

Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Australia's Continuing Role

Australian Museum, Sydney
16 March 2017
9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Dear Colleagues,

As preparations heat up for next month's New York meeting of the UN General Assembly's Preparatory Committee for a new binding agreement under UNCLOS to conserve biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), we are pleased to announce an excellent line up of speakers for the forum *Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ): Australia's Continuing Role* on 16 March 2017 in Sydney.

Establishing a coherent international regime to conserve high seas biodiversity is key to securing healthy and productive oceans into the future. The forum will discuss how this is of critical importance to Australia with its extensive EEZ and broad maritime interests. Participants will be updated on developments and discuss continued leadership from Australia in developing a global BBNJ framework. The workshop will also examine challenges and whether there is a need for an improved regulatory regime to conserve ocean biodiversity within Australia's national jurisdiction as a complement to any high seas regime.

The organisers intend to publish a report on the forum proceedings to reflect discussions and recommendations from the experts, interested parties and stakeholders engaged in the event to take forward priorities for Australia.

Register now: <https://bbnjaustralia2017.eventbrite.com.au>

For more information, please email Katherine Zischka, ACIUCN katherine.zischka@aciucn.org.au or Nicola Beynon, Humane Society International nicola@hsi.org.au.

Best wishes,

Hon. Robert Hill, AC, Chair, Advisory Board, Global Change Institute, University of Queensland

Katherine Zischka, Director, Australian Committee for IUCN
katherine.zischka@aciucn.org.au

Professor Karen Hussey, Deputy Director, Global Change Institute, University of Queensland k.hussey@uq.edu.au

Michael Kennedy, AM, Director, Humane Society International michael@hsi.org.au

Rachel Walmsley, Policy & Law Reform Director, Environmental Defenders Office NSW
rachel.walmsley@edonsw.org.au

DRAFT AGENDA

SESSION 1 – Where we are now: progress on Protecting the World's Ocean

Chair: Katherine Zischka, Director, ACIUCN

Time	Title	Speaker
8:30	Registration / Tea & Coffee	
9:00-9:10	Welcome & introduction to conserving biodiversity in our global high seas	Katherine Zischka , Director, Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) / IUCN WCPA Marine
9:10-9:30	Australia's role in the International Oceans Policy agenda	The Hon Julie Bishop MP , Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government (TBC)
9:30-9:50	Keynote: IUCN priorities for a global oceans conservation agenda	Carl-Gustaf Lundin , Director, IUCN Global Marine & Polar Programme
9:50-10:10	Keynote: Blue Carbon – climate change: impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods - mitigation and adaptation responses	John Tanzer , Director Global Marine Program, WWF International
10:10-10:40	Keynote: Title to be confirmed	Karen Sack , Managing Director, Ocean Unite
10:40-11:00	Q&A session (20min)	

11:00-11:30 – MORNING TEA (30min)

SESSION 2 – Priority Areas for High Seas Biodiversity

Chair: Peter Cochrane, IUCN Regional Councillor

Time	Title	Speaker
11:30-11:50	The UN negotiations to date and what's next?	Michael Bliss , Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government
11:50-12:10	Fisheries: ensuring strong and sustainable fisheries throughout the world's oceans	Martin Exel , General Manager Environment and Policy, Austral Fisheries
12:10-12:30	Threats facing marine biodiversity and current frameworks to address them	Nicola Beynon , Head of Campaigns, Humane Society International
12:30-12:50	Discussion – what are the key issues? (20 min)	

12:50 – 13:50 – LUNCH (1 hour)

SESSION 3 – PROGRESS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Chair: Rachel Walmsley, Director, Policy & Law Reform, EDO NSW

Time	Title	Speaker
14:00-14:20	<i>Priorities for High Seas Biodiversity [Video Message]</i>	Kristina Gjerde , Senior High Seas Advisor, IUCN Global Marine & Polar Programme (GMPP) Dan Laffoley , Principal Advisor, Marine Science and Conservation, IUCN GMPP
14:20-14:40	<i>Implementing Sustainable Development Goals – where next with Global Ocean Commission priorities</i>	The Hon Robert Hill AC , former Global Ocean Commissioner
14:40-15:00	<i>Negotiating, Adopting and implementing an UNCLOS BBNJ Implementing Agreement</i>	Alistair Graham , High Seas Advisor, Humane Society International
15:00-15:20	<i>Global high seas conservation as part of a holistic national oceans agenda for Australia</i>	Michelle Grady , Director for Oceans, Pew Charitable Trusts Australia
15:20-15:35	<i>Discussion – what are the key issues? (15 min)</i>	

15:35 – 16:00 - AFTERNOON TEA (25 min)

SESSION 4 – Key Directions for Australia

Chair: Robert Hill AC, former Global Ocean Commissioner

Time	Title
16:00-17:00	Setting key priorities for high seas conservation as part of a holistic Australian national oceans policy agenda <i>The session will open with a brief presentation by Rachel Walmsley, Policy and Law Reform Director, EDO NSW on opportunities for Australian law reform to meet domestic, regional and global challenges through a national 'Oceans Act'.</i> <i>A collegiate discussion will follow to bring together the day's discussions around existing policy and potential policy reform opportunities for Australia to enhance global oceans governance and conservation as part of a comprehensive and connected national oceans agenda.</i> <i>The outcomes of this session will shape the forum's key directions policy recommendations.</i>
17:00	Forum close
17:00-18:00	Networking drinks