

## REPORT OF EXTERNAL MEETING ATTENDED BY SPRFMO STAFF

<b>Staff name</b>	Dr. Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro
<b>Position</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Meeting attended</b>	CPPS-ABNJ Workshop on Science for Solutions: Bringing Stakeholders Together to Improve Ocean Planning and Governance in ABNJ of the South-East Pacific
<b>Date</b>	13-15 March 2019
<b>Location</b>	Guayaquil, Ecuador

### 1. INTRO

The second STRONG High Seas Dialogue Workshop took place in Guayaquil, Ecuador from 13 to 15 March 2019 co-hosted by CPPS (Permanent Commission for the South Pacific).

The organisers invited (at no cost for the Organisation budget) the SPRFMO Executive Secretary to participate as a panellist giving a presentation on “SPRFMO Ongoing Progress on ABNJ” as per Agenda Session 2 “Engagement related to ABNJ and BBNJ in the region”.

The workshop aimed at giving an overview of a range of ongoing initiatives to improve governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) at the regional level. Discussing the scientific developments of both projects (Common Oceans-ABNJ Project and Strong High Seas) was also among the objectives.

Around 60 participants: Governments (around 40%), researches, NGOs, etc. According to the organisers there was a 40% turnover compared with the previous one (Guayaquil, 2017). The workshop was held in Spanish with English translation available.

This report is structured following the Agenda of the Workshop (Annex I) focusing on the relevant issues for SPRFMO.

### 2. CONTENT

#### 2.1. Welcome

Ambassador Méntor Villagomez Merino (CPPS Executive Secretary), Dr. Carole Durussel (Co-Lead, STRONG High Seas at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) Potsdam) and Ms. Rachael Scrimgeour (Programme Officer, ABNJ Project Deep Seas, UNEP-WCMC) welcomed CPPS Members, colleagues of the two projects and participants.

Common message focused on strengthening ocean governance and improvement of sustainably using resources in ABNJ. The three speakers elaborated on why ABNJ are important and how ABNJ is linked with the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) developments, particularly on how to support area-based planning in ABNJ.

Last year relevant developments took place on the first session of the Intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on BBNJ representing a unique opportunity for policy development in support of the ecosystem services.

A very brief update on the development of the projects was given. This is the second of 5 Workshops to be organised under the STRONG High Seas project. This current meeting aims at identifying the real possibilities of the projects to meet the needs of the participant countries in diverse areas such as marine genetic resources, environmental impact assessment, marine protected areas, etc. Concerning the ABNJ



project (closing on 31 December 2019) preparations for a next phase and the end-of-project requirements (evaluation) are on the agenda until the end of this year.

## 2.2. Session 1 - Project Updates

- STRONG High Seas Project State of Play - Overview of the [state of play](#) in the STRONG High Seas project. Mr. Ben Boteler, Co-Lead STRONG High Seas Project, IASS.

The objective of this five-year research project is to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. Two main regions (South East Pacific and Southeast Atlantic) where the partners are CPPS and the West and Central Africa Regional Seas Programme (Abidjan Convention). The project advisory board was presented.

The speaker focused on stakeholder engagement, the transdisciplinary science to provide decision-makers with improved knowledge on high seas biodiversity, assessment of regional capacity needs and the organisations of the next dialogue workshop.

The collaborative approach of the project was described: how to bring the regional to the global level and the other way around (both in the target regions and globally - engaging with stakeholders from governments, private sector, scientists and civil society to support the design of integrated, cross-sectoral approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic) and understanding on high seas biodiversity.

Finally, the STRONG High Seas project has set up a regional stakeholder platform to facilitate joint learning and developing a community of practice exploring links and opportunities for regional governance in a new international and legally-binding instrument on marine biodiversity in the high seas.

- ABNJ Deep Seas Project - Overview of progress of the [ABNJ Deep Seas project](#) and plans for the final months of the project. Ms. Rachael Scrimgeour, Programme Officer, ABNJ Project Deep Seas, UNEP-WCMC.

This is the final year of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program. The Program consists of four projects working together to achieve efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.

The Deep Seas project contributes to the improvement of deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation through the harmonization of conservation and sustainable use following the principles of the ecosystem approach, while testing innovative and appropriate management tools. The Deep Seas project has 4 components where UNEP is responsible for the objectives of component 4 "Develop a draft area-based planning and build capacity in the pilot regions"

The project so far has improved the understanding of the characteristics of ABNJ and activities in the region, it has developed the area-based planning knowledge, has develop the capacity for engaging in area-bases planning processes and has supported the development of regional resources (working groups, and metadata inventories)

## 2.3. Session 2 - Engagement related to ABNJ and BBNJ in the region.

- CPPS Presentation on State of Play related to ABNJ/BBNJ. Presentation on ongoing work in the CPPS region, with a particular focus on BBNJ. Dr. Gustavo Arévalo, Legal Affairs and International Maritime Policy Director, CPPS Secretariat.

The CPPS historical developments (from the 1952 Declaration of Santiago), the Organisation structure, the policy declaration at foreign offices levels since 1981 (where particularly relevant was the 2012 compromise of Galapagos, Ecuador setting the goals for the future of the Organisation), were briefly introduced pointing out at the clear mandate for the CPPS to elaborate and input on the BBNJ negotiations.



The 4 CPPS Member countries (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) engaged through their respective foreign offices on common positions. The common positions so far focus on: Marine genetic Resources (MGR), Management tools including Marine Protected Areas, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) evaluations, capacity building and marine technology transfer avoiding duplication of mechanisms.

- States Presentations on State of Play related to ABNJ/BBNJ Presentations by Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Panama.

Mr. Salvador Vega (Department of Ocean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile) described the importance of the ocean in the cultural and social developments of Chile, stressing the Chilean commitment with the oceans (42% of Chilean EEZ is a Marine Protected Area) as shown when taking the leadership in the 2015 “Our oceans conference”.

Ms. Kelly Moreno (International Officer, Ministry of Environment of Colombia) stressed that the new instrument should not ignore what there is already in place and properly delivering.

Mr. Carlos Martínez, (Frigate Captain, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs of Ecuador) pointed out that the extension of maritime area is 5 times larger than the land extension in Ecuador clarifying that maritime affairs governance is assured by several institutions coordinated by a committee at national level. He stressed that data are the main limiting factor for setting MPAs and that ocean biodiversity is linked with ecosystem services (and ecosystem connectivity) are therefore it is essential to consider them under the BBNJ preparatory conferences.

Mr. Samuel Rosario (Directorate of Maritime Affairs, Peru) developed on the forthcoming changes at National level regarding maritime policy in Peru. Considering that Peru is not part yet of the UNCLOS, insights of the National Fisheries Policy (the establishment of National Marine Reserves, the fight against IUU fishing and the support to the Peruvian artisanal fisheries) which is almost ready to be finished were explained.

Mr. Bolivar Cañizales (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama) gave a broad presentation about the National approach to ocean management in Panama. He stressed the relevant aspects of BBNJ for Panama and the important role of conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the national ocean strategy (management and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems). Furthermore, the relevant aspect for Panama on the ABNJ project and the STRONG project were also mentioned (management strategies including MPI, strengthening the regional strategies on MGR, Research and Ocean human activities).

The Panel (made up of all speakers in Session 2) stressed the importance of coordination of national policies within the same country, the asymmetry among the participant countries, and the technology transfer needs among sectors and countries. How the IOC/UNESCO (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) approaches on data and science will be included in the BBNJ agreement was still uncertain. Furthermore, how to integrate ABNJ and BBNJ processes was a common concern.

- Stakeholder Presentations on State of Play related to ABNJ/BBNJ

SPRFMO presentation is available on request and it will be made available on the project website. Basically, the presentation focused on giving an overview of SPRFMO (as many participants were not involved on fisheries) and how SPRFMO has input on the ABNJ process particularly on the Bottom fishing measures and associated scientific developments.

#### 2.4. Session 3 - Area-based planning in ABNJ

2 presentations were given in this session “Cross-sectoral area-based planning, Holly Brooks, Associate Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC” and “Area-based planning methodology, Ms. Rachael Scrimgeour, Programme Officer, ABNJ Project Deep Seas, UNEP-WCMC” followed by a group exercise to test a potential area-based methodology.



The presentations outlined what cross-sectoral area-based planning involves (Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as an example of a cross-sectoral planning): stakeholder identification and engagement, the enabling conditions, Identification of objectives, lessons learned from other ABNJ regions and which are the next steps in defining a methodology for MSP.

## 2.5. Session 4: Capacity building and stakeholder engagement

- “Area-based planning capacity”. Ms Louise Lieberknecht, Marine Spatial Planning Expert, GRID Arendal.

Presentation outlining the results from the ABNJ Deep Seas Project’s capacity assessment for the Southeast Pacific (CPPS Secretariat, CPPS Members and Panama). How capacity was assessed by the project (in terms of indicators, outputs, priorities...) was subject to criticism from some participants/Members.

- “Capacity needs assessment for BBNJ in the Southeast Pacific” Mr. Tim Packeiser, Senior Policy Advisor Ocean Governance, WWF Germany.

The presentation recognised shortcomings in the existing governance framework covering the BBNJ areas. States have begun formal diplomatic negotiations for a new international treaty to conserve and sustainably use high seas biodiversity and how the ongoing and upcoming work on developing and conducting a capacity needs assessment on BBNJ/ABNJ for the Southeast Pacific towards future workshops and initiatives was addressed.

- “Developing a stakeholder platform” Dr. Jaime Aburto, Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile.

Presentation on the progress of the development of an ABNJ stakeholder platform, were the lack of socioeconomic information, the lack of a proper coordination mechanism and the lack of a general vision were pointed out as main weak points. Opportunities to overcome these limitations were also presented.

## 2.6. Session 5: The state of biodiversity in the Southeast Pacific

- “Ecological baselines report” Mr. Luis Zapata, WWF Colombia.

The presentation focused on the type of information needed for establishing an ecological baseline, the sources of information for such exercise and on how to structure a robust document elaborating on ecological baselines.

## 2.7. Session 6: Governance and biodiversity in ABNJ

- “Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas: Opportunities and Challenges to Improve the Legal and Institutional Framework of the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific” Dr. Carole Durussel).

The presentation provided a review of the relevant governance frameworks currently in place for the management of high seas biodiversity in these two regions. The presentation reviewed the outcomes of the discussions and inputs from the first Dialogue Workshop held in Cali, Colombia, in June 2018. There is available a [report](#) which elaborates on the issues under discussion in the ongoing negotiations for a new legally binding BBNJ agreement under the United Nations, as well as selected Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 targets, as a lens through which to assess progress towards conservation and sustainable use.

- “Updates & lessons learnt from other regions and Activity progress on Monitoring, Control” and “Surveillance (MCS) of Human Activities in ABNJ” Mr. Glen Wright, Institut du Développement Durable (IDDRI).

The first presentation provided an overview of a range of ongoing initiatives to improve governance of ABNJ at the regional level: the “Collective Arrangement for the North-East Atlantic”, whereby the OSPAR Commission and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) seek to strengthen cooperation between organisations with a management mandate in the region; the Sargasso Sea



Commission and the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals; and the international legal framework of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), under which parties have agreed to develop a representative system of MPAs and have designated the world's largest MPA in the Ross Sea.

The second presentation focused on how effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) is critical for the success of marine conservation and management concluding that enhanced MCS tools and policies will strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ.

## 2.8. Session 7: Focus on the BBNJ Negotiations

Virna Cedeño (University of Guayaquil) gave a very technical presentation on biochemistry developments, spectrometry, proteomics on the potential of MGR and biotechnology within the framework of the ongoing process on BBNJ negotiations considering MGR applications in different industry sectors (e.g. pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food, industrial processes).

Jane Collins (Science and Policy Research Fellow, eCOAST Marine Research) focused on access to deep-sea MGR in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and the sharing of benefits arising from their use. This is a topic of growing international debate (BBNJ) having profound implications for deep-sea science. Further integrating deep-sea science with international law is important to understand and address these challenges.

The Environment impact assessment (EIA) was addressed following the guidelines under the International Seabed Authority on ABNJ and under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

## 2.9. Session 8: Next steps

The speakers elaborated on next steps for both the STRONG High Seas Project and the ABNJ Deep Seas Project. For the first one a calendar of activities for the next year (workshops, side events and seminars) and forthcoming publications were presented while for the second one, knowing this is the final year of the project, the Methodology for cross sectoral planning in ABNJ, the Area Based planed workshops, the 2<sup>nd</sup> BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference and the Deep-Sea symposium were the main topics of the presentation.

## 3. ASSESSMENT OF THE WORKSHOP

The STRONG High Seas project invited SPRFMO to participate in the Workshop. Considering the MoU with CPPS, SPRFMO being a partner in the ABNJ project, the opportunity to promote the organisation achievements and the no cost for the Secretariat budget, it was a good opportunity to assess the developments both in the ABNJ and BBNJ projects.

It was clear from the presentations and discussions that the BBNJ process still is work in progress. Objectives, how to achieve them, how to organise a common position among countries and maritime sectors (where fisheries seem to be a small player) are still open questions.

Future engagement with this project on a punctual basis is recommendable as it is an up to date initiative gathering valuable information based on a strong networking approach. Furthermore, providing input from the fisheries perspective seems essential in this particular case.

The project organisers and the CPPS staff were extremely professional. Considering the diversity of the topics addressed during the workshop, it should be considered as an excellent case on how multidisciplinary issues on ocean governance should be approached.

Presentations and report of the workshop will be made available soon at the [project web site](#).



## ANNEX 1



### WORKSHOP AGENDA

## Science for Solutions: Bringing Stakeholders Together to Improve Ocean Planning and Governance in ABNJ of the South-East Pacific

Day 1 – 13 March 2019	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome on behalf of the CPPS Secretariat, the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, the STRONG High Seas Project, host country Ecuador and Germany & overview of objectives of the workshop
09:30 – 09:45	Ice Breaker
09:45 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 1: Project updates</b></p> <p><b>STRONG High Seas Project State of Play</b> <i>Overview of the state of play in the STRONG High Seas project</i> Ben Boteler, IASS</p> <p><b>ABNJ Deep Seas Project</b> <i>Overview of progress of the ABNJ Deep Seas project and plans for the final months of the project</i> Rachael Scrimgeour, UNEP-WCMC</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p><b>Session 2: Engagement related to ABNJ and BBNJ in the region</b></p> <p><b>CPPS Presentation on State of Play related to ABNJ/BBNJ</b> <i>Presentation on ongoing work in the CPPS region, with a particular focus on BBNJ</i> Dr. Gustavo Arévalo, Secretaría de CPPS</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00	<p><b>States Presentations on State of Play related to ABNJ/BBNJ</b> <i>Presentations by Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Panama</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:30	<p><b>States Panel discussion on State of Play related to ABNJ/BBNJ</b> <i>Discussion on the presentations by States</i></p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Stakeholder Presentations on State of Play related to ABNJ/BBNJ</b> <i>Presentations on stakeholders' perspective and ongoing work progresses on ABNJ</i> Sandor Muslow (ISA) Sebastian Rodríguez (SPRFMO) Joseph Appiott (CBD)</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:00	<p><b>Stakeholders Panel discussion on State of Play related to ABNJ/BBNJ</b> <i>Discussion on the presentations by stakeholders</i></p>
19:00	Social dinner



<b>Day 2 – 14 March 2019</b>	
<b>09:00 – 11:00</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Area-based planning in ABNJ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation: Cross-sectoral area-based planning</b> <i>Presentation outlining what cross-sectoral area-based planning involves, lessons from other ABNJ regions and relevance to BBNJ discussions</i> Holly Brooks, UNEP-WCMC</li> <li>• <b>Presentation: Area-based planning methodology</b> <i>Presentation describing what the methodology for area-based planning that has been developed under the ABNJ Deep Seas project is, how it has been developed and how and why it can be used</i> Rachael Scrimgeour, UNEP-WCMC</li> <li>• <b>Exercise: Testing a methodology for area-based planning</b> <i>Participants will be split into working groups to test an area-based planning methodology using different scenarios. Instructions will be provided via a short presentation and materials will be provided in both English and Spanish (UNEP-WCMC)</i></li> </ul>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<p><b>Exercise continued</b></p> <p><i>Continuation of exercise to test area-based planning methodology (UNEP-WCMC)</i></p>
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Plenary Discussion</b></p> <p><i>Working groups report results and share insights and experiences in testing the area-based planning methodology (UNEP-WCMC)</i></p>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Capacity building and stakeholder engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation: Area-based planning capacity</b> <i>Presentation outlining the results from the ABNJ Deep Seas Project's capacity assessment for the Southeast Pacific</i> Louise Lieberknecht, GRID Arendal</li> <li>• <b>Exercise: Breakout group discussions on priority elements from the capacity assessment</b></li> </ul>
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>15:30 – 16:30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation: Capacity needs assessment for BBNJ in the Southeast Pacific</b> <i>Presentation on ongoing and upcoming work on developing and conducting a capacity needs assessment on BBNJ/ABNJ for the Southeast Pacific towards future workshops and initiatives</i> Tim Packeiser, WWF Germany</li> <li>• <b>Presentation: Developing a stakeholder platform</b> <i>Presentation on the progress of the development of a stakeholder platform, and links to discussions and inputs from the first Dialogue Workshop held in Cali, Colombia, in June 2018</i> Jaime Aburto, UCN</li> </ul> <p>Followed by discussion.</p>
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	<p><b>Session 5: The state of biodiversity in the Southeast Pacific</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation: Ecological baselines report</b> <i>Presentation on the progress of the ecological baselines report and links to discussions and inputs from the first Dialogue Workshop held in Cali, Colombia, in June 2018</i> Luiz Zapata, WWF Colombia</li> </ul> <p>Followed by discussion.</p>



<b>Day 3 – 15 March 2019</b>	
<b>09:00 – 10:00</b>	<p><b>Session 6: Governance and biodiversity in ABNJ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation: Legal report titled 'Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas: Opportunities and Challenges to Improve the Legal and Institutional Framework of the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific'</b> <i>Presentation on the outcomes of the legal report and links to discussions and inputs from the first Dialogue Workshop held in Cali, Colombia, in June 2018</i> Carole Durussel, IASS</li> <li>• <b>Presentation: Updates &amp; lessons learnt from other regions</b> <i>Presentation on lessons learnt from other regions, incl. from the Southwest Pacific and the Southeast Atlantic regions</i> Glen Wright, IDDR</li> <li>• <b>Presentation: Activity progress on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of Human Activities in ABNJ</b> <i>Presentation of current findings on MCS</i> Glen Wright, IDDR</li> </ul> <p>Followed by discussion.</p>
<b>10:00 – 11:00</b>	<p><b>Session 7: Focus on the BBNJ Negotiations</b></p> <p><i>Session focusing on the issues of marine genetic resources (MGRs) and environmental impact assessments (EIAs) (CPPS Secretariat)</i></p> <p><b>Virna Cedeño.</b> the potential of genetic marine resources and biotechnology within the framework of the ongoing process on BBNJ negotiations.</p> <p><b>Jane Collins.</b> legal and policy frameworks governing marine biodiscovery about Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs) within the framework of the ongoing process on ABNJ.</p>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Focus on the BBNJ Negotiations (continued)</b></p> <p><i>Session focusing on the issues of marine genetic resources (MGRs) and environmental impact assessments (EIAs)</i></p> <p><b>Sandor Muslow.</b> Environment impact assessment (EIA) guidelines under the International Seabed Authority on ABNJ</p> <p><b>Joseph Appiott.</b> Environment impact assessment (EIA) guidelines under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</p>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00 – 14:30</b>	<p><b>Focus on the BBNJ Negotiations (continued)</b></p> <p><i>Session (continued) focusing on the issues of marine genetic resources (MGRs) and environmental impact assessments (EIAs)</i></p>
<b>14:30 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Open discussion</b></p> <p><i>Opportunity for participants to discuss ABNJ and BBNJ needs of the region and future areas of work</i></p>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<p><b>Session 8: Next steps</b></p> <p><b>STRONG High Seas Project next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation:</b> Next steps for project and future work of the STRONG High Seas project in the region Carole Durussel, IASS</li> </ul> <p><b>ABNJ Deep Seas Project next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation:</b> Next steps for project and future work of the ABNJ Deep Seas project in the region Rachael Scrimgeour, UNEP-WCMC</li> </ul>
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Closing of the Workshop - CPPS Secretariat, the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, the STRONG High Seas Project, host country Ecuador and Germany</b>