPAR Commission, and
- III. Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), by **Jerker Tamelander**, COBSEA, UN Environment.

Presenters provided a general introduction to their respective regional marine litter action plans and gave examples of the challenges and opportunities in cross-sectoral collaborations when developing and implementing regional marine litter action plans. Building on these presentations, discussion groups formed to explore the following questions: What are the key issues, challenges and opportunities of regionally coordinated marine litter action plans? How can we enhance the exchange of knowledge and experiences made with effective measures and strategies between sectors, regional seas conventions and organisations? How could the regional and global levels interact with regards to a new global architecture on marine litter?

Despite efforts to advance the implementation of regional marine litter action plans, challenges persist. Designing the marine litter action plan itself was highlighted as a complex task due to the abundance of stakeholders and sectors to identify and engage. A further difficulty is the variety of expertise and knowledge that is required and that must be integrated into the action plans. Although data are a vital tool in successfully developing and implementing action plans, data are often fragmented within regions, and there are knowledge gaps – especially regarding sources, sinks and impacts of micro-plastics. The governance landscape is also fragmented and sectors often operate in silos. For example, waste management is key to combating marine litter, but this is often outside the remit of marine and environment departments/agencies operating at the national or local levels.

Good practice cases include efforts that have targeted various levels of governance (local, national and regional), focused on the full range of response options (prevention, mitigation, control, recovery), and engaged an array of different actors (communities, NGOs, private sector, governments). Outputs include creating market-based solutions towards less plastic use, strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making, disseminating outreach on marine litter, and fostering regional cooperation. Engaging with the private sector can be challenging, but opportunities for closer cooperation between sectors have become more common, especially as the global momentum around the negative impacts of marine litter has fostered a more receptive audience. Regional multinational companies that already show environmental leadership have been found to be the most approachable in terms of supporting the implementation of regional marine litter action plans.

Knowledge sharing and outreach campaigns on marine litter also came into focus during the session. Progress being made in the rising number of regional and global awareness campaigns was particularly lauded during the presentations. However, the degree of cooperation and knowledge exchange on the challenges and successes of implementing regional action plans was considered to be insufficient. It was suggested that regions would benefit from a platform or tool to exchange on

experiences in implementing measures effectively, which could also reduce risks of policy saturation and duplicating work already undertaken in other regions.

Interactions between the regional and global level were deliberated, illustrating the synergies to be found amongst various frameworks such as G7, G20, regional seas conventions and regional organisations. Participants also discussed how an international treaty could complement and build on existing regional efforts and commitments. It was emphasised that the global umbrella benefits from the regional level and vice-versa, especially for engaging key stakeholders from industry. On the one hand, the global level can feature high-level political responses, provide the harmonisation of data and monitoring, and develop agreements with the private sector at a multinational level. On the other hand, the regional approach can provide practical response with the bottom-up implementation of monitoring, reporting, coordination between knowledge and technology transfers, and targeted capacity building based on national and regional specificities. It was especially emphasised that enforcement and compliance must occur at the national level and be supported through regional and global frameworks. Workshop participants agreed that addressing the global plastic pollution crisis requires a concerted approach involving business, government, and civil society.

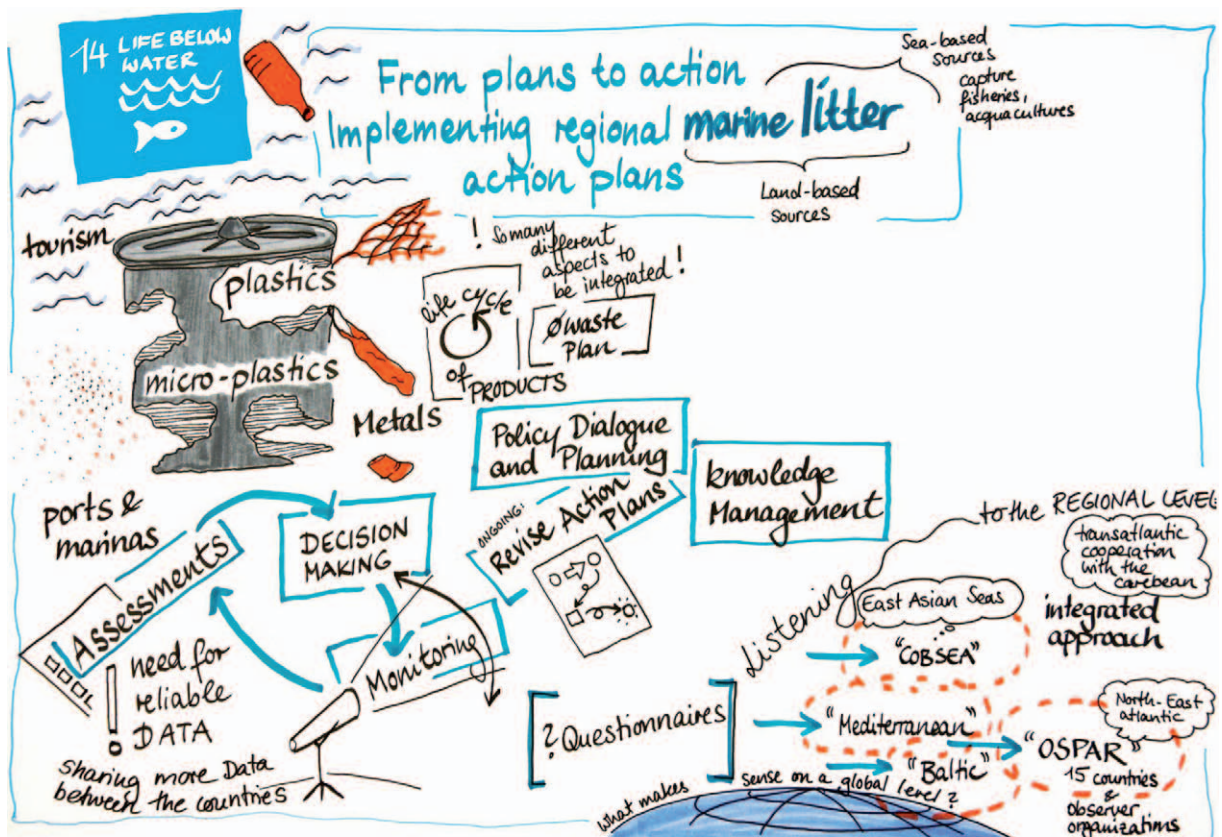


Figure 13: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on marine litter. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow



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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although implementing regional marine litter action plans remains challenging, marine regions can draw from good practice examples, through abatement measures, cross-sectoral engagement, and outreach, to successfully achieve their set targets. The intergovernmental nature of regional mechanisms, frameworks, conventions, action plans and agreements can help to persuade key actors in business and industry to support the implementation of marine litter action plans. The regional level can complement national mandates through tangible measures tailored to the areas' socio-economic and environmental characteristics, while the global level provides a sense of political urgency to regions and states through compliance and reporting requirements that in turn can foster a global norm to combat marine plastic pollution. Data collection methods should be harmonised, knowledge on successful implementation strategies shared, technologies and lessons learnt should be exchanged, and gaps in governance must be addressed through greater cooperation and collaboration between all relevant actors from science, industry, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, and society.

SESSION HOSTS

Lilian Busse, German Environment Agency, Germany

Christopher Corbin, Cartagena Convention Secretariat, UN Environment

Judith Neumann, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Laura Weiland, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

RAPPORTEUR

Laura Weiland, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Topic 1.2 | Strengthening regional frameworks for SDG 14 implementation

The holistic nature of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs requires integrated approaches to implementation. However, one of the most pervasive challenges in ocean governance remains the fragmented nature of institutional and legal frameworks. Regional agreements and institutions are well-placed to provide the coordination and cooperation needed to achieve SDG 14 and other ocean-related goals. Integrated regional ocean governance mechanisms are needed to fulfil this potential and to facilitate synergistic implementation of ocean-related SDGs.

This topic provided an opportunity for exchange on innovative practices and lessons learnt from regional approaches. Different regional models were explored that facilitate greater integration and account for the possible synergies and trade-offs with interlinked SDGs in the implementation of SDG 14. Ways forward and possible barriers for regional coordination as well as the scaling-up and acceleration of innovative practices or models were discussed and practical recommendations developed.

Session 1.2.1 | Creating synergies: Enhancing regional cooperation for ocean-related SDGs

INTRODUCTION

One of the most pervasive challenges in implementing SDG 14 and interrelated SDGs is the fragmentation of ocean governance. Based on lessons learned from different marine regions, this session explored approaches that help to bridge the sectoral divides in managing human uses of the ocean and facilitate greater integration. Participants discussed different models that take into account synergies or trade-offs between SDG 14 and interrelated SDGs. The session also explored ways for promoting regionally coordinated implementation post-2020 and options for raising the profile of regional approaches as part of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Sebastian Unger, IASS, and **Jacob Hagberg**, Swedish Ministry of the Environment and Energy, noted that a stronger role for regional governance in SDG implementation would be desirable as this could function as a driver to improve integration across sectors. **David Obura**, CORDIO East Africa, presented options for using the SDGs as a narrative for identifying synergies across scales, using coral reefs as an example. **Michael Burgass**, Biodiversify, explained how monitoring, evaluation and learning can help to advance progress towards SDG 14, stressing the need to move beyond monitoring and to embed targets and indicators into context-specific systems. **Yoshinobu Takei**, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), provided an overview of developments leading up to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and reported on progress achieved for SDG 14 through the established Communities of Ocean Action.

The session then featured regional case studies: **Dixon Waruinge**, Nairobi Convention Secretariat, presented the development of a Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Governance Strategy, including acknowledging ocean contributions to poverty alleviation and livelihoods, and a mandate to create a mechanism for regional ocean governance dialogue on transboundary issues. **Maria Laamanen**, Ministry of the Environment, Finland, drew attention to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, including their approach in setting regionally agreed targets, associated measures and monitoring frameworks. **Christopher Corbin** presented progress under the Cartagena Convention framework, including its strategic action programme, highlighting the need to link all the different existing regional strategies to facilitate national-level implementation. **Stuart Chape**, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), presented the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and the 2017 Blue Pacific Commitment as core drivers of collective action in the region.

Building on these presentations and introductory plenary discussions, discussion groups formed to discuss key lessons learnt in the implementation process, options to facilitate integrated SDG implementation and cooperation across sectors, and recommendations for developing more synergetic implementation and raising the profile of regional approaches at the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

From the roundtable discussions, the following key points were noted: To bridge prevalent sectoral approaches in ocean governance, the regional level is the best starting point to achieve consistency across sectors, targets, and indicators. Whereas the obligation for achieving the SDGs and other global targets lies with the states, the regional level is well-placed to promote coherence in the im-

plementation at national and sub-national levels. One of the key issues is the lack of baselines, such as in the context of CBD’s Aichi targets, and the regional level should play a role in defining baselines and associated targets and indicators. The holistic nature of the 2030 Agenda makes the complex connections between different sectors explicit. Strong regional leadership can help to create the necessary bridges and frameworks between sectors and interest groups. In addition, sectors and states need to have concrete incentives (financial and non-financial) to cooperate, such as through issue areas that are particularly conducive to regional cooperation such as the development of connected and coherent MPA networks or regional marine litter action plans. “Common enemies” of different sectors which may also be transboundary in nature, such as algal blooms or marine pollution, help to galvanise cooperation and joint action.

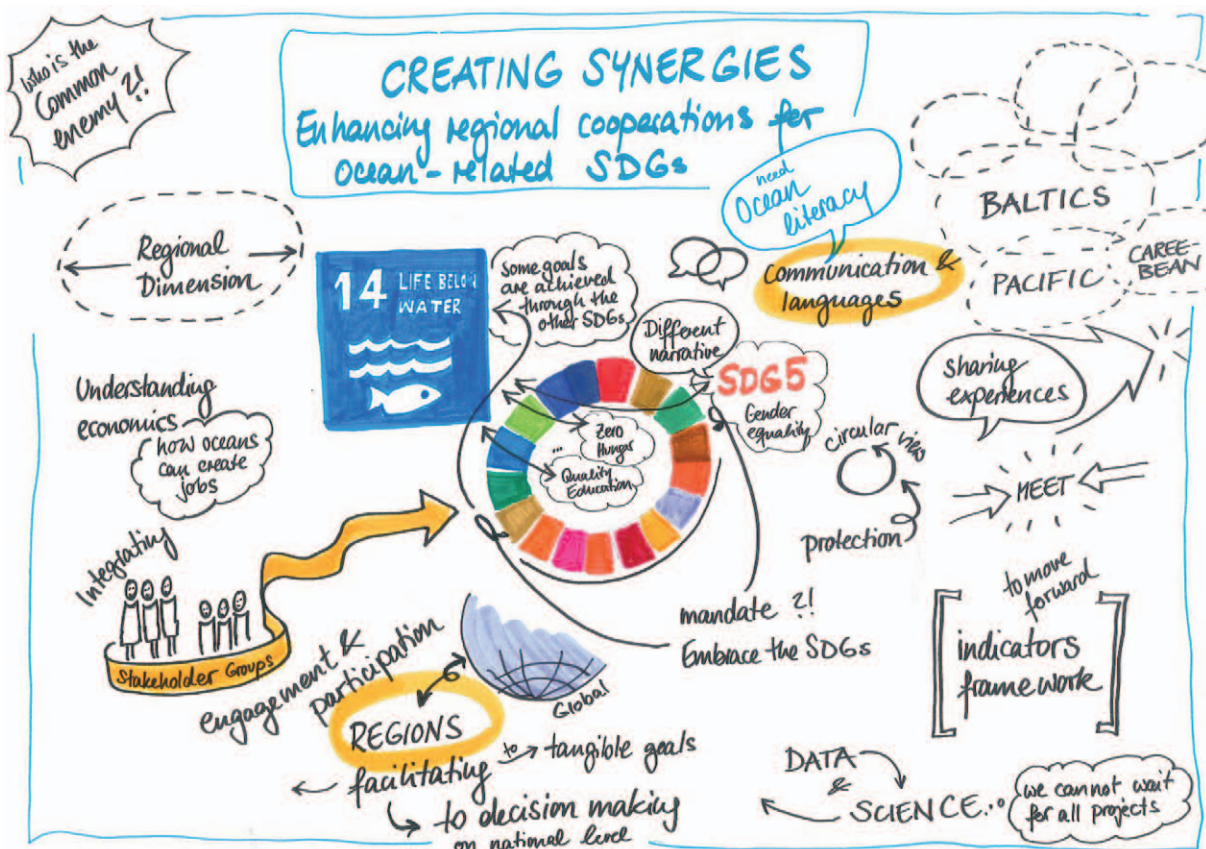


Figure 14: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on regional cooperation for implementation of SDG 14. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

As most SDG targets have only one indicator, it would be advantageous to identify and consolidate more specific indicators and benchmarks for different marine regions in order to better reflect different key drivers and pressures, and associated ecological and developmental characteristics. An example that has demonstrated the effectiveness of such an approach is the Baltic Sea Action Plan (HELCOM). Also the development of a new WIO Governance Strategy through the Nairobi Convention and a similar strategy for the Cartagena Convention which have been discussed as promising processes towards adaptive and cross-sectoral regional governance.

A strong enabling factor for cross-sectoral cooperation is the development of shared understanding through scientific cooperation, joint monitoring and evaluation, data collection and assessment, and the raising of awareness. Ocean literacy was also identified as an important enabling factor.

Furthermore the case was made that the role of marine regions and their associated institutional frameworks for implementing SDG 14 and other ocean-related SDGs should receive more attention at the forthcoming 2020 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon. One option could be to dedicate one of the formal “interactive dialogues” to the regional level. Likewise, for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework the role of the regional level for implementation, including the development of region-specific targets and indicators that are in line with globally agreed goals and reflect regional priorities and needs, should be detailed and discussed in the ongoing marine-related consultations.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation of SDG 14 and other ocean related SDGs require a “nexus thinking” in ocean governance and the regional level has proven to be successful in bringing together the sectors, whilst allowing specification at the scale of marine ecosystems and taking into account the priorities and needs of the national level and of sub-national contexts.

Relevant actors in marine regions should work together across sectoral divides in building narratives for identifying and agreeing on synergies and trade-offs in the implementation process, using concrete environmental issues, “common enemies” or threatened ecosystems of regional importance, such as coral reefs, as the starting points. Region specific targets and indicators should be developed and used to make the narratives more concrete, and to promote joint baselines, assessments, action, and subsequent monitoring and evaluation. Such regional SDG narratives and related implementation processes should embrace and use existing institutions to support SDG achievement wherever possible, by strengthening the work of regional bodies such as the ones presented from the Baltic, Pacific, Caribbean and WIO. Ongoing processes such as the Baltic Sea Action Plan or the development of the WIO Ocean Governance Strategy could be used to further elaborate narratives that show the links between ecosystems and other SDGs and to be in a language conducive to cross sectoral understanding. Where necessary and based on gap assessments, also expanding the mandates and roles of existing agencies/mechanisms as well as establishing new frameworks should be considered. Regional science-policy processes are critical to inform such SDG-related narratives. They should focus on engagement, mutual learning, and building trust across sectoral divides to identify common problem-solution sets.

The 2020 UN Ocean Conference and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD, and the Paris Agreement lend themselves to promoting the “ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus” in ocean governance post 2020. They should all highlight the role of marine regions in achieving this holistic vision.



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SESSION HOSTS**David Obura**, Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa**Jacob Hagberg**, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Sweden**Sebastian Unger**, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies**RAPPORTEURS****David Obura**, Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa**Monica MacDevette**, UN Environment Programme**Adnan Awad**, International Ocean Institute – African Region**Mike Burgass**, Biodiversify**Session 1.2.2 | Delivering the ocean SDG: Accelerating progress****INTRODUCTION**

It is clear that the SDG 14 targets cannot be met under current governance frameworks, which are based on single-sector management of different activities. Addressing interlinkages between goals and targets will be critical. This session offered participants the opportunity to analyse interlinkages between SDGs including their dependence and influence between each other, and to understand the relevance of establishing these connections for successful SDG implementation and accelerated delivery. Building on lessons learnt from regional case studies, participants explored options for expediting an integrated implementation of SDG 14 and other ocean-related goals.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Manuel Castillo, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), presented a progress report on SDG 14 both in the Asia-Pacific region and overall. At the current rate, the region will not be able to meet the targets set out in the agenda. And for some indicators, there is still insufficient data. Underscoring the importance of the political declaration unanimously approved by the High-Level Political Forum, Manuel Castillo highlighted that there is broad member state agreement at the highest level that accelerating progress across all goals is necessary, but only limited efforts focus on “acceleration actions” so far. Within the scope of embedding acceleration for SDG implementation, Manuel Castillo pointed out that the idea of acceleration comes from the MDGs era, and that UNDP had already developed a toolkit.

Stefanie Schmidt, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission, gave a presentation on an assessment of interactions in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development using SDG 14 as an entry point, which had been conducted as part of a study commissioned by the International Science Council (ICSU)⁵. This first-order assessment of interactions with other goals

⁵ Schmidt, S., et al. (2017). SDG14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation. D. J. Griggs, M. Nilsson, A.-S. Stevance and D. McCollum. Paris, International Council for Science: 174 – 218.

confirmed the central role of oceans and marine ecosystem services for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. A subsequent assessment of target relations with a selected number of goals through case studies showed that the nature and strength of interactions are highly context specific while common tendencies exist. Assessing the quality and intensity of interactions is useful to focus scope and objectives of cross-sectoral dialogues, and needed to ensure a coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Moving from theory to practice, she highlighted the EU's full commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda reinforced by the incoming Commission, which identifies the 2030 Agenda as a political priority for all Commissioner designates. The EU increasingly recognises the need to address interlinkages through thematic strategies and policies. Concerning SDG 14, she highlighted the Joint International Ocean Governance Agenda for the Future of Our Oceans adopted in 2016, which sets out a cross-cutting action plan to ensure oceans are safe, secure, clean and sustainably used.

Karina Barquet, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), introduced the Synergies Framework, a semi-quantitative approach developed by researchers at SEI that enables policymakers and others concerned with SDG implementation to adopt a systemic view on the 2030 Agenda. The web-based tool helps experts to map the trade-offs and synergies that emerge from progressing on the different SDG targets, and supports the identification of both direct and indirect knock-on development effects between them. Based on the mapping, the tool provides a better understanding of how the different targets fit together. By that, the tool provides an overview of potentially critical trade-offs, synergies and systemic effects to investigate further. It then uses these insights to identify actions that best lead to the achievement of the SDGs. The method supports decision-making about how to prioritise actions on the goals, and organise implementation, and it helps to make plans and policy more robust, coherent and cost-efficient.

Following the introductory presentations, participants tested parts of the Synergies Framework in group work: This trial session focused on the first step of the Synergies Framework (i.e., scoring synergies). It was carried out with the purpose of allowing participants to experience the approach and to test how the Framework could be further used to design integrated policy interventions by linking it to approaches like ESCAP's SDG 14 Accelerator. The general guiding question for the analysis was: If progress is made towards Target X, how does it influence progress towards Target Y? Given the time available for this exercise and the group size, 6 targets related to oceans (14.1, 14.4), climate (13.1), land (15.3), water (6.2), and industries (9.4) were pre-selected. Synergies were scored by using a seven-point scale (ranging from -3 to +3) into the matrix in the web-based platform tool. The results matrix (Figure 15) gives an indication of how each target influences the others, and which are most influential – both in terms of number of targets and the nature of the interactions (positive, neutral or negative, and their intensity).

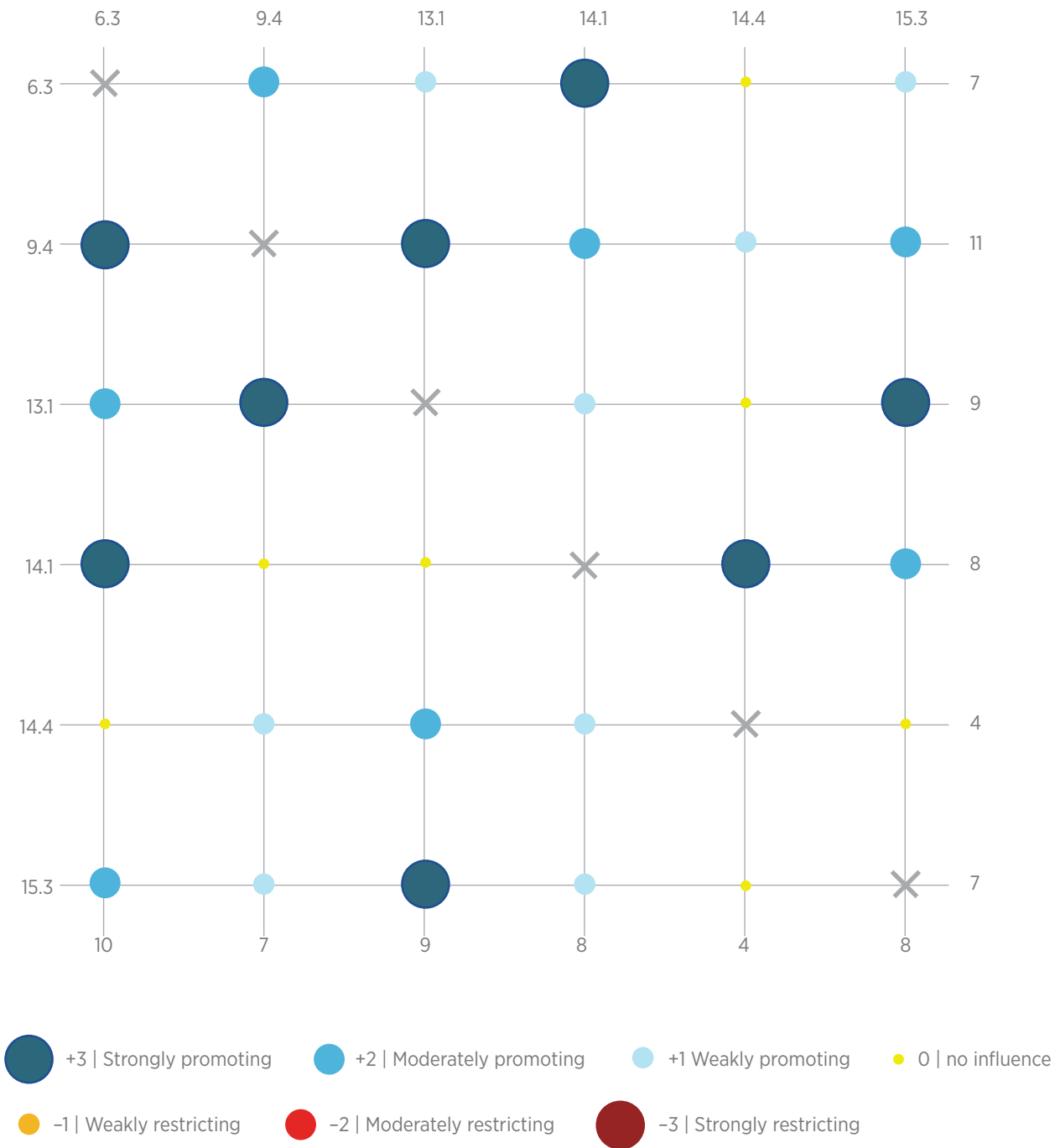


Figure 15: SDG Synergies Matrix developed during session 1.2.2. These results are an example of a trial and should not be used as basis for analysis

Following the group work, **Jeremy Hills**, ESCAP/University of the South Pacific, outlined the work they have been carrying out since 2017 on the development of a SDG 14 Accelerator⁶. The Accelerator is a national planning approach that identifies pivotal intervention(s) which increase the rate of implementation of SDG 14 and produce a ripple of co-benefits across other associated SDGs. The tool was developed to be implemented at the country-level in Asia and the Pacific by country government representatives. It was designed in recognition of the regional context of patchy and limited marine data, which contrasts with the urgent need to respond to the growing challenges in ocean sustainability. The presentation described the four main stages of the SDG 14 Accelerator tool, as well as the final outcome: an Accelerator Action Plan. Similar to the SEI Synergies Framework, the SDG 14 Accelerator analyses the bi-directional interconnections between SDGs, but then it uses a scenario approach to select a suite of pivotal interventions where investments can be effectively targeted.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants recognised the value of the SDG Synergies Frameworks and ESCAP's Accelerator Approach to address interactions between goals and targets in the implementation process and to expedite implementation. The Synergies Framework presents a structured way of engaging different stakeholders, sectors and experts in a dialogue to deliberate on the positive as well as potential negative impacts that progress on a target could imply for progress on the rest of the Agenda. Results from the Framework can then be used to design informed mitigation actions and inform accelerator approaches such as ESCAP's. The scoring of interactions helps to reflect in-depth on the relations and interpretation of the different targets, and to identify targeted action. It also helps to realise limitations in the current SDG process with regard to measuring progress. Participants agreed about the need to both broaden as well as contextualise progress towards SDG's in order to capture different dynamics such as urban-rural linkages, differences in technological capacity, and land use and economic activities that ultimately impact our oceans. As demonstrated in the group work, such approaches can help to identify targeted interventions to address complex governance issues across sectors and boundaries such as land-ocean connections. In light of the 2020 deadline that will be missed for several SDG 14 targets, participants recommended the further development, trial and implementation of SDG interaction and acceleration approaches to expedite goal delivery. The 2020 UN Ocean Conference provides a pertinent opportunity to exchange lessons learned and to promote its further application.

SESSION HOSTS

Manuel Castillo, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Karina Barquet, Stockholm Environment Institute

Sebastian Unger, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

RAPPORTEURS

Jeremy Hills, University of the South Pacific

Harifidy Olivier Ralison, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Madagascar

Stefanie Schmidt, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

⁶United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). SDG 14 in Asia And The Pacific: An Accelerator Approach For Implementation. Policy Brief. URL: https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/ESCAP_SDG14_Policy%20Brief_Final.pdf. Last accessed 15 November 2015.



Session 1.2.3 | Advancing implementation of the ocean SDG through ecosystem-based management

INTRODUCTION

Ecosystem-based management (EBM) is an integrated, cross-sectoral and transboundary approach that considers trade-offs in resource uses and helps protect diverse and productive ecosystems. Informed by science, it incorporates the entire ecosystem into decision-making and includes the private sector, non-governmental organisations and multilateral institutions. This transboundary approach is unique in bringing together countries to identify threats, problems and other topical issues through a structured, common fact-finding and process dialogue. Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) initiatives and other regional frameworks facilitate EBM through the development of regional multi-stakeholder partnerships. This session introduced the LME approach, presented lessons learnt from a number of initiatives and provided space for discussion on pathways for future development.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

In introducing the LME approach, **Ivica Trumbic**, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), noted that EBM requires taking all parts and actors in a system into account when crafting policy responses. The 66 LME projects facilitate this by developing multi-stakeholder partnerships and providing a clear and standardised approach, and by building on a comprehensive Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) to develop a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for an LME. **Julian Barbière**, IOC-UNESCO, highlighted how the approaches developed for LMEs can advance EBM and contribute to the development of marine spatial planning (MSP), in particular by better integrating fisheries and MPAs, and stimulating enhanced transboundary cooperation and coordination.

Andrew Hudson, United Nations Development Programme, highlighted the work of the Benguela Current Commission, founded by Angola, Namibia and South Africa in an effort to identify areas for cooperation, and institutionalise and advance the work conducted by the Benguela Current LME project. **Sangjin Lee**, Yellow Sea LME, emphasised the key role that the Yellow Sea LME has played in updating scientific information, especially in relation to emerging issues such as plastic pollution, and providing an informal framework for cooperation. **Gaetano Leone**, Barcelona Convention Secretariat, UN Environment, presented how the LME approach has helped to advance cooperation in the Mediterranean, a diverse region with large differences in capacity, noting that the legally binding Barcelona Convention provided a strong foundation.

An open exchange followed, with participants further discussing the achievements and outcomes of LME projects to date and considering future developments. It was noted that LME projects have proven to be invaluable in updating and collating science at the ecosystem level, providing a strategic overview of key transboundary issues, facilitating cooperation in a wide variety of regional contexts, supporting wide participation and engagement, and developing standardised approaches to assessments and action plans.

The discussions highlighted that LMEs are one of few mechanisms currently available to address marine issues at the ecosystem scale and provide an effective framework for collaboration. In particular,

the flexibility and adaptability of LMEs has been key in enabling the identification of region-specific issues, while tailored modalities for cooperation have enabled LMEs to be the first movers on emerging issues such as ocean acidification and plastic pollution.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants concluded that, while the need for more science is often highlighted, there is already sufficient knowledge to enable action; inaction is therefore more due to insufficient political will. It was also noted that closer cooperation through LMEs can play an important role in raising ambition and a shared sense of responsibility.

Further integration is needed between LMEs and other regional organisations to ensure coherence, and initiatives to advance EBM need to strive to further integrate all activities and management tools, such as incorporating MPAs into MSP and ensuring the inclusion of fisheries. To this end, LMEs and other initiatives can build on the progress made to date in advancing transboundary cooperation, and help move from diagnostic assessment to harmonised management and planning.

Finally, while LME boundaries have proven useful, they may need to be redefined in the future as climate change increasingly impacts on marine ecosystems.

SESSION HOSTS

Ivica Trumbic, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEURS

Ivica Trumbic, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations



Topic 1.3 | Towards regional frameworks for sustainable tourism

Despite a slight dip following the 2008 financial crisis, the travel and tourism industry is again booming, with an average annual increase of 4% in the last few years – a trend that is expected to continue. A potential source of increased revenue and economic diversification, tourism is also a source of negative externalities, especially in coastal and marine areas, and is estimated to account for 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Further detrimental pressures include waste production, energy and resource consumption, and the construction of infrastructure – all contributing to land use change, biodiversity loss and the alteration of fragile ecosystems. Even though efforts have been made to promote sustainable coastal and marine tourism, governance of this activity is still fragmented and lacking policy coherence, long-term thinking and regional integration. Making coastal and marine tourism more sustainable therefore will be of crucial importance for meeting SDG 14.

The objective of the session held under this topic was to assess the current challenges, and identify ways for marine regions to better regulate coastal and marine tourism and mitigate related environmental impacts.

Session 1.3.1 | Sun, sea, sand and sustainability? Tourism in marine regions

INTRODUCTION

After quickly recovering from the 2008 financial crisis, the travel and tourism industry has seen strong growth that is projected to continue. A source of economic growth, tourism can however have negative externalities such as biodiversity loss and degradation in the quality of life of population, especially in coastal and marine areas. Despite a proliferation of initiatives to promote sustainable coastal and marine tourism, the governance of this activity is fragmented and lacks policy coherence, long-term thinking and regional integration. This session aimed to assess challenges and identify ways for marine regions to better regulate coastal and marine tourism and mitigate related environmental impacts.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Julien Rochette, IDDRI, welcomed the participants and noted that despite the increasing impacts of tourism activities in coastal and marine areas, this issue is still a blind spot in the ocean governance agenda. **Jérémie Fosse**, Eco Union, then shared the key findings of a study released in June 2019 on blue tourism in marine regions. He noted that coastal and maritime tourism has become a major economic sector for countries with accessible and attractive coastlines, and presented the environmental and social impacts of various types of tourism activities. He emphasised that this sector is poorly regulated and concluded by highlighting some governing tools that should be implemented by public and private policymakers.

Raffaele Mancini, Plan Bleu, shared experiences from the Mediterranean, one of the most popular tourist destinations with over 350 million national and international tourists each year. He emphasised the economic importance of this sector for the region and underlined the environmental and social

challenges raised by its growth, including environmental impacts, resource depletion, alterations to cultural heritage, and social inequity. He concluded by presenting two on-going projects dedicated to sustainable tourism, *BlueTourMed* and *BlueBoatsMed*, and highlighted the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (2016 – 2025) that contains specific objectives in terms of sustainable tourism.

Anne-France Didier, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France, presented the *Charter for Good Practices in Maritime Transport for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment*⁷ in which shipping companies commit to contribute to the protection of the marine environment, by e.g. enhancing surveillance of cetaceans from the bridge, reducing underwater noise, decreasing atmospheric pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions and fighting against invasive species. She noted that some passengers companies are signatories of this Charter.

Participants then divided in two groups respectively and were charged to explore the following questions:

- How to drive the tourism industry and consumers towards sustainability?
- How to build regional strategies for a sustainable marine and coastal tourism?

The main points of the discussion are summarised in Figure 16.

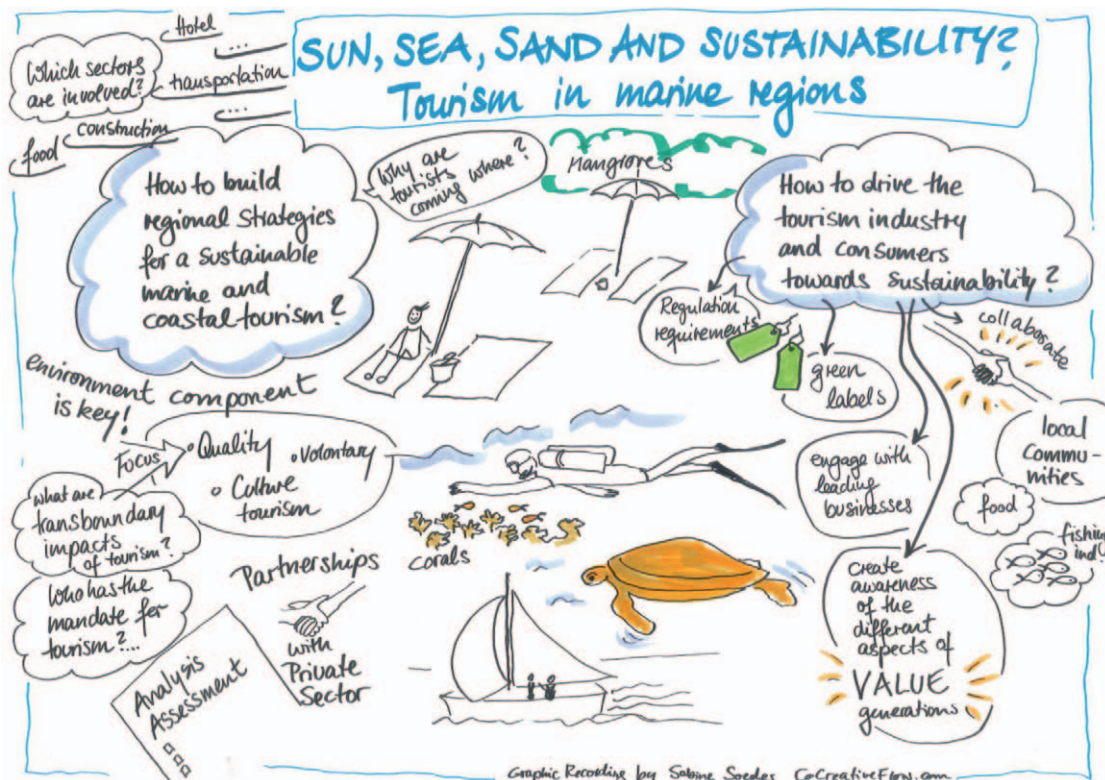


Figure 16: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on sustainable tourism. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

⁷ URL: https://www.ecologique-solaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/SAILS%20-%20Charter_EN.pdf. Last accessed 15 November 2019.



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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants underlined that tourism is an important source of revenue, a means for development but also a threat to marine and coastal biodiversity, and a blind spot in ocean governance. They suggested developing regional initiatives to mitigate the impacts of maritime and coastal tourism and ensure sustainability, to more systematically integrate tourism issues into the agenda of regional organisations and develop adequate measures to address its impacts, and to organise regular exchange of experiences between marine regions on sustainable tourism practices.

SESSION HOSTS

Jérémie Fosse, Eco Union

Anne-France Didier, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEUR

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Theme 2 | Underpinning global processes

The coming years will be critical for changing current trends in ocean decline. Whilst effective protection and good governance of the ocean cannot be achieved by states acting individually, global processes can be slow to spur real progress on the ground. In this regard, regional governance can be a strategic lever for the conservation and sustainable use at the scale of marine ecosystems, in many cases taking action closer, further and faster than institutions at the international or national level. Theme 2 provided a space to exchange on governance practices and explore how regional approaches could underpin key global processes for ocean sustainability, such as the negotiations for a high seas treaty, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and emerging issues such as deep sea mining.

Topic 2.1 | Areas beyond national jurisdiction: Linking global and regional governance

Negotiations are underway for a legally-binding agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ. At the same time some sectoral and regional organisations have adopted conservation measures for BBNJ, including MPAs. However, these measures are limited in scope and only apply to member states of relevant sectoral or regional organisations. A key challenge for future high seas governance will be to ensure management and cooperation across the different sectors and governance levels. In addition, emerging activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction such as deep seabed mining have the potential to cause serious environmental harm and therefore require coherent and coordinated governance.

The sessions under this topic took a closer look at regional approaches within the framework of a strong global BBNJ agreement, discussed technological tools and good practices for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), identified multi-level governance options for a global network of MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and explored options to engage in the upcoming development of the International Seabed Authority's regional environmental management plans.

Session 2.1.1 | Areas beyond national jurisdiction: Towards a collaborative approach in ocean governance

INTRODUCTION

This session provided a dynamic setting to facilitate dialogue and exchange between stakeholders from various marine regions to identify existing good practices in conserving and sustainably using BBNJ as well as to discuss potential new multi-level governance arrangements for cross-sectoral coordination and implementation of global goals.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Kristina Gjerde of IUCN provided an overview on the current state of ocean governance in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and the negotiations at the UN towards a global legally bind-

ing agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, as well as a review of lessons learnt from current regional approaches. **Jessica Battle**, WWF, gave an overview of how global standards, including decisions made in global bodies, could be implemented through regional arrangements, e.g. at an ocean-basin scale, and highlighted the importance of enhanced cross-sectoral and cross-jurisdictional collaboration. Discussion groups explored ideas and proposals for regional arrangements to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ under a strong global legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The main points from the discussion include:

Participants generally agreed that there is a need for a comprehensive global decision-making regime and global standards for the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ. Yet, there is potential to address aspects of ocean governance at a regional level, in particular facilitating information exchange and stakeholder involvement, taking into account the particularities of marine regions.

Regional governance does not necessarily exclusively refer to current regional organisations, such as regional seas programmes or regional fisheries management bodies, but could also refer to a broader ocean-wide scale that could better take into account ecosystem considerations, including the range of migratory species. Bio-regionalisation is one method to evaluate the size and scope of a potential regional arrangement.

Sharing scientific data amongst various organisations, including between different marine regions, could be included in the BBNJ agreement. Regional coordination for data sharing and monitoring could be achieved through the establishment of a regional information platform or mechanism, which could then feed into a global tool such for assessment and review.

In principle, decision-making would potentially best be done at the global level, with regional arrangements possibly focusing on the implementation, coordination, information exchange as well as MCS of globally-agreed strategies, approaches and measures. Sectoral and other regional organisations, including possible new ones, could validate what is being suggested at the global level and report to a Conference of the Parties (COP), envisaged to be established under the new BBNJ agreement.

Several other aspects could also be implemented through regional arrangements, such as: strategic environmental assessments (SEAs), MCS of human activities, enforcement, marine spatial planning (MSP), identification of MPAs, collectively forming a representative network of MPAs, or data collection.

There is a need to ensure long-term financial sources for the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of legal provisions under the BBNJ agreement through existing types of funding, or trust funds, as well as consider the possibility to set up a new financial mechanism through the BBNJ agreement.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This session highlighted the need for a comprehensive global regime for BBNJ with strong global standards that could potentially benefit from multi-level governance approaches, and in particular regional arrangements for stakeholder coordination and the facilitation of information and data exchange. While decision-making would best be done at the global level through a COP, regional arrangements could play a key role in the implementation, coordination, and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of globally-agreed upon activities. The scale of implementation should better encompass biodiversity and ecological considerations at a broader ocean-wide scale to ensure the application of an ecosystem-based approach to management. The implementation of the BBNJ agreement will depend on increased cross-sectoral and cross-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration, supported by a financial mechanism that will ensure the long-term participation and compliance of all states.



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SESSION HOSTS

Jessica Battle, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) International

Ben Boteler, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Carole Durussel, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Tim Packeiser, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) Germany

RAPORTEURS

Catherine Blanchard, Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea

Jill Hamilton, U.S. Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation

Tim Packeiser, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) Germany

Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Session 2.1.2 | Keeping an eye on the high seas: Strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

INTRODUCTION

Effective MCS is critical for the success of marine conservation and management measures and is particularly challenging in ABNJ. This session provided a platform to exchange views on how to tackle challenges of MCS in these deep and distant waters, providing lessons learnt from regional initiatives and highlighting linkages with the future global high seas agreement.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Providing a global overview of existing MCS frameworks, **Kristin von Kistowski**, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), highlighted the range of obligations that flag states are already subject to, as well as the ongoing development of measures such as the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA). She also noted that cooperation between states at the regional level plays a key role in tackling IUU fishing, developing concerted actions and harmonising measures to help states follow minimum standards, and enhancing capacity through increased access to data and increasing political will through peer-pressure. In conclusion, she provided some examples of the kind of role that RFMOs can play in MCS, such as sharing vessel lists, encouraging enforcement action at a regional level (e.g. denial of licenses, port access and use), and providing technical and legal advice. Providing a technological perspective, **Bradley Soule**, OceanMind, demonstrated how innovative satellite applications can help increase transparency and foster compliance. Finally, **Klaudija Cremers** from IDDRI provided an overview of the ongoing high seas treaty negotiations, highlighting the potential role of MCS and possible options for a treaty to strengthen MCS in ABNJ.

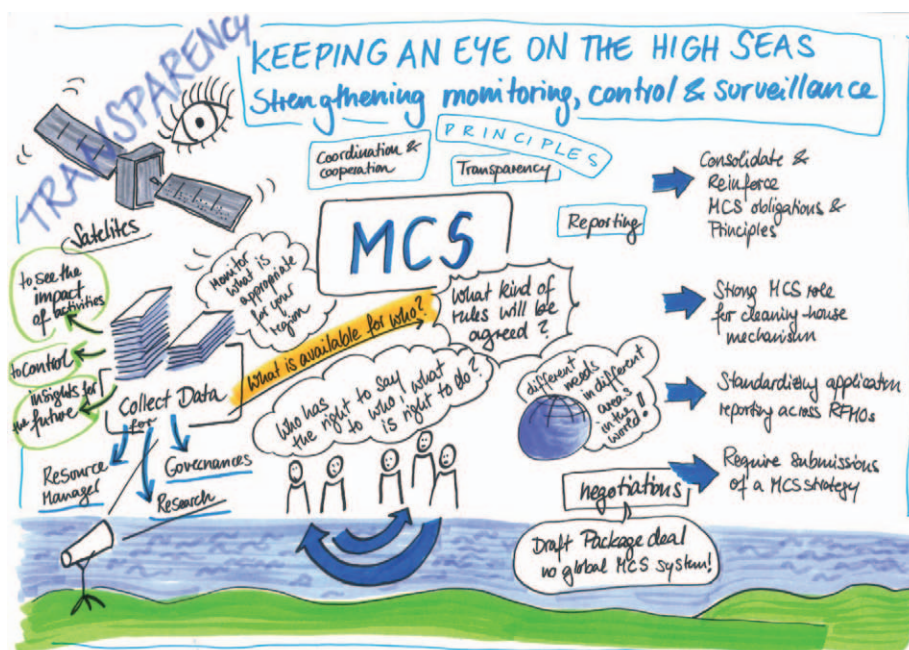


Figure 17: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on monitoring, control and surveillance.
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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main challenges in the field of MCS include a lack of capacity of states, such as having sufficient data and data processing, the fragmented governance of the management of ABNJ, and the reliance on flag states to commit to the elimination of non-compliance as their willingness to act is largely dependent upon their geopolitical and economic interests. Good practice examples of MCS include the *Fish-i-Africa* initiative as well as the FAO Global Capacity Development Programme.

Participants concluded that MCS can generally be strengthened through:

1. Increasing cooperation and coordination on MCS on a regional level (PSMA forms a starting point);
2. Ensuring there is trust between people who have to conduct MCS activities;
3. Leveraging the private sector;
4. Asking governments for transparency or access to information in relation to MCS;
5. Encouraging RFMOs to introduce minimum MCS standards.

While a future high seas treaty will not lead to a global MCS system, it can include provisions that advance the core principles of coordination and cooperation, transparency and reporting. The treaty could also develop a strong MCS role for a clearing-house mechanism and require submission of a MCS strategy for area-based management tool (ABMT) proposals. States should be encouraged to not only work together on MCS through formal organisations or arrangements, but also through informal initiatives.



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SESSION HOSTS

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RAPPORTEURS

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Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Carole Durussel, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Session 2.1.3 | Towards coherent and connected MPA networks: From challenges to possible solutions in high seas governance

INTRODUCTION

This session explored multi-level governance options to establish coherent networks of effective and well-managed MPAs in ABNJ. It took into account the state of the negotiations under the UN for a legally binding agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ, and built on existing discussions (see Session 2.1.1).

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Carolina Hazin, BirdLife International, highlighted the ecological connectivity of the ocean and emphasised that multi-level and cross-sectoral approaches for conservation are needed to achieve biodiversity goals. Coherent networks of MPAs are a pivotal means through which connectivity can be maintained, contributing to the protection of marine species. But success depends on a global coordination mechanism and the application of the ecosystem-based approach. **Ben Boteler** from IASS presented the current status of the BBNJ negotiations and showed that the current fragmented ocean governance system does not allow for the systematic establishment of a global network of connected MPAs. Key points from the discussion following on the presentations were:

Networks of MPAs should ensure the protection of migratory species throughout their migratory paths, not solely in their breeding or feeding grounds, and should be adaptable as ecosystems are not static features and are likely to change over time. Although ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) do not address ecological connectivity per se, they can be used to inform the identification and establishment of MPAs.

Ensuring individual MPAs are connected to form coherent networks of MPAs requires taking into account the different characteristics of species, habitats and ecosystems. MPAs with different management measures may be required for e.g. sessile benthic organisms or migratory seabirds. Solutions to such questions need to be addressed in order to fully realise MPA networks.

Participants discussed how a country or group of countries, with possible support, could identify candidate MPAs in ABNJ and propose to a COP, envisaged to be established under the new agreement. A Subsidiary Scientific Body, if established, could provide scientific and technical advice, and a broad consultation process allowing for comments and suggestions would be needed. After reviewing the proposal and obtaining political support, the COP could designate specific MPAs, but competent international organisations will likely remain in charge of management measures to be adopted. The mandate of some of the organisations may have to be expanded to allow them to adopt such measures in ABNJ. A Secretariat or overarching body could provide oversight as well as support states and organisations to facilitate coordination, implementation, reporting and enforcement through regional arrangements.

Reporting on MPA network development and implementation could be done at the regional level, which could in turn report progress back to the COP. Regional organisations, could potentially play a role in terms of convening states to take action as well as acting as data gatherers and

providers. A Subsidiary Scientific Body or ad hoc group could be established under the BBNJ agreement to ensure that scientific data and advice, including regional perspectives, are incorporated into the decision-making process. Ensuring synergies with existing frameworks and treaties, such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), will be important.

A mechanism to catalyse regional and cross-regional dialogue as well as cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration will also be required to promote consistency of management or conservation measures across organisations. It was also recommended to establish a financial mechanism under the BBNJ agreement to support states and regions to implement, monitor and enforce networks of MPAs. Capacity building will be crucial to support states to participate in this process.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussions on how to facilitate the systematic establishment of a coherent network of effective and well-managed MPAs in ABNJ have not yet taken place at the BBNJ negotiations. However, this is an important and complex topic that warrants attention in order to fully employ MPAs to conserve marine biodiversity in ABNJ, and to meet objectives agreed by the international community. Networks of MPAs should ensure the protection of species, including migratory species throughout their migratory paths, and habitats and should also be adaptable over time. EBSAs and VMEs can be used as a basis to develop networks. States would be responsible to propose MPAs in ABNJ that could then be designated by a COP, while regional arrangements could be used for their implementation, reporting and enforcement. A Subsidiary Scientific Body or ad hoc group could ensure that data and advice is collected and incorporated into decision-making. Cross-sectoral and cross-regional collaboration as well as a strong financial mechanism will also be required.

SESSION HOSTS

Jessica Battle, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) International

Ben Boteler, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Carole Durussel, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Tim Packeiser, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) Germany

RAPPORTEURS

Carole Durussel, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Rachael Scrimgeour, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre



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Session 2.1.4 | Deep seabed mining in the Area: The role of regional ocean governance

INTRODUCTION

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is mandated to regulate the use of mineral resources of the Area for the benefit of humankind whilst ensuring the protection of the marine environment from harmful impacts of such activities. This session's objective was to explore interests and perspectives of coastal states, regions and other stakeholders in relation to precautionary environmental measures, such as the design of regional environmental management plans (REMPs), in the development of the mining regime for the Area by the ISA.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Ingo Narberhaus from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety briefly introduced the German delegation's position at the ISA. He stressed the need to give strong effect to Article 145 of UNCLOS on the protection of the marine environment, the need for the establishment of clear standards to be complied by contractors before exploitation regulations are finalised, the need for mandatory requirement for contractors to provide demonstration of ability to control mining operations through test mining, and the adoption and implementation of REMPs through a standardised approach before mining activities take place.

To set the stage for the session's topic, a round of introductory presentations was moderated by Ingo Narberhaus and Torsten Thiele from IASS:

Jihyun Lee from the ISA Secretariat delivered a talk titled *The Regional Environmental Management Planning Process of the ISA*. She highlighted the importance of ensuring the effective protection of the marine environment in developing the resources of the Area and the obligation of the ISA to promote marine scientific research, capacity building and technology transfer. REMPs are enshrined

in the ISA's Strategic Plan, and the Secretariat has recently produced a guidance document to inform participants of workshops in the course of developing REMPs. She also mentioned the recent launch of *DeepData*, an ISA database that aims to enhance scientific knowledge and environmental regulation in order to benefit the whole of humanity.

Phil Weaver from Seascope Consultants delivered a presentation on *Developing REMPs for poly-metallic sulphide mining on ocean ridges*. In his presentation he explained that active vent fields on mid-ocean ridges are rare and to be found only within about 20 km of the ridge axis. He clarified that active and temporarily or permanently inactive vents often occur closely together. Ancient vent sites potentially with rich deposits occur away from the axis, however, the thickness of sediments on top of the deposits increases with distance from the ridge axis, making it less attractive for mining.

Ekaterina Popova from the National Oceanography Centre, UK, spoke on the *Connectivity of high seas and coastal waters: case study of the West Indian Ocean*. Oceanographic modelling suggests that Areas beyond and within national jurisdiction are tightly connected via two processes, active (migratory) connectivity and passive (circulation) connectivity, which may expose the ecosystems of the coastal waters to the downstream effects of activities in ABNJ. Coastal waters and coastlines of least developed countries, in particular in the western Indian Ocean, stand to be affected the most as a result of human activities in the high seas.

Piers Dunstan from CSIRO, Australia, delivered a presentation entitled *Developing a framework for integrated regional ocean governance*. He argued that integrated frameworks give the ability to not only achieve common outcomes or objectives, but also the ability to attribute the impacts, i.e. the impacts on values: such as social, environmental and economic ones, to specific sectors and actors. This is critical, since the attribution of impacts is directly related to the costs to mitigate them.

In a panel discussion which was moderated by **Sabine Christiansen** from IASS, **Ulrich Schwarz-Schampera** from the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources stressed that exploration does not necessarily mean exploitation. He mentioned that environmental baseline information such as those from annual reports are useful for better understanding the deep ocean and should be available to the public. **Baban Ingole**, National Oceanography Center, India, observed that deep sea research in most developing countries arise from an interest in mining as opposed to pure academic research. He also highlighted that the marine ecosystems will be greatly impacted, and recovery will be slow in most cases. **Duncan Currie** from the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, New Zealand, pointed out the need for more transparency at the ISA, as well as a need for institutional reforms to address environmental and scientific issues, such as an environment or science committee. The lack of understanding of the deep sea, compounded with the potential of irreversible harm, lends support to a call for a moratorium on seabed mining. **Thembile Joyini**, member of the Legal and Technical Commission of the Council of ISA and the South African delegation to the ISA, commented on the urgent need to make progress with the development of standards and guidelines to complement REMPs. He underscored the greatest challenge in designing a robust Mining Code, which is to balance two conflicting interests: the protection of the marine environment and the development of the resources of the Area. **Angelique Pouponneau** from the Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust shared the perspective of a Small Island Developing State and adjacent coastal states, highlighting concerns regarding potential transboundary harm arising from activities in the Area, as well as the need for specific measures to ensure monitoring and notification of such harm. She also highlighted that many states have limited resources for self-monitoring, as well as the need to enhance capacity building efforts.

During the following plenary discussions, the following main themes were discussed:

1. Data confidentiality and the need to make information (especially environmental) public;
2. The importance to have more capacity building framed in integrated ocean governance, as well as more widespread information about those opportunities;
3. The importance of more transparency and formal consultation to incorporate diverse interests, such as in the development of REMPs;
4. The fact that previous bad experiences with terrestrial mining render optimistic scenarios for marine mining (in the Area) unrealistic, especially given the difficulty of monitoring; and
5. The need to reform institutional capacity of the ISA in order to allow science-based decision-making and to ensure compliance (Inspectorate).

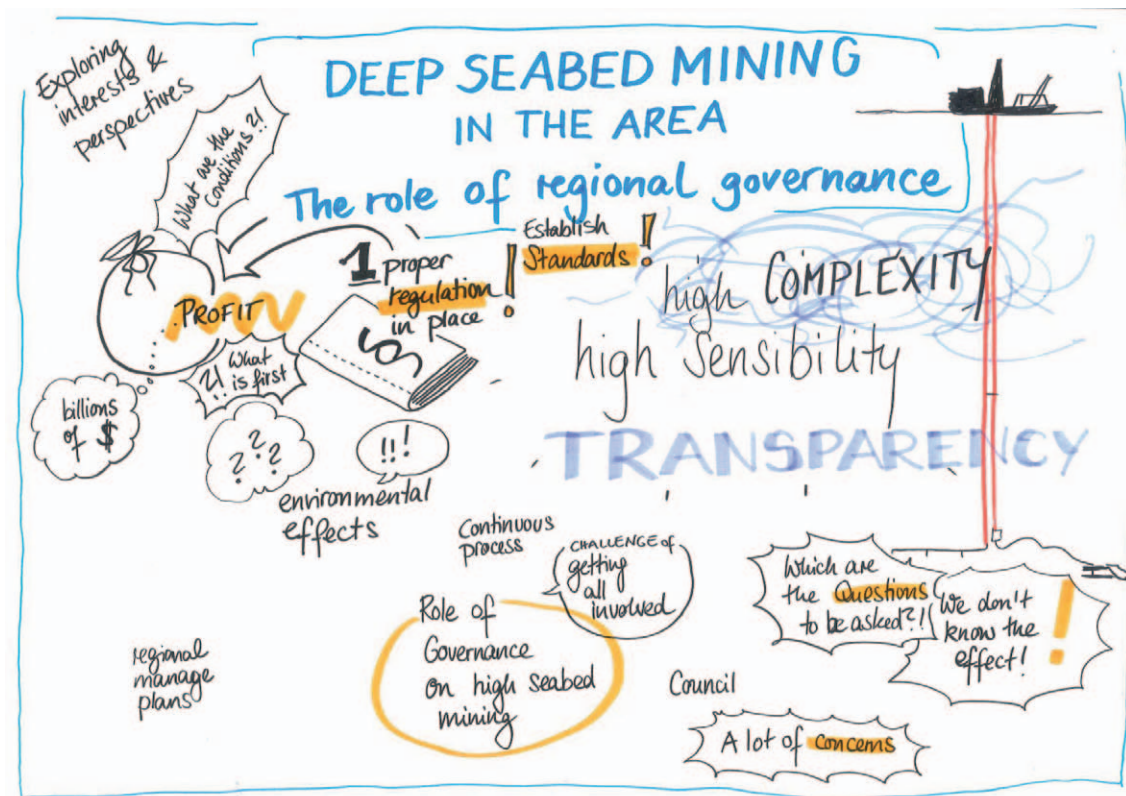


Figure 18: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on deep seabed mining. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following conclusions and recommendations were drawn:

1. REMPs provide a framework for integrated ocean management with operational management targets to ensure informed decision-making based on latest science and contemporary knowledge/experience, and that conservation and management decisions are taken with foresight and not in hindsight.
2. Transparency and stakeholder engagement, especially with adjacent coastal states, but also other users of areas beyond national jurisdiction, is crucial. Effective participation is needed in all aspects related to activities in the Area.
3. States with large oceanic waters need support in surveillance and monitoring, including on trans-boundary effects originating in ABNJ.
4. ISA should seek advice from collective independent research, comparable to IPCC advice, including on oceanic processes.



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SESSION HOSTS

Ingo Narberhaus, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Hans-Peter Damian, German Environment Agency

Sabine Christiansen, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Torsten Thiele, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

RAPPORTEURS

Pradeep Singh, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Maila Paisano Guilhon e Sá, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Topic 2.2 | Ocean and climate change

The ocean is a key component of the climate system. Its degradation has a direct impact on climate, which, in turn, impacts marine and coastal environments and human populations. Ocean governance frameworks must therefore evolve in light of the climate change threat. Synergies must now be created between the ocean and climate regulatory regimes at all scales, efforts must be redoubled and regional stakeholders should have a stronger voice in this process.

This topic will offer an opportunity for regional organisations and stakeholders to revisit ocean-based climate strategies and increase climate ambition, building on the recent Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) of the IPCC and preparing for the COP25, the so-called “Blue COP”, to be held in December 2019 under the UNFCCC.

Session 2.2.1 | Our ocean in crisis: Key findings from the IPCC special report

INTRODUCTION

At its 43rd session held in 2016, the IPCC decided to prepare a Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. This report, released in September 2019, not only provides an updated review of the relations between the ocean and climate change, but also an assessment of policy responses and tools. In this context, this session served as an introduction to the further sessions held under topic 2.2 by providing participants the key findings of the SROCC.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Julien Rochette from IDDRI welcomed the participants and underlined that the evolution of the ocean governance framework should now be drawn in light of the climate change threat. **Jean-Pierre Gattuso**, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Sorbonne University and IDDRI, described what the SROCC tells us about the future of the ocean. He emphasised the accelerated warming, acidification and deoxygenation of the ocean, as well as the unprecedented rate of sea-level rise. He presented the current impacts of these physical and chemical changes on marine ecosystems, biodiversity and food security and described the projected risks in light of different emissions scenarios. He concluded explaining that the SROCC highlights the urgency of prioritising timely, ambitious, coordinated and enduring action. **Melanie Mc Field**, Healthy Reefs Initiative, Smithsonian Institution, focused in her presentation on the situation of coral reefs in a changing climate and warned about the dramatic consequences for ecosystem functions and services, and hence for coastal populations' livelihoods, even under a low emissions scenario.

William Cheung, University of British Columbia, then explored the policy responses assessed by the SROCC, both for adaptation and mitigation purposes. He emphasised the wide range of ocean-based responses currently available, such as the conservation and restoration of the so-called blue carbon, the reduction of local pollutants and the creation of MPAs. He concluded by presenting key enabling conditions for success, including cooperation and coordination among governing authorities, education and climate literacy, sharing of data and capacity building. **Dorothee Herr**, International Union

for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), underlined the need for states to build on the SROCC conclusions, including through their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and via different, existing mechanisms within the international climate change regime.

Participants then discussed the opportunities provided by the SROCC and the remaining challenges. They particularly stressed the need to downscale global impact scenarios and have a better understanding of current and projected changes on a smaller scale, including at the regional level. They also discussed the practical consequences of climate impacts for day-to-day management of coastal and marine ecosystems, and for the on-going discussions on the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants underscored the importance of the SROCC to inform climate mitigation and adaptation action, and underlined that:

- Policymakers should, at all scales, build on the report’s conclusions and develop robust measures aimed to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the ocean;
- Regional organisations have a key role to play in building ocean resilience to climate change, including through the development and implementation of nature-based solutions;
- Further knowledge is needed to downscale global scenarios and to get a better understanding of current and projected changes on a smaller scale.



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SESSION HOSTS

Jean-Pierre Gattuso, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

William Cheung, University of British Columbia

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEUR

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Session 2.2.2 | Preparing marine regions for fisheries on the move

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is expected to affect fisheries by modifying the spatial distribution and abundance of exploited fish species. This will impact national economies of coastal and fishing states, since quantity and quality of marine fish catch will be redistributed between nations' exclusive economic zones. This will also create new governance challenges that coastal and fishing states, individually and through regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), will have to take up. This session aimed to discuss policy and economic challenges created by fish stocks on the move, and to identify priority measures to be developed at the regional level.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Julien Rochette from IDDRI welcomed the participants and highlighted the economic, policy and governance challenges raised by fisheries on the move. **William Cheung**, University of British Columbia, then presented the challenges to transboundary fisheries management under climate change. He noted that the rates of poleward shifts across different marine species since the 1950s are 52 ± 33 km per decade, and 29 ± 16 km per decade for organisms in the epipelagic (upper 200 m from sea surface) and seafloor ecosystems. He described the economic and policy challenges raised by fisheries on the move, and concluded by presenting specific arrangements that contain provisions aimed to anticipate and adapt to fish migrations, such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the United States-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, and the Nauru Agreement.

Essam Yassin Mohammed, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), recalled that fisheries play important roles for food supply, income generation and nutrition, and that climate change posed significant threats, including lower fish yield, displacement of fish species, and reduced fish production for export. He highlighted different policy responses, including through market systems (investment to support sustainable artisanal fisheries, market infrastructure to address post-harvest and income loss) and governance structure (aligning incentives and investment).

Raphaël Billé, Pacific Community, gave a snapshot of tuna fisheries in the Pacific island countries and territories. He emphasised that the models aimed at assessing tuna migrations and related economic consequences provide different results in light of the emissions scenarios and noted the difficulty for countries (“If a country’s stock is likely to move away, should they fish less or more?”), the fishing industry, whose investment timeframe rarely extends 10–15 years, and regional fisheries management organisations, within which challenges are already numerous, to anticipate and provide relevant options.

Participants then discussed adequate MPAs design for fisheries on the move, the difficulty for policy-makers to build on climate and fisheries models and develop appropriate response strategies, and the need to develop robust science-management interfaces.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants concluded that fisheries on the move currently raise both scientific and governance challenges:

- In terms of science: even if climate and fisheries models are improving, the large scale and long time horizon of these do not always allow policymakers to develop relevant strategies. It is therefore crucial to rethink the science-to-policy interfaces;
- In terms of governance: even if fish migrations are a major challenge, RFMOs rarely have developed clear coping strategies for the upcoming changes.



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SESSION HOSTS

William Cheung, University of British Columbia

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEUR

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Session 2.2.3 | Tackling climate problems with ocean solutions

INTRODUCTION

There is growing evidence on the role of the ocean in mitigating anthropogenic climate change. The cascading consequences of climate change for the ocean in terms of chemistry and physics, as well as ecosystems and their services, is clear. In this context, critical questions arise: what are ocean-based opportunities for climate action and to what extent can the ocean and its ecosystems reduce the causes and impacts of climate change? This session looked into the challenges of such ocean-based solutions, with a specific focus on nature-based solutions, and explored options for developing cooperative approaches at the level of marine regions.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Dorothee Herr, IUCN, opened the session noting the objective of discussing challenges for advancing ocean-based climate solutions and identifying tangible options for increased regional cooperation to address them. **Jean-Pierre Gattuso** (CNRS, Sorbonne University and IDDRI) underlined the urgent need for ambitious global mitigation and local adaptation, and highlighted that the ocean provides solutions for both. He presented ocean-based measures grouped around four main clusters (protection of biota and ecosystems; manipulation of biological and ecological adaptation; solar radiation management; and addressing the causes of climate change), and concluded that the greatest benefit is derived from the combination of global and local solutions.

Three regional experiences on ocean-based solutions were then presented: **María del Mar Otero**, IUCN Centre for the Mediterranean, provided insights from nature-based solutions in the Mediterranean regarding the protection of seagrass meadows and salt marshes through the Life Blue Natura Project. She pointed to feasibility studies on setting up voluntary carbon offset projects and emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement. **Abou Bamba**, Abidjan Convention Secretariat, UN Environment, presented the recently adopted protocol on sustainable management of mangroves, highlighting that the rationale for elaborating this instrument was both to fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. **Raphaël Billé**, Pacific Community, cautioned that nature-based solutions often make more sense locally than technology-based measures, but that they are not cheap or easy solutions, also noting the need to address the original stressors for degradation and to attend to the needs of local communities to ensure effective implementation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants concluded that the ocean is not only a victim of climate change but also a possible solution. In this regard, the development of nature-based solutions in the coastal and marine environment, including through regional cooperation, can be seen as a no regret-option.

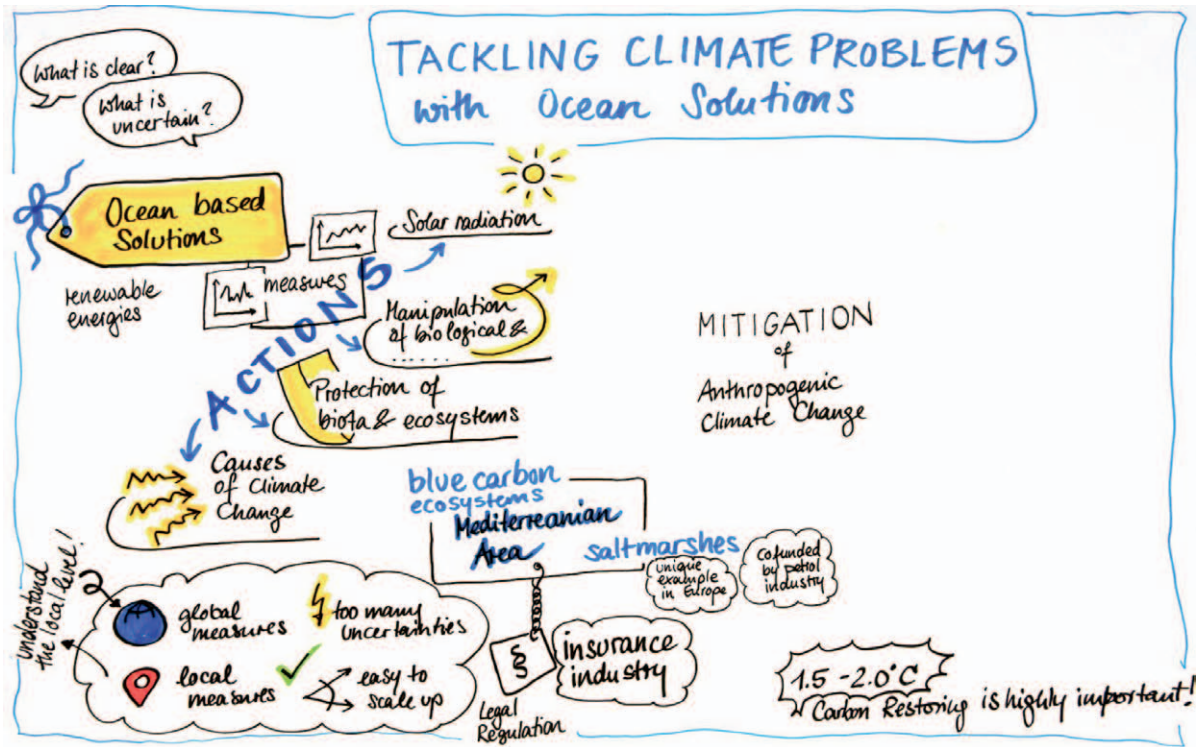


Figure 19: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on oceans and climate. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow



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SESSION HOSTS

Jean-Pierre Gattuso, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Dorothee Herr, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPOREUR

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Session 2.2.4 | The “Blue COP”: Mobilising regional stakeholders

INTRODUCTION

The IPCC’s SROCC released in September 2019 provides decision-makers with new information about the interactions between ocean and climate change. In parallel to this scientific exercise, processes have been launched to better integrate the ocean in the climate discussions, especially in the view of COP 25 – the so-called “Blue COP” to be held in December 2019. These processes, such as the *Because the Ocean* initiative, aim to support states in including ocean-related measures in their climate strategies, including the NDCs. The objective of this session was to identify ways for regional organisations and stakeholders to contribute to these initiatives and to prepare for the “Blue COP”.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Loreley Picourt, Ocean and Climate Platform, opened the session and asked participants to focus on concrete solutions for better integrating ocean issues in the climate regime. The first part of the session was dedicated to the question of how to place the ocean in the international climate agenda. **Kristian Teleki**, World Resources Institute, provided a snapshot of discussions held at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit and emphasised the need to: think about how to use the upcoming meeting of the COP 25 to maintain momentum on ocean and climate linkages ahead of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) COP 15; provide compelling arguments for increased private sector engagement; mobilise a broader coalition of governments “beyond the usual suspects”; and better connect the ocean-climate nexus to the overall sustainable development agenda. **Waldemar Coutts**, Ambassador of Chile to Norway and Iceland, highlighted high-level support within the Chilean Presidency for COP 25 to make progress on the ocean-climate nexus. He underscored that the “the mere fact that we are talking about a “Blue COP” is a starting point for something important”. **Joanna Post**, UNFCCC Secretariat, described the structure of the Paris Agreement, focusing on the importance of NDCs and the 2023 global stocktake, and pointed to e.g. the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as relevant UNFCCC processes to address ocean issues.

The second part of the session focused on challenges related to the integration of the ocean into the climate regime. **Kristian Teleki** presented the report *The Ocean as a Solution for Climate Change: 5 Opportunities for Action* commissioned by the High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. He noted the report showed that scaled-up ocean action could deliver 21% of the emission cuts needed by 2050 to meet the 1.5°C target and identified as priorities for action: ocean renewable energy; decarbonising shipping; increasing protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems; and increasing the share of low-carbon fish and seaweed proteins in diets. **Théophile Bongarts**, Ocean and Climate Platform, presented the *Because the Ocean* initiative, highlighting the recent expert workshops held in Madrid (Spain) and Suva (Fiji), and shared findings from the *Ocean For Climate* report⁸, which identifies both mitigation and adaptation actions to incorporate the ocean within climate strategies, including on blue carbon, blue energy, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and green ship-

⁸ URL: https://www.becausetheocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Ocean_for_Climate_Because_the_Ocean.pdf, last accessed 25 November 2019

ping industry. **Dorothee Herr**, IUCN, underscored the need to understand the technicalities and politics underlying the UNFCCC process to make wise use of the opportunity presented by COP 25. She emphasised the importance of building a pipeline of bankable nature-based solution projects to gain traction with the private sector, pointing to the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility in this regard.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants agreed that COP 25 is a great opportunity for strengthening the integration of the ocean into the climate discussions, including through the inclusion of marine components into NDCs. They also underscored the crucial importance of implementing the Paris Agreement and underlined that the wish to see the ocean mentioned in climate change negotiations should not go at the expense of pushing for ambitious land-based mitigation action, which is key to reduce climate change impacts on the ocean.



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SESSION HOSTS

Loreley Picourt, Ocean and Climate Platform

Kristian Teleki, World Resources Institute, Sustainable Ocean Initiative

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEUR

Julien Rochette, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Theme 3 | Knowledge for ocean action

Informed decision-making is a prerequisite for tackling the complex threats to the ocean. In that context, target SDG 14.a calls for an increase of scientific knowledge and the development of research capacities. There is a clear need to bridge gaps between science, policy and society to ensure that decisions and strategies are based on best available knowledge and reliable data. A growing number of promising initiatives address this need by fostering a more dynamic science-policy-society interface, ranging from formal to informal interactions, and the integration of different types of knowledge and knowledge holders.

Theme 3 aimed to provide an exchange on how to generate policy-relevant scientific information and knowledge in collaboration with various actors. The dialogue sessions held under this theme analysed existing regional collaborations between science organisations and decision-making bodies, considered the challenges of integrating different types of knowledge, and explored the potential of ongoing global science processes and assessments, such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the World Ocean Assessment. Furthermore, an artistic intervention presented during the evening reception and a special panel session looked into the relationship between the ocean and the public, and the role of arts in building ocean literacy and stewardship with the next generation.

Topic 3.1 | Stronger together: Enhancing regional science-policy-society practices

Sound science is crucial for robust decision-making. Enhanced science-policy interfaces and new modes of knowledge integration are needed to translate knowledge into policy-relevant advice, and, conversely, to translate policy needs into relevant research questions. The development of such interfaces is uneven across different regions and integration of important traditional, indigenous and local knowledge is often limited. This topic aimed to explore how the science-policy-society interface is currently organised and reflect on how suitable structures for enhanced exchange can be developed at the regional level. Sharing varied experiences from different marine regions, practical guidance was developed for the advancement of good practices and the integration of different types of knowledge.

Session 3.1.1 | Building regional science-policy interfaces: Good practices, lessons learnt and ways forward

INTRODUCTION

Connecting science and policy is a major concern for achieving a healthy ocean. While the importance of establishing science-policy collaborations is widely recognised, good practice examples of institutionalised science-policy interfaces are scarce in many regions. The objective of this session was to introduce and reflect upon the mechanisms behind existing regional science-policy interfaces, and to deduce lessons learnt on how regional science-policy interfaces can be improved.

PRESENTATIONS AND ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The session started with a welcome note by **Jörn Schmidt**, Kiel University, and an introductory talk by Alice Vadrot of the University of Vienna. **Alice Vadrot** highlighted that science is inherently political as it co-evolves with society and politics. She then introduced various examples for institutionalised as well as ad-hoc science-policy interfaces and emphasised that science for policy needs to be actionable, legitimate and credible, timely and relevant, and clear and succinct. She underpinned her reflections with insights from her work in the MARIPOLDATA project⁹, and stressed the importance of building trust and establishing a continuous dialogue between science and policy.

Anne Christine Brusendorff of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and **Jacob Hagberg** of the Swedish Ministry of the Environment and Energy held presentations then reflected upon how science and policy work together in the North-East Atlantic. Anne Christine Brusendorff explained that ICES has a legal mandate by its 20 member countries and is supported by a network of about 5.000 scientists who are active in 150 expert groups. While the main focus of ICES was initially to provide knowledge, the organisation turned into an advice provider through a series of formal agreements with regional decision-making entities such as OSPAR, HELCOM, and the EU. The production of advice follows the steps of (1) formulation of request in an iterative dialogue, (2) knowledge synthesis via expert groups, (3) peer review, and (4) advice production. Functions that made ICES become a success are transparency, documentation and peer-review, consistency across management objectives, established processes and working in cooperation. Finding resources and experts still presents a challenge. As a representative of a decision-making entity, Jacob Hagberg reflected upon why the science policy interface is working in the region. He emphasised three points: regional cooperation in science, agreement on the problem based on common assessments, and cooperation to implement region-wide solutions by linking science and regional policy platforms.

Dixon Waruinge of the UN Environment Nairobi Convention Secretariat and **Julius Francis** of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) gave a presentation on how science and policy collaborate in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). Dixon Waruinge first introduced the provisions of the Nairobi Convention regarding scientific and technical cooperation in the region. He stated that decisions made at Nairobi Convention COPs reinforced the importance of facilitating science-policy dialogues. As a first step, a Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) was established. While FARI succeeded in bringing together marine science experts to provide information for evidence-based decision-making in the region, exchange with other sectors was lacking. A Science to Policy Platform (SPP) is being set up to bridge the gap and facilitate interaction between science, policy, practitioners, and the private sector. Its functions include knowledge generation, consensus building, and forming a basis for evidence-based decision-making. In addition, the Nairobi Convention Clearing House Mechanism has been set up to provide data and information on the region and support capacity building, at national level. Julius Francis introduced the work of WIOMSA, which is hosting the SPP. He highlighted the following challenges: providing the right information, getting science beyond publications, finding the data, and understanding the policy questions. Good practice examples from the region include the production of a *Regional Outlook on MPAs* and a *Critical Habitats Outlook*, and the ongoing work on ocean acidification and marine litter. In concluding, Mr. Francis remarked that the inclusion of socioeconomic and governance research dimensions is crucial for science to benefit environmental management and policy.

⁹ URL: <https://www.maripoldata.eu/>, last accessed 15 November 2019

Henri Döring of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) introduced the *MeerWissen – African-German Partners for Ocean Knowledge*¹⁰ initiative. Initiated under BMZ’s Ten-point Plan of Action for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries, the MeerWissen initiative aims to improve the conditions for science-based policy-making. The approach includes strengthening of capacities in marine research through African-German partnership projects, stimulating the dialogue between researchers and decision-makers for better transfer of results into policy-making processes, and fostering digitalisation, innovation and technology. To date, six initiatives have started and up to seven projects will be selected from a second call for project proposals and start in 2020.

Following the presentations, moderated round table discussions provided participants with the opportunity to further discuss challenges and opportunities in the two focus regions, and to reflect upon the role of boundary organisations and their visions for an ideal science-policy interface.

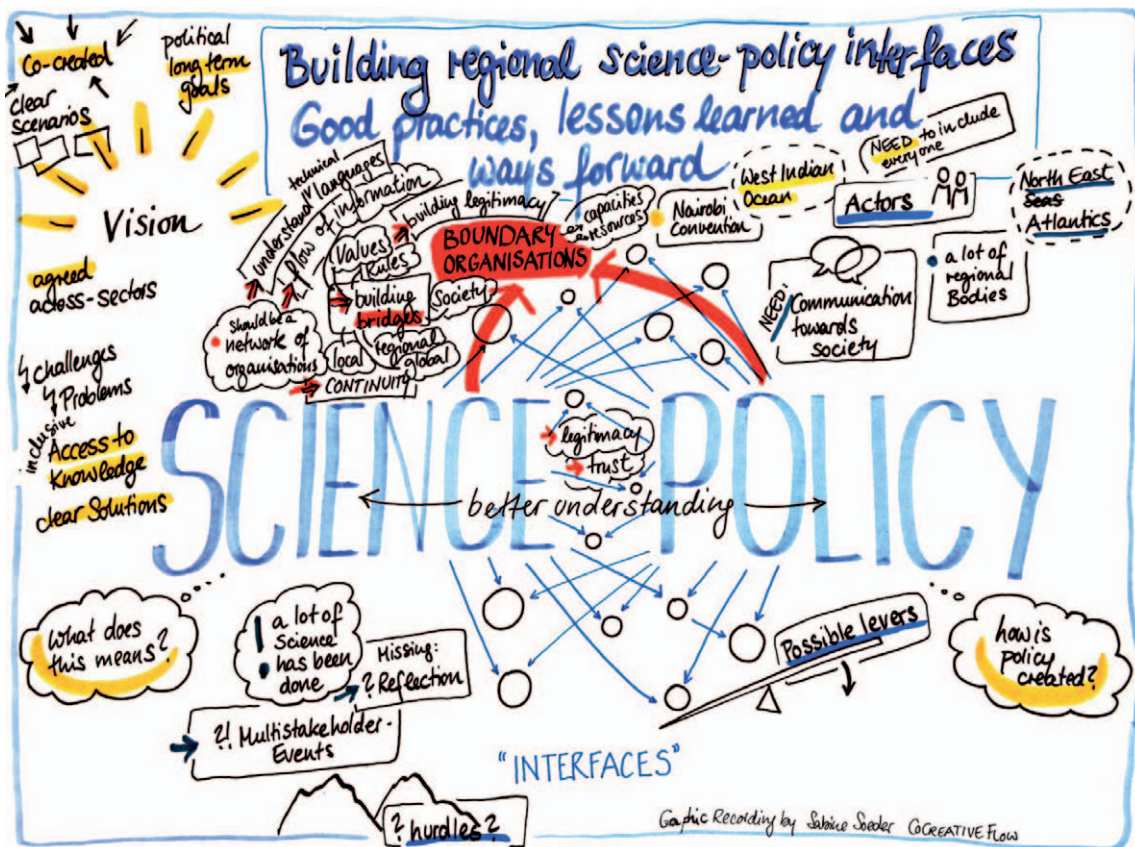


Figure 20: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on science-policy interfaces.
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¹⁰ URL: <https://meerwissen.org/>, last accessed 15 November 2019

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The round table discussion concluded that capacities, resources (institutional, financial, human resources), broad involvement of the relevant actors, as well as a continuous dialogue (building trust, cooperation and networks) and context as defined by policy frameworks (norms, issues), are critical determinants for establishing successful science-policy interfaces. It was recommended to establish long-term political goals and determine concrete, sector-based short- and medium-term milestones and actions in a co-creative approach. Further, a continuous dialogue and feedback loop between science and policy is needed in order to successfully link knowledge production and policy-making. Boundary organisations were identified as key actors at the science-policy-society interface. Besides formal institutions such as convention secretariats, informal platforms could take on such a role. It was recommended that marine regions endeavour to analyse if such an organisation exists in their context or which organisation could take on that role. In order for boundary organisations to be effective, they should have a clear mandate and governance and ideally a legal structure should be established, which requires that decisions are based on scientific advice.



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SESSION HOSTS

Jörn Schmidt, Kiel University

Janina Lobmüller, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ

Henri Döring, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Nicole Wienrich, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Barbara Neumann, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

RAPPORTEUR

Nicole Wienrich, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Session 3.1.2 | Inclusive ocean governance: Weaving science with traditional ecological knowledge

INTRODUCTION

Meaningful engagement of local communities and indigenous people is increasingly recognised as an important component of conservation and governance processes. However, there is still limited engagement with traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) systems. Robust and appropriate inclusion of TEK in science-policy practices as well as greater understanding of the challenges is required, especially in the context of regional ocean governance. The aim of this session was to advance the understanding of the state of TEK involvement in science-policy processes and to identify ways to support the integration from the national to the regional level of ocean governance.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

After a welcome and short introduction to the session by the co-hosts, experts from different backgrounds provided input on the importance of meaningful engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in science-policy processes, and on the challenges and opportunities of integrating different types of knowledge into such processes. The presenters emphasised the importance of including this topic in regional ocean governance and acknowledged the value of having a dedicated session for this topic at the conference.

Elle Meret Omma of the indigenous Saami Council gave a presentation on the inclusion of indigenous groups, such as the Saami Council, in science-policy processes through the Arctic Council. She noted that the *Ottawa Traditional Knowledge Principles*¹¹, developed by indigenous groups within the framework of the Arctic Council, specify that indigenous knowledge enhances the holistic understanding of the arctic environment, highlights the need for equality, mutual trust and respect, and acknowledges that although science and indigenous knowledge are different, they complement each other. In this respect, indigenous and scientific knowledge systems have different approaches and methodologies for addressing the same challenges. Efforts have been made to integrate the Ottawa Principles into regional marine governance through initiatives such as the Arctic Council's working group *Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment* (PAME). It was emphasised that indigenous knowledge should not “decorate” science but rather foster the creation of “new” knowledge through the co-production of knowledge. One of the challenges, though, remains how to apply these principles in practice.

In her presentation on knowledge systems and lessons learnt from Western Africa and South-East Asia, **Anna-Katharina Hornidge** from the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) highlighted the fact that science-policy interactions and science literacy is skewed and differs globally. Scientific output is mostly provided by developed countries, which in turn affects the global agendas being set. As knowledge is a determinant for coping and adaptation to environmental change, greater value should be placed on the co-production of knowledge and on the integration of knowledge into policy-making.

¹¹ URL: Ottawa Traditional Knowledge Principles, last accessed 08 November 2019

Clement Yow Mulalap, legal adviser at the Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations, explained that in the Pacific region, Pacific islanders identify themselves as indigenous, although their legal status according to the UN system is one of local communities. National and subnational laws in the Pacific recognise traditional knowledge in environmental governance, but apart from RFMOs, Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Networks, or initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge, the regional level often lacks environmental management organisations that engage local communities. Furthermore, in response to the risk of exploitation of Pacific local communities, a *Pacific Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture*¹² was developed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) together with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the UNESCO Pacific Regional Office. The framework includes a model law that establishes “a new range of statutory rights for traditional owners of traditional knowledge”. It was emphasised that the model law is to be regarded as a starting point and will continue to be modified accordingly. Furthermore, in the frame of the BBNJ negotiations there are currently ongoing discussions on how to incorporate traditional knowledge, such as on navigation and voyaging routes.

In a moderated discussion, participants found that challenges remain with the definition of different knowledge types, such as traditional knowledge or indigenous knowledge, as the term “traditional” implies that the knowledge is not dynamic and “indigenous” is often bound to legal and political statuses. It was emphasised that although definitions vary, the science-policy arena must recognise the value of diversity and involve indigenous peoples and local communities in governance processes for the co-production of knowledge. It was discussed that communities need to be recognised as having specific rights that should be safeguarded, including those communities that may not have the formal recognition as indigenous groups but equally have an identity and local experience or knowledge. Decision-making processes related to safeguarding indigenous and local communities should operate according to the principle of subsidiarity which can be provided by the regional level.

It was further discussed that current funding and research project mechanisms are generally not suited for co-design and engagement of indigenous communities, which inherently results in power inequalities and cultural hegemony. However, if co-production is achieved, the sharing of knowledge transitions to the sharing of power, which is especially important as indigenous groups are amongst the most underprivileged communities in the world. To enable participation, capacity building needs to be developed for both, scientific and indigenous or local communities. For indigenous knowledge holders this includes funding, time, and human resources in order to actively participate in research throughout all phases of the project, and opportunities to lead the projects. For scientists this includes training and education about indigenous philosophies and methodologies. A good practice example of fostering the co-production of knowledge is the *Sámi Arctic Strategy*¹³, a research strategy initiated by the Saami Council to secure indigenous knowledge and participation in research and policy-making, focusing on the needs of the indigenous groups. The Saami Council has been involved in leading research, and proactively approaching and involving different partner institutions. During the discussion, it was shared that in developing the IPBES report, anthropologists were involved to bridge the communication between indigenous and scientific communities involved.

¹² URL: <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/spc/spc002en.pdf>, last accessed 08 November 2019.

¹³ URL: http://www.saamicouncil.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Documents/Eara_dokumeanttat/FINAL_Saami-Arctic-Strategy_with_attachment.pdf, last accessed 08 November 2019

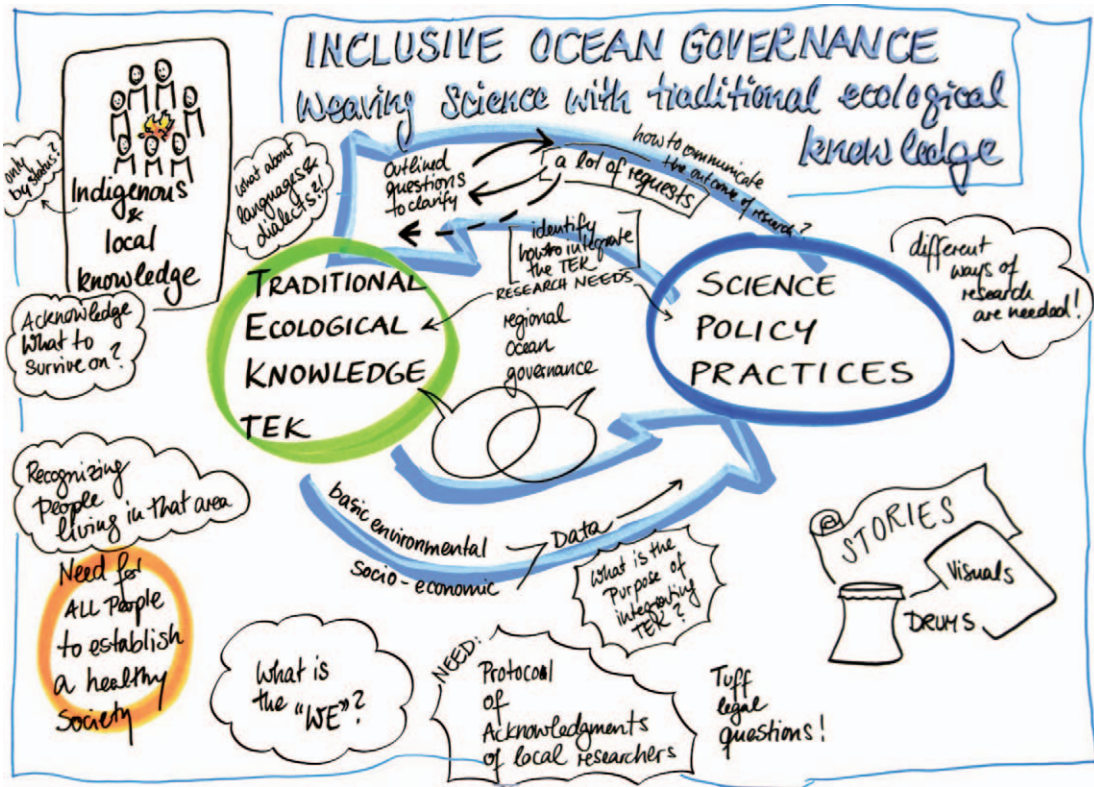


Figure 21: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on knowledge integration. © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Meaningful mechanisms need to be in place that not only recognise and protect the value of knowledge diversity, but that also foster the co-production of knowledge and include decision-making rights. The regional level can and should support, or provide, an alternative approach to the national level for greater engagement of traditional and indigenous knowledge. As seen by the model law in the Pacific region, frameworks should be implemented in response to the risk of exploitation and use of traditional knowledge systems. Another important component for the co-production of knowledge frameworks is the development of resources (capacity-building) for both scientific and indigenous or local communities. Fundamental challenges to the co-development and integration of knowledge include language (natural language as well as technical language), differences in world views and beliefs, or ways of communicating. Furthermore, if local or indigenous communities are recognised as having specific rights and included in decision-making, co-production of knowledge and the involved knowledge holders become linked to the regimes they are addressing. Lastly, long-term success lies in fostering relationships, working towards true partnerships and long-term commitments.



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SESSION HOSTS

Sebastian Ferse, Future Earth Coasts

Elle Merete Omma, Saami Council

Laura Weiand, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Barbara Neumann, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

RAPPORTEUR

Laura Weiand, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Topic 3.2 | Strengthening global science-policy processes to support regional ocean governance

Ambitious global science processes are putting ocean science high on the international agenda. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) aims to catalyse international science cooperation and capacity development, while the second cycle of the UN Regular Process (2016–2020) is set to deliver a comprehensive assessment of the state of the marine environment. Such efforts could revolutionise the available knowledge base, providing the data, technology and cooperation needed for informed decision-making and good governance.

This topic will therefore explore the current state-of-play of these initiatives, identify possible contributions for regional actors, and consider how such processes can best support the work of regional institutions.

Session 3.2.1 | The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: Engaging marine regions

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations have proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health, and gather ocean stakeholders behind a common framework so that ocean science can fully support countries in their quest for the sustainable development of the ocean. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) is coordinating the preparatory process, inviting the global ocean community to plan for the next ten years in ocean science and technology. This session discussed the current status of the Decade, challenges and opportunities, and how best to engage regional actors and institutions.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Julian Barbrière, IOC-UNESCO, introduced the session, providing a status update on the progress of the Decade and highlighting the key opportunities for regional engagement in the development process. **Martin Visbeck**, GEOMAR – Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, then provided his perspective as a Member of the Executive Planning Group of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, noting that ocean science remains voluntary and publicly funded, while it is increasingly called upon to support legally binding treaties and address existential issues of global concern. In this context, ocean science is under-resourced and human resources capacity is unevenly distributed. The Decade could therefore play a transformational role and must focus on key goals, work with other initiatives (including the 15 UN decades currently active), and engage all actors, including national governments and regional organisations. Finally, **Anne Parge**, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, provided an overview of the German Government’s plans for hosting the kick-off conference of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in 2021.

A second round of short presentations provided further insight into the regional dimension of the Decade. **Robert Glazer**, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, noted the complex nature of regional governance frameworks in the Caribbean, highlighting the need for enhancing cooperation and capacity building and the role that the Decade could play. **Joanna Post**, UNFCCC Secretariat, provided a global perspective on how the Decade can support ongoing international policy processes. **Gaetano Leone**, Barcelona Convention Secretariat, UN Environment, highlighted the crucial work being done in the Mediterranean through the Regional Seas programme, which is providing policy-relevant scientific advice and assessments, and facilitating cooperation between diverse states. **Ibukun Jacob Adewumi**, National University of Ireland Galway, said that capacity issues make it challenging for researchers in developing countries to develop and propose projects, and highlighted the role that regional organisations can play in matching resources to capacity needs. He also called on the scientific community to be active mentors to young researchers.

A lively discussion followed, with participants noting that science can play a significant role in policy-making as it can be a neutral voice in complex policy processes. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development could amplify this role by ensuring that science is connected to policy, and by helping regional actors and institutions to provide a link between national and global processes. In order to fulfil these roles, science must be broadly conceived in order to include social science, governance and economics.

Participants noted that global reports often do not provide enough detail to be useful to policy-makers. In particular, it is often unclear where the key gaps are and what scientific knowledge already exists as there are many disparate groups and initiatives. In this context, there is an opportunity for regional organisations to provide targeted information and for the Decade to support further capacity development and coordination.

Participants also discussed the ambitions for the Decade, noting that there is a danger of placing responsibility for solving systemic challenges on one initiative. Rather, the Decade is best conceived as an initiative that will increase visibility, raise ambition and showcase the crucial role ocean science plays in understanding environmental challenges and proposing solutions. In this regard, it was noted that effective communication is key and that there is much to be learnt from how the private sector approaches marketing and communications.



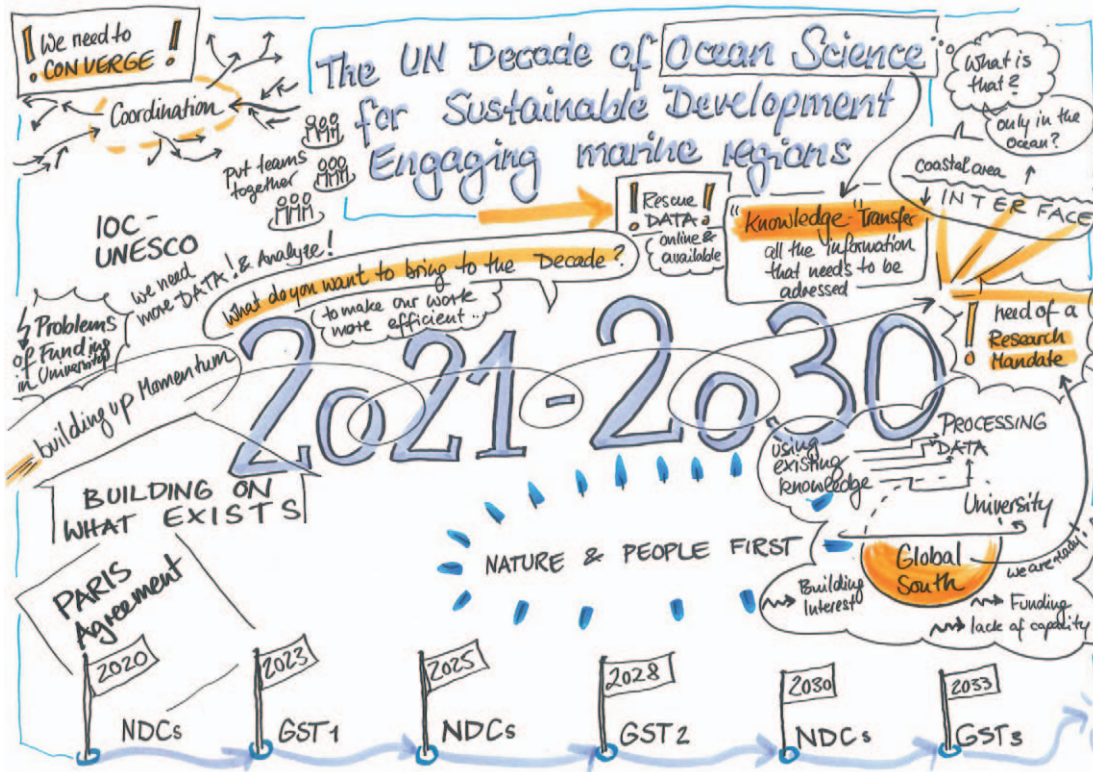


Figure 22: Graphic recording capturing the discussion on knowledge integration.
 © Sabine Soeder, CoCreativeFlow

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development provides a unique opportunity to support both global and regional institutions by stimulating a renewed focus on scientific cooperation and helping to ensure that scientific knowledge is relevant to policy. In order to meet its ambitious aims, the development of the Decade must be inclusive, and ensure wide participation of regions and disciplines. At the same time, the scientific community must get behind the Decade, using the opportunity to increase coordination and ensure that scientific knowledge is both relevant and visible to policymakers.

SESSION HOSTS

Julian Barbière, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEUR

Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Session 3.2.2 | Enhancing the role of regions in global ocean assessments

INTRODUCTION

A range of global scientific processes and assessments relating to the ocean are currently ongoing or under development, and there is a window of opportunity for enhancing the role of regional actors and institutions. This session took stock of lessons learnt from global and regional environmental assessments, identified key opportunities for the regions to engage in the assessments, and deliberated on the value of top-down versus bottom-up assessment approaches to assessments and considered the need to evolve approaches to compare and contrast between marine regions.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Kyle Fawkes, Future Earth Coasts, provided insight into the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, the World Ocean Assessment, and identified key issues and lessons learnt. **Ana Tejedor** from the European Environment Agency, reporting from a European Union perspective, highlighted the role of regional organisations and the value of global assessments. Finally, **Val Cummins**, Future Earth Coasts, reflected on lessons learnt from Future Earth Coasts work on capacity building for global assessments.

During an initial exchange of views, participants reflected on the World Ocean Assessment, discussing its complex political origins, and the cumbersome process to designate experts and deal with language issues. It was noted that the Assessment has not been widely cited in academic spheres or policy development arenas, but that it can be useful in other contexts, such as developing projects and providing an overview of the current status of the marine environment. Participants also noted that the purpose of the Assessment may have been unclear, and that there is a need to consider how different types of knowledge can be collated and integrated. Participants further stated that there is a range of global assessments, including those of the IPCC and the IPBES, which sometimes overlap or conflict, and which are developed and used by different actors and processes. This can be inefficient and conceptually incoherent.

During an informal breakout session, participants discussed how marine regions can facilitate impactful assessments. It was noted that reports should facilitate action and that marine regions are well-placed to provide not only scientific information, but also to highlight region-specific priorities and make proposals for action tailored to the regional context. It was also noted that greater impact can be made by translating assessments for different audiences at a regional level and publishing them at strategic moments. For example, this could be as simple as writing a briefing note targeted at particular policymakers at a specific strategic phase of a policymaking processes.

Regarding the objectives and purpose of assessments, participants noted that a top-down approach is not likely to be effective or efficient in identifying relevant objectives at more local scales, and that future assessments must go further than simply collating information and ensure that they are tailoring content and recommendations to ongoing processes. In this regard, it was noted that the second cycle of the World Ocean Assessment is already referring to the SDGs.

In terms of regional institutions, it was highlighted that few regions currently have strong regional science organisations. In East Africa, the WIOMSA provides a positive example, bringing together actors from both the Global South and North within an organisation that is highly engaged in the work of UN Environment's Regional Seas Programme, the Nairobi Convention, and other policy processes. Finally, participants noted the challenge of engagement at the highest political level and political interference in the Ocean Assessment process, as there is no autonomous international body or clear political mandate responsible for ocean assessments. Creation of such a body, with regional chapters similar to the IPCC's Working Groups, might help to disentangle assessments from politics and enable more room to account for regional priorities and differences.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The science-policy interface for ocean affairs is complex and dynamic. Within this context, assessment procedures have at times favoured strict political considerations or fostered scientific systems that are irrelevant for policy-making. There is therefore a need to urgently develop assessment processes which co-produce knowledge and provide equal weighting to science and policy concerns.

At the same time, the power of science has been divested by isolating knowledge compilation at the global level and at times neglecting important contributions from regional and national levels. Regional organisations could counter this tendency, though there is a need to assess whether regional bodies are fit for purpose, especially as regions are diverse. For example, some marine regions are traditionally connected, while others have a history of conflict. International scientific organisations like Future Earth Coast are poised to partner with regions to facilitate a new form of assessment that takes stock of the regional perspective.

Finally, assessments provide a tool to help transition development to sustainable pathways. These assessments therefore need to be better aligned with global frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its ocean goals SDG 14 or the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and engage the key actors responsible for implementation.

SESSION HOSTS

Sebastian Ferse, Future Earth Coasts

Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEURS

Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Klaudija Cremers, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Topic 3.3 | Engaging with the next generation: Arts for ocean literacy and stewardship

There is an urgent need to raise awareness of ocean issues and of the close linkages that exist between humans and the ocean. It is necessary to transform the narratives surrounding the ocean, even for those living far from the coast. Enhancing ocean literacy with the public has thus become an important aspect of ocean actions taken by state and non-state actors, at all scales.

This topic built on the WE ARE OCEAN¹⁴ project, an interdisciplinary artistic communication project which brings together artists, school students and teachers, ocean experts and policymakers, art collectors and curators, with the aim to raise awareness and engage in dialogue about the state of the ocean and the role of humans. Through artistic intervention with Marine Regions Forum participants during the evening reception on the first day of the Forum, and in an open panel discussion (session 3.3.1), school students together with artists and ocean experts explored how arts can help to mobilise the public for ocean action.

Session 3.3.1 | WE ARE OCEAN: Can the arts mobilise youth for ocean conservation?

INTRODUCTION

The session took place in the context of the communication project WE ARE OCEAN. Contributing to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the project includes artistically framed secondary school workshops as well as film screenings in the cities of Berlin and Velten (German Federal State of Brandenburg), and it will build bridges to the Ocean Space in Venice as well as to the IUCN World Congress in Marseille in 2020. During the evening reception at the Marine Regions Forum on 30 September 2019, school students from Barbara-Zürner Secondary School in Velten, drawing from their own personal interactions with conference participants and after viewing the film screening by German artist Lisa Rave, raised their concerns on ocean related issues. This intervention resonated with claims that were heard throughout the entire Forum: dialogue and action is needed to go beyond conference settings and expert communities, and “into the streets”.

The session was held as an interactive panel discussion. Some of the aforementioned secondary school students were present as well and supported the expert panel of representatives from arts, science and the youth: **Markus Reymann**, TBA21-Academy; **Antje Boetius**, Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar und Marine Research; **Thierry Pérez**, Labex-OT-Med/Institut Pythéas, Marseille; **Michelle-Marie Letelier**, artist, Chile/Germany; **Lisa Rave**, artist, Germany; and **Annie Dobschanski** and **Leonard Metka**, school students, Barbara-Zürner Secondary School in Velten, Brandenburg.

¹⁴ <https://artport-project.org/we-are-ocean/>

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The panellists agreed that art-science collaborations have the potential to emotionally reach out to parts of the public that are not yet involved in sustainability debates or protests, both by making persisting threats more palpable, and by spelling out the values of the ocean beyond functionalist and commercial perspectives. In as much as participants, especially those who find themselves unheard or marginalised in other respects, are allowed to become creative and active in these collaborations, there is a huge mobilisation potential these collaborations can tap into. Young people in particular will not only initiate their course toward ocean literacy when approached by artists and scientists together, but they will serve as important multipliers for the ocean conservation cause.

For art-science efforts to be successful in this sense, however, challenges are posed:

1. By an extremely media saturated environment, which tends to render images, however strong they may be, into pure entertainment (macro-level),
2. The negligence of educationally disadvantaged groups in many projects (meso-level), and
3. By the lack of prioritisation and therefore time in the co-creation of participatory spaces (macro- and micro-levels).

To meet challenge 1, panellists emphasised the importance of the empowerment factor if the artistic process, not the artistic “product”, is put at the centre of collaborations and communication projects. Inquiry and understanding, in which both the arts and academic research are interested, acquire a bodily dimension when approaching problems and visions together.

As for challenge 2, systematically including groups like intermediate secondary school students, as was the case in the above mentioned school workshops, or indigenous groups most affected by marine degradation, was considered of paramount importance for a necessary mainstreaming of such activities, such as in educative curricula. This point was supported by the school students from the Barbara-Zürner Secondary School in Velten who assisted the session.

Regarding challenge 3, research policies need to consider extended funding of art-science collaborations, including appropriate personnel costs (i.e. time). Good practice examples are to be found in private initiatives implemented over the last few years, such as by the TBA 21 Academy, but public funding and guidelines need to catch up. For meeting spaces such as the present conference, panellists recommended them to be co-organised and co-designed by researchers and artists in order to foster the experiential dimension, avoid a purely ornamental consideration of the arts, and increase the chances of meetings happening out of the box.



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SESSION HOSTS

Anne-Marie Melster, ARTPORT_making waves

Manuel Rivera, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEUR

Manuel Rivera, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

3.3 The Ocean Realm – Exhibitions and side events

Aside from the formal conference programme, a selection of concurrent activities were offered under the title *The Ocean Realm* to create an engaging atmosphere and provided the opportunity and space for networking and interacting. The side activities program included the following elements:

Graphic recording – Leave your mark

The plenaries and selected dialogue sessions of the Marine Regions Forum 2019 were visited and recorded visually by a graphic recorder. The various graphic recordings were displayed on graphic walls in the foyer which were continually updated over the duration of the conference. There was also room for the participants to interact and add their thoughts on related questions via post-its. Selected graphic recordings are displayed throughout this conference report.

HOST

Sabine Soeder, CoCreative Flow

Meet & Greet Space

The Meet & Greet Space was an area designed for participants to relax, retreat for informal meetings and discuss potential ideas, partnerships, burning questions, or simply network. Participants had been invited to make use of the Attendify conference app to connect digitally with colleagues and arrange bilateral meetings. The Young Ocean Professionals used this space to hold their daily debriefings. An array of brochures and leaflets that participants had been invited to bring along were also on display in this area.

MSP Challenge board game

The MSP Challenge board game is a table top strategy game where a fictitious sea basin is designed on the board and different maritime activities are represented. The game was developed in 2011 by the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment in the Netherlands and the NHTV University of Breda. Around 20 conference participants joined the board game simulation and created marine spatial plans for three different fictive countries which shared a water body. The participants represented different stakeholders (shipping, fisheries, tourism, energy, nature protection etc.) and had to make sure that the associated activities were implemented.

HOSTS

Xander Keijser, Rijkswaterstaat, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Water Management, Netherlands

Malena Ripken, University of Oldenburg, Germany

VR corner – Take a virtual plunge into the ocean

A selection of seven 360 degree stories and documentaries on the ocean and the life that it sustains were presented at the VR corner. The conference participants could immerse themselves into various stories, from tropical reef ecology to how the ocean affects the lives of fishermen and refugees crossing the seas. The following movies were offered:

- Arctic 360 (The Guardian VR Films);
- Baltic Sea Life (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union);
- Camilla Plastic Ocean Plan (Alfred Wegener Institute; Film University Babelsberg; IKF);
- Out of the Blue (VR for Good; Pelagic Life and Reelfx);
- Sea Prayer (UNHCR; Google; Guardian VR Films);
- Valen's Reef (Conservation International);
- 3D Virtual Reef (Leibniz-ZMT).

Photo exhibition – Tropic Ice_Dialog between places affected by climate change

Photographer and artist Barbara Dombrowski exhibited pictures and texts from her art project *Tropic Ice_Dialog between places affected by climate change*. Representing two different marine regions and climate zones, her pictures created a visual dialogue between people and landscapes from Greenland and Kiribati, emphasising the connection between humans, the ocean, and climate change in these regions. Explanatory texts on mangroves, sea walls and marine litter, which had been developed together with scientists, encouraged participants to reflect on these themes. Barbara Dombrowski also held a talk in the conference foyer, introducing the rationale and inspiration for the exhibition.

HOST

Barbara Dombrowski, photographer and artist, Germany

Young Ocean Professionals | Daily debriefing

Another feature of the program included the Young Ocean Professionals daily debriefing. This part of the program brought together early career participants in an informal setting to discuss their impressions of the day and critically reflect upon the conference. Around 12–16 participants met daily and exchanged their impressions of the conference as well as general thoughts regarding ocean conservation and their work. Their conclusions were presented during the closing plenary.

HOSTS

Nicole Wienrich, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Klaudija Cremers, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Glen Wright, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

RAPPORTEUR

Yvonne Waweru, Network of Women in Marine Science, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association



3.4 Public Event | Berlin am Meer/Berlin by the sea

Building on the art and communication project WE ARE OCEAN which was featured during the evening reception and was part of the discussions held under dialogue session 3.3.1, a public event was co-organised and hosted by Artport_making waves, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and the Futurium in Berlin under the headline *Berlin am Meer/Berlin by the sea*.

Several participants of the Marine Regions Forum 2019 also made their way to the recently opened exhibition space in Berlin to participate in the well-visited intervention and dialogue event. School students from Berlin staged questions on the climate and ocean crisis which they had developed during artistic workshops at their school, and, supported by the Berlin artist Lisa Rave and Anne-Marie Melster from Artport_making waves, engaged with the audience. The starting point of their intervention was the question how to protect our ocean, which spans the globe and plays a central role in the Earth's climate system, while living in Berlin, far away from the sea. In a fishbowl dialogue, they then addressed their questions to experts from science, art and politics who led lively discussions on how the ocean crisis could be solved, focussing on marine litter in many of their questions.

MODERATORS

Anne-Marie Melster, ARTPORT_making waves

Manuel Rivera, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

DISCUSSANTS

School students, School at Berlinickeplatz, Berlin

Antje Boetius, Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research

Lukas Köhler, Member of the German Bundestag

Markus Reymann, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary

Sebastian Unger, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

The event was hosted by ARTPORT_making waves and the Futurium in Berlin, and kindly supported by the STADT UND LAND Wohnbauten Gesellschaft mbH, the Stiftung Berliner Sparkassen and the Fonds Soziokultur.

4 CONFERENCE AGENDA OF THE MARINE REGIONS FORUM 2019

4 CONFERENCE AGENDA OF THE MARINE REGIONS FORUM 2019

Monday | 30 September 2019

Day 1 | Understanding challenges and achievements

Time	
08:30 – 10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00 – 12:00	Welcome and Opening Plenary Achieving healthy oceans – Challenges and opportunities
12:00 – 12:30	Group photo
12:30 – 12:45	Introduction to the photo exhibition Tropic Ice_Dialog between Places Affected by Climate Change
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch The Ocean Realm Open space for networking and exchange, with exhibitions and Meet & Greet Space
	Dialogue Sessions
	Theme 1 Achieving SDG 14
14:00 – 17:30	1.1.1 From plans to action: Implementing regional marine litter action plans
	Theme 2 Underpinning global processes
14:00 – 17:30	2.1.1 Areas beyond national jurisdiction: Towards a collaborative approach in ocean governance
14:00 – 15:30	2.2.1 Our ocean in crisis: Key findings from the IPCC special report
16:00 – 17:30	2.2.2 Preparing marine regions for fisheries on the move
	Theme 3 Knowledge for ocean action
14:00 – 17:30	3.1.1 Building regional science-policy interfaces: Good practices, lessons learned and ways forward
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
17:30 – 18:00	Young Ocean Professionals Daily debriefing
17:30 – 18:30	Refresh
	The Ocean Realm Open space for networking and exchange, with exhibitions and Meet & Greet Space
18:30 – 21:00	Evening Reception Welcome and get-together with artistic intervention WE ARE OCEAN_making waves. A floating conversation on ocean awareness and action

Tuesday | 01 October 2019

Day 2 | Developing Solutions

Time	
	Dialogue sessions
	Theme 1 Achieving SDG 14
09:00 – 13:00	1.2.1 Creating synergies: Enhancing regional cooperation for ocean-related SDGs
11:15 – 13:00	1.2.3 Advancing implementation of the ocean SDG through ecosystem-based management
	Theme 2 Underpinning Global Processes
09:00 – 10:45	2.1.2 Keeping an eye on the high seas: Strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance
09:00 – 10:45	2.2.3 Tackling climate problems with ocean solutions
11:15 – 13:00	2.2.4 The “Blue COP”: Mobilising regional stakeholders
	Theme 3 Knowledge for ocean action
09:00 – 13:00	3.1.2 Inclusive ocean governance: Weaving science with traditional ecological knowledge
11:15 – 12:45	3.3.1 WE ARE OCEAN: Can the arts mobilise youth for ocean conservation?
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch The Ocean Realm Open space for networking and exchange, with exhibitions and Meet & Greet Space
14:00 – 15:00	MSP Challenge board game simulation
15:00 – 17:00	Plenary Ocean Governance post-2020 – The role of marine regions
17:00 – 17:30	Young Ocean Professionals Daily debriefing
17:00 – 18:30	Afternoon coffee/Refresh
	The Ocean Realm Open space for networking and exchange, with exhibitions and Meet & Greet Space
19:00 – 22:00	Conference dinner including welcome remarks by the German Environment Agency

Wednesday | 02 October 2019

Day 3 | Accelerating progress and creating new pathways

Time	
	Dialogue sessions
	Theme 1 Achieving SDG 14
09:00 – 12:30	1.2.2 Delivering the ocean SDG: Accelerating progress
09:00 – 12:30	1.3.1 Sun, sea, sand and sustainability? Tourism in marine regions
	Theme 2 Underpinning Global Processes
09:00 – 12:30	2.1.3 Towards coherent and connected MPA networks: From challenges to possible solutions in high seas governance
09:00 – 12:30	2.1.4 Deep seabed mining in the Area: The role of regional ocean governance
	Theme 3 Knowledge for ocean action
09:00 – 10:30	3.2.1 The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: Engaging marine regions
11:00 – 12:30	3.2.2 Enhancing the role of regions in global ocean assessments
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch The Ocean Realm Open space for networking and exchange, with exhibitions and Meet & Greet Space
13:30 – 15:30	Closing Plenary Accelerating progress, creating new pathways
15:30 – 16:00	Young Ocean Professionals Daily debriefing
15:30 – 16:30	Farewell coffee
18:00 – 19:30	Berlin am Meer/Berlin by the sea Futurium, Alexanderufer 2, 10117 Berlin Associated public event with intervention, dialogue and film

5 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS



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List of the organisations present at the Marine Regions Forum Conference 2019

Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz-Centre for Polar and Marine Research
 ARTPORT_making waves
 Australian National University
 Barbara-Zürner Secondary School, Velten
 Biodiversify
 BirdLife International
 Blue Action Fund
 Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa
 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
 CSIRO Chile
 Department of Environment in Zanzibar
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
 Eco Union
 Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya, Berlin
 European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
 European Environment Agency
 Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany
 Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
 Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
 Finnish Environment Institute
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 Forschungszentrum Jülich
 Freie Universität Berlin
 French Biodiversity Agency
 French Facility for Global Environment
 Future Earth Coasts
 GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
 German Environment Agency
 German Marine Research Alliance
 Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI)
 GRID-Arendal
 Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
 Healthy Reefs Initiative, Smithsonian Institution
 HELCOM Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
 High Seas Alliance
 Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
International Ocean Institute Southern Africa (IOI-SA)
International Seabed Authority (ISA)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Kiel University
Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)
Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde
Mava Foundation
Mediterranean Institute of Marine and Terrestrial Biodiversity and Ecology
Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN)
Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France
Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru
Ministry of Infrastructure and the Water Management - Rijkswaterstaat, the Netherlands
Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, Mozambique
Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Sweden
Ministry of the Environment, Finland
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR)
National Oceanography Centre
National University of Ireland Galway
Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)
Network of Women in Marine Science, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
Nova Southeastern University
Ocean and Climate Platform
Ocean Policy Research Institute
OceanMind
OSPAR Convention
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Kenya to UNESCO
Plan Bleu
REV Ocean
Saami Council
Sargasso Sea Commission
Seascope Consultants
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Secretariat of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust
South African Institute of International Affairs
South African Permanent Mission to the United Nations
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
Stop Illegal Fishing
TBA21-Academy
The Nature Conservancy
The Ocean Foundation
The Pacific Community (SPC)
The Pew Charitable Trusts
TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability (TMG)
Tuna Compliance Network
US Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation
UN Environment Programme
UN Environment – Abidjan Convention Secretariat
UN Environment – Barcelona Convention Secretariat
UN Environment – Caribbean Environment Programme and Cartagena Convention Secretariat
UN Environment – Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
UN Environment – Nairobi Convention Secretariat
UN Environment – Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
UN Environment – The Tehran Convention Interim Secretariat (TCIS)
UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC)
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
University College Cork
University of British Columbia
University of Helsinki
University of Oldenburg
University of São Paulo
University of Strathclyde
University of the South Pacific
University of Vienna
Utrecht University
Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
World Maritime University (WMU)
World Resources Institute (WRI)
World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)
ZUG – Zukunft Umwelt Gesellschaft

6 THE MARINE REGIONS FORUM TEAM

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Sustainability note

The Marine Regions Forum organisers and hosts strived to meet the highest possible sustainability standards for an environmentally sound and socially compatible organisation of the conference. Sustainability criteria were considered in all fields, including the procurement of products and services, catering and conference materials. Please do not hesitate to contact the Marine Regions Forum project team should you have any questions or concerns.

Disclaimer

Statements, conclusions or recommendations presented in this report were made by participants at the Marine Regions Forum 2019. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the conference organisers and hosts or represent common views of the workshop participants.

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