



Setting the course for a sustainable blue planet

From ideas to practical actions (workshops)



December 16th, 2020

Final plenary 15:00-16:30 CET

A collective facilitation by Fresh Thoughts, the European Marine Board, YMG Think Tank for Sustainability, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and ACTeon

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Coordination & cooperation to facilitate a one ocean, biodiversity, climate perspective



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Coordination & cooperation 1

- Promote adoption of **common objectives, targets and timelines across sectors** to implement nature-based solutions and conserve marine biodiversity, e.g. by developing joint “sea-basin contracts”.
- Creation of **regional support programmes**, e.g. to implement and mainstream the post-2020 biodiversity framework across sectors or to combat marine litter and move towards a circular economy (to be created under the EU 2021-2027 funding framework).
- Establish a **collaborative, systematic and science-based approach**:
 - Identify and establish areas for inclusion in representative and coherent MPA/OECM networks
 - Improve climate resilience of MPA networks, e.g. through the creation of dynamic MPAs/OECMs and application of climate change vulnerability criteria in network design
 - Develop coordinated monitoring systems, e.g. for marine litter



Coordination & cooperation 2

- Develop **SDG implementation frameworks** to address interlinkages across sectors and scales, e.g. align objectives and propose tangible indicators of progress/achievement.
- Support **learning and dialogue processes** (a) to share practices between RFMOs, RSCs and others and (b) to create collaborative working groups e.g. ILO/FAO/IMO to communicate on connections between international commitments.
- **Empower civil society and marginalized groups** including indigenous peoples, local communities, and small-scale fishers to engage in IOG, e.g. through the UN Ocean and Restoration Decades.
- Strengthen the **connection between trade** (agreements) and the application of **(social and environmental) rules and commitments**.



Resilient governance and sustainable recovery strategies



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Resilience and recovery

Develop responses now to unforeseen future impacts for ocean governance and institutions

- **Learn from the past** → what key lessons are coming out of ocean governance (i.e. institutions, sectors..) on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (and other shocks) that should be captured – ocean governance resilience review?
- Create a **solid knowledge base** based on the experiences of institutions, sectors, and including on risks of vulnerable groups and pathways to avoid or plan responses to such risks in the future (e.g. *ex-ante* evaluation and planning) and create tools (e.g. multi-sectoral database on potential impacts).
- **Build contingency plans into ocean governance** → invest in **governance continuity measures** (i.e. factoring in potential shocks into decision making), e.g. develop IT capacities, virtual governance, emergency budgets and capacities for secretariats to cope with such (sudden) impacts; recognize the **value of redundancies** and program delivery.

Resilience and recovery

Strengthen resilience and make it a greater priority in ocean governance and management

- Use recovery to COVID-19 to **bring together the different agendas on ocean, climate change, biodiversity etc.** → reconsider key approaches such as ecosystem-based management to question how this has been implemented through and what has been learned – and ensure existing ocean governance goals are met.
- **Utilize tools that already exists** such as Strategic Environmental Assessments to identify and factor in risks (i.e. consider different scenarios) and possible sudden shocks to ocean governance (e.g. at the scale of marine regions). Such tools could be taken up in the ‘public interest’ to consider cumulative pressures/multiple scenarios in ocean resilience, as opposed to avoiding negative impacts of single projects (EIAs).

Blue recovery – link post-pandemic recovery to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs

- Need to ensure that **recovery has positive impacts** (not only avoids negative impacts) for ocean conservation and sustainable use – **need to re-invest now in social and environmental regulations** which support not only growth but long-term resilience.
- Need to understand how ocean governance can **better navigate the “safe space” between planetary boundaries and the “social foundation”**. New plans for ocean governance should account for such issues.





Support compliance to internationally agreed regulations and boost accountability and transparency towards conservation objectives



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Pledge and review system for SDG14/SDGs

- Create a “**single window for reporting**” on SDGs delivery / keeping track of commitments and identifying of possible gaps – details to be further worked out along critical points such as differences in pledging systems and incoherence of pledges.
- Link MPAs to SDG14 and implement monitoring in line with the SDGs.



Monitoring, control and surveillance

- Support the development of **coordinated approaches** including across EU agencies, identify gaps in enforcement and engage towards ratification of regulations, e.g. through collaboration between organisations (e.g. Europol & INTERPOL).
- Support compliance of **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA)** including on the BBNJ agreement or by supporting States to adhere to the principles proposed under the Global Pact for Environment.
- Capitalize on the EU efforts on digitization and **promote ocean “digitalization”** for strengthened MCS, introduction of new (modern) technologies at sea including for tracking of “marine pollution” such as containers; ensure the interoperability of systems in the digitalization of tools for control and enforcement.
- Provide **support for capacity building** including through the development of common approaches and by tailoring capacity building measures to match with demands; ensure capacity building is included in the BBNJ.



Coordinated monitoring at the regional sea basin scale (example of marine pollution)

- **Improve the quality of monitoring** (data standardization, comprehensive management and “from source to the ocean” monitoring).
- **Strengthen cooperation** (between regional authorities, between citizens and managing authorities, with scientists, civil society).
- **Enable a more comprehensive coverage of issues** by the monitoring systems (e.g. containers lost at sea, micro/nano plastics, chemical pollutants).





Ocean knowledge systems



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Knowledge-policy interfaces:

Support the development of integrated and accessible ocean knowledge systems to support effective IOG

- **Mainstream Ocean Best Practices** for all ocean-science disciplines, and sustainable partnerships (including robust promotion and improved user friendliness); Organise functional observing networks around best practices, standards, QC/QA.
- **Link IOG targets to all assessments**, WOA, IPBES, IPCC.
- **Share the latest IOG needs** in knowledge exchange events.
- **Connect activities to regional sea** conventions and governance mechanisms.
- Support **regional hubs** such as WIOMSA.
- Support **young researchers**: Include training on DATA literacy, data sharing, data science/computing, critical infrastructures, and transdisciplinary science in curricula; International mobility training programs on standards among data portals (EMODNnet, CMEMS, Blue Cloud, etc.) on effective use of data.

Co-design transdisciplinary research:

Support international ocean governance by addressing complex societal challenges holistically

- **Transdisciplinarity** should be maintained at all levels not just research but funders, reviewers, etc.
- Provide **funding for pre-proposal writing** to enable scientists, stakeholders and decision makers to work together on proposals - and again funding for a reflection phase - what has worked well for stakeholders.
- Develop **locally-relevant solutions-based research programmes** co-designed with local/coastal communities.
- Establish European **forum for trans-disciplinary research**; and establish **research ethics board** for co-design.



Sustained ocean observations and integrated data: Support sustained ocean observation & enhance sharing & integration of ocean data (1)

- Create 1 (at least) **global data assembly centre** to collect and ensure long term preservation of data.
- Link **existing observation effort** better using concurrent platforms.
- **Global commons governance of data:** Transform data awareness as part of the Ocean Decade: (common good data, not property of the collector, EOVs etc.).
- Identify and support **data pipelines** where ocean observation systems lead to decision making frameworks.
- Improve the **quality of monitoring** (data standardization, comprehensive management and “from source to the ocean” monitoring).



Sustained ocean observations and integrated data: Support sustained ocean observation & enhance sharing & integration of ocean data (2)

- **Engage with IOC** as enabler of federation and standardisation of data as the World Meteorological Organization did for meteorology (WMO/IOC data policies being reformed).
- Create/manage/fund Global **FAIR data Forum** to make data FAIR, to have interoperable data.
- Engaging with all **trade associations** to ensure critical mass of industry data; involve industry sector – voluntary agreements, new ISO standards.
- **International support for ocean observation** can be obtained from nations that support ocean observation providing 5% of their observational effort to international support structure (as with ARGO).
- Amend Common Fisheries Policy and upgrade ERS (electronic recording system) to record information on the environment and non-commercially sensitive species.



Financing to drive transitions



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Public financing (1)

(=< sustainable seafood)

Remove all harmful subsidies

- **Preconditions/preparatory steps**

- Develop (national) intersectoral **ocean strategies** => priority setting
- Support sound **financial planning** in ocean protection (e.g. for effective management of MPAs)
- Set specific (ambitious) **target** of ODA for ocean conservation and sustainable use
- Set the conditions for systematic application of **sound methods for *ex-ante* assessment** (considering: impact on services delivered by ecosystems, cumulative impacts, social impacts, trade-offs, effectiveness of measures/projects..) within **inclusive processes** (<= sustainable blue economy, ocean solution to climate change)
- Support the strengthening of **transdisciplinary knowledge, knowledge infrastructure & governance, capacity** (e.g. young scientists/professionals) (<= ocean knowledge)

Transparency

(<= sustainable seafood/blue economy)

Public financing (2)

- Scale-up and broaden existing **multi-lateral donor initiatives** (including smaller ones created by EU member states)
 - Delivering conservation of areas beyond national jurisdiction, supporting processes in regional seas
- Support **sustainable solutions**
 - **Economic packages** for implementing sustainable practices - e.g. financing through low interest loans and public subsidies to SMEs which promote low impact fishing (**<= sustainable seafood**)
 - Set **single gates for streamlining sectoral financing** for supporting multi-functional nature-based solutions (**<= ocean solutions to climate change**)
 - **« zero carbon » fuel** for ships, **biodegradable fishing gear** (**<= zero pollution to marine ecosystems**)



Channel private financing to support transition to sustainable blue

- **Set the frame right**

- Legal aspects, risk-reduction mechanisms, single gate (see before)
- Well-defined **products** of interest to private investors (e.g. coastal resilience packages)
- Sound definition of **sustainable blue finance** (in the EU taxonomy/to be shared with others)
- Well-defined **transition pathways** for economic sectors
- **Strict incentives** to drive sustainable practice (carbon price)

Carry out an assessment of the pros and cons of different mechanisms to bring private financing to sustainable ocean

- **Strengthen/develop mechanisms to channel private investments**

- **Make the ocean “visible”** in existing instruments/banks
- Set a dedicated **Blue Ocean bank** (scope: to support BBNJ? Scale: regional sea, EU, global?)
- **Give space to BLUE** in the mobilization of financial resources from the Green deal and recovery packages

Mobilise EU/MS players of the Green Deal/recovery package, Industry, Entrepreneurship...

Personal reflections on emerging key recommendations and further priorities for actions

Kristina Gjerde, Senior High Seas Advisor, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Rémi Parmentier, Varda Group



Closing statements

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Many thanks for your participation and contributions throughout the three day event!



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