



From Designation to Implementation: Effective Management of Newly Created MPAs

Purpose:

One of the six defined Areas of Action for the Our Ocean Conference is on Marine Protected Areas and other Area-Based Management Measures. The purpose of the side event is to take stock of the progress to date in creating new MPAs towards the 10 percent target by 2020, consider the goal of protecting 30 percent by 2030, and analyze key lessons and the essential elements necessary for effective management of these newly created MPAs to ensure they deliver on their goals and promote meaningful, sustainable ocean governance.

Background:

With convincing scientific data on the effectiveness of MPAs, there has been unprecedented political commitment towards, and rapid creation of, new MPAs. The inventory of MPAs has grown roughly from 3 percent to 7 percent. Even with many questions as to the conservation impact, management effectiveness, and very classification and status of these MPAs, there is nevertheless a strong momentum towards protecting 30 percent of the ocean by 2030.

While nations are moving rapidly to designate new MPAs and meet their 2020 commitments, and look towards 2030 targets, they must also ensure that these areas are not merely formal designations and paper parks—but rather that they are managed effectively for the long-term sustainability of the resources and habitats they are intended to protect. Once successfully declaring new MPAs, many countries are then faced with the challenge of managing those MPAs, often with little experience, little capacity, and little funding. This is not a new problem: a number of studies have suggested that MPAs struggle to meet their goals, and fail to achieve effective management processes.

Just as the scientific basis for MPAs is well documented, so too are the management needs. Scientists, managers and policy experts generally agree on the core components for successful MPA management, which can be summarized as the following: (1) **Clear legal and regulatory frameworks** that articulate approved activities and resource uses within the MPA, while allowing for adaptive management to respond to changing needs and circumstances; (2) **Strong institutional capacity** within government agencies, in collaboration with local community organizations and civil society; (3) **Robust monitoring and evaluation processes** to measure changes and ensure goals are met; (4) **Effective and transparent enforcement regimes** including measures to encourage compliance and procedures to enforce regulations and address non-compliance; (5) **Community engagement** to ensure public needs are met, while compliance and support remain high; and (6) **Sustainable and diversified financial resources** across government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders to provide adequate, and when necessary, innovative financial support.

Given the rapid expansion of the global MPA inventory in recent years, the need for scaling effective management solutions will only grow. And with the increasing impacts of climate change on ocean habitats and species, effective MPA management becomes more complex. This side event will look at successful examples of effectively managed MPAs, and consider how to address the challenge of scale and complexity as new MPAs are created at an unprecedented rate, with an eye towards ensuring that



these MPAs play a meaningful role in long-term marine conservation. Specifically, the side event will discuss the following: (1) an overview of core elements and challenges in MPA management; (2) new approaches to address scalable management needs; (3) case studies of well managed MPA networks designed for long-term conservation; (4) a closing highlighting the public-private, global-local relationships necessary for success and launching the next Blue Action Fund Call for proposal.

Featured Speakers and Panelists:

Ms. Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven

Director-General at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Chair of the Supervisory Board of Blue Action Fund (TBC)

Dr. Cristián Samper

President & CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society

Dr. Kathryn Mengerink

Executive Director, Waitt Institute

Dr. Jane Lubchenco

University Distinguished Professor,
Oregon State University

Dr. Lance Morgan

Executive Director, Marine Conservation Initiative

Ms. Aulani Wilhelm

Senior Vice President, Conservation International