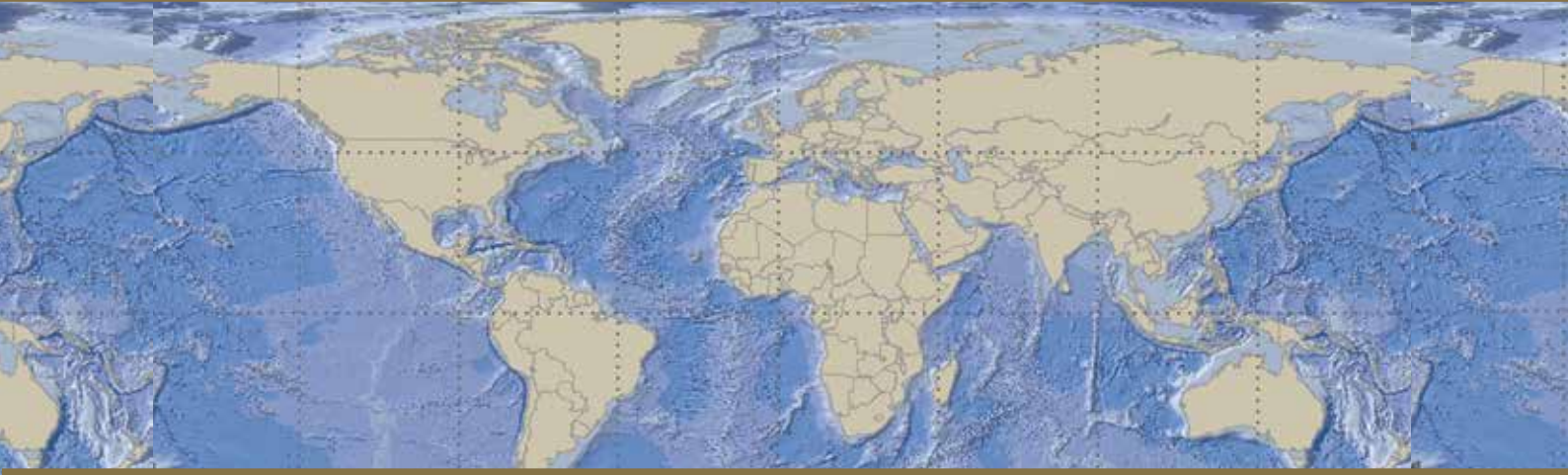




# 2016 ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

21 March to 2 April 2016 at the United Nations



## Project Organizers and Sponsors



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of the United Nations



Global Ocean  
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# ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

United Nations, New York

## OVERVIEW

**The marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)**, which comprise 64% of the ocean's surface, contain ecosystems with marine resources and biodiversity of great ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural importance. A variety of human activities take place in ABNJ, including fishing, shipping, scientific research, and bioprospecting for genetic resources, in addition to new and emerging activities, such as carbon storage in the deep seabed and offshore energy exploitation.

However, lack of knowledge of marine biodiversity and ecosystems in ABNJ, difficulties in enforcement of existing conservation and management measures, and disagreements over appropriate policy responses, among other factors, have hindered the sustainable management of ABNJ. As well, there is insufficient communication and coordination between ABNJ processes at the regional and global levels and there is a clear need to identify and better utilize best practices in different regions and sectors.

The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is designed to strengthen the capacity of leaders from developing countries and small island developing States (SIDS) at the regional and national levels to better understand and address issues in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and to more effectively participate in global and regional ABNJ processes.

The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is a key activity of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/Global Ocean Forum (GOF) project on

Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, part of the GEF/FAO Program on Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Common Oceans) ([www.commonoceans.org](http://www.commonoceans.org)). The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is organized by the University of Delaware and the Global Ocean Forum with FAO and hosted at the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), involving a wide range of partners and supporters noted on the brochure cover.

### Leadership Development Goals of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

- 1) Gain background information and knowledge on ABNJ policy issues across all sectors, especially on fisheries and biodiversity conservation
- 2) Gain an understanding of regional and global ABNJ policy frameworks that address ABNJ issues
- 3) Gain understanding of global ABNJ processes by observing UN negotiations and deliberations on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ)
- 4) Have the opportunity to present perspectives from the regional and national levels at the global negotiations
- 5) Acquire relevant information that could be applied towards improved regional and national policy-making, management, and the sustainable use of marine resources in ABNJ.



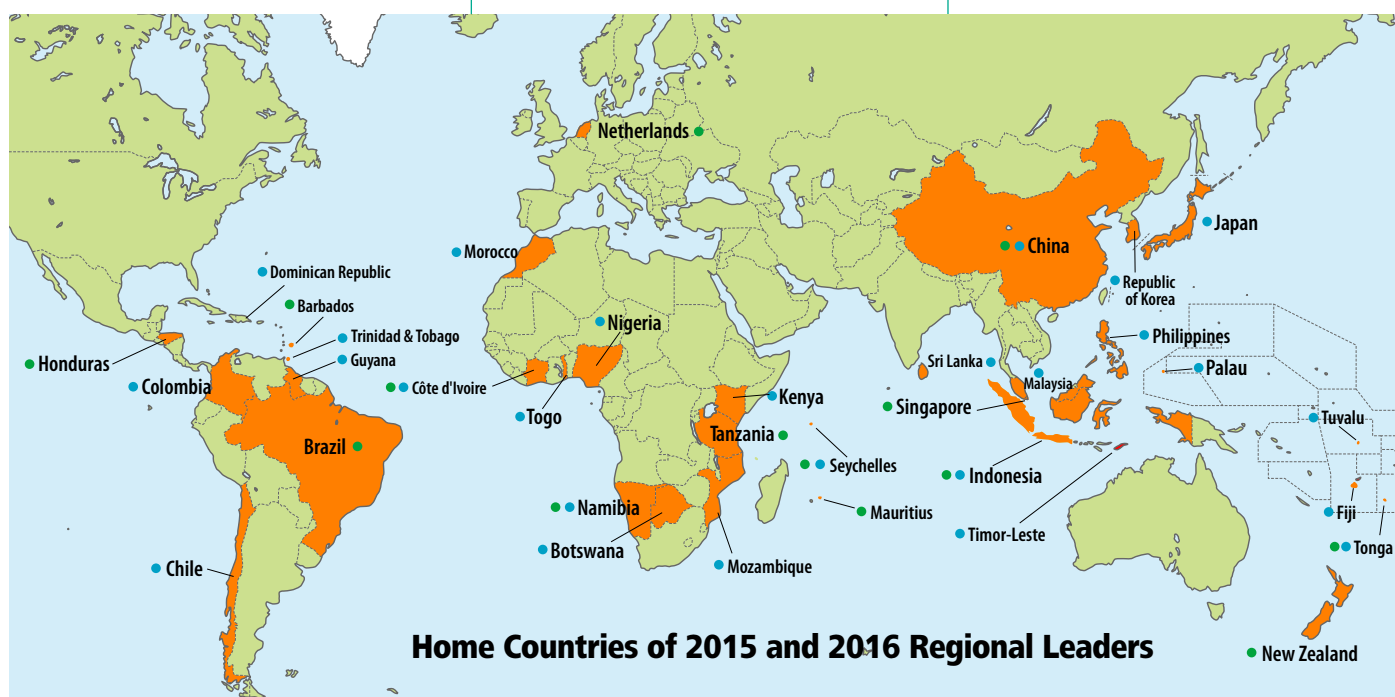
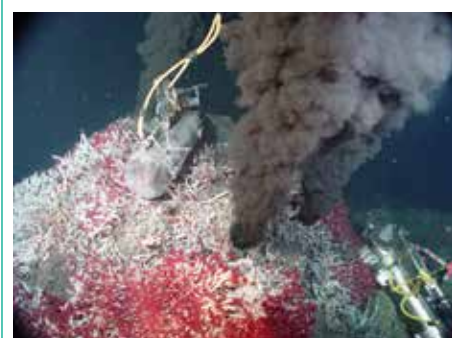


The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program involves four main aspects: 1) an intensive course focused on ABNJ issues, 2) participation in UN negotiations on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, 3) visits to the respective Permanent Mission offices to help establish linkages between the global level and experts at national and regional levels, and 4) presentation of regional and national perspectives on ABNJ challenges and opportunities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands, at a UN side event.

### 2016 and 2015 Regional Leaders Program

The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program was inaugurated in 2015 with 14 participants, the 2016 Program has 30 participants, for a total of 44 participants. The ABNJ Regional Leaders (2015 and 2016) have come from national governments and/or regional organizations concerned with marine resource management from around the world, from the following 34 countries: **Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan,**

**Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tuvalu,** as shown in the map below.



## 2016 ABNJ Regional Leaders Participants

The following 2016 ABNJ Regional Leaders were announced on March 1, 2016 (see list below also indicating, with many thanks, the source of support for the Regional Leaders). During the period March 21 to April 2, 2016, the ABNJ Regional Leaders will: participate in the intensive course focused on ABNJ issues; establish linkages with their respective UN Permanent Missions; participate in the First Session of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292 “Development of an international

legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction” (PrepCom); and present regional and national perspectives on ABNJ challenges and opportunities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands, at a UN side event to be held on 30 March 2016 (from 12:15 to 13:45), at UN headquarters.

### List of 2016 ABNJ Regional Leaders

***Funded by the GEF/FAO/GOF Project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ Capacity Project)***

**Mr. Abdennaji Laamrich**

Project Manager  
Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT/ATLFCO)

**Morocco**

**Mr. Seraphin Nadje Dedi**

Secretary General  
Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)

**Côte d'Ivoire**

**Mr. Abdul Rahman Bin**

**Abdul Wahab**  
Head, International Section  
Department of Fisheries

**Malaysia**

**Ms. Li Gu**

Deputy Director  
Division of International Organizations and Conventions  
Ministry of Environmental Protection

**China**

**Ms. Angela Teresa Gonzalez Feliz**

Attorney-at-Law  
Consejo Dominicano de Pesca y Acuicultura (CODOPESCA)

**Dominican Republic**

**Ms. Jenny Sharyne Bowie Wilches**

Third Secretary of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Colombia**

**Mr. Cristobal Patricio Hernandez**

Legal Advisor  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Chile**

**Ms. Salote Koronuku Jade Tagivakatini**

Principal Foreign Service Officer  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Fiji**

***Funded by the GEF/FAO Project on Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ***

**Mr. Vincent Gerald Lucas**

Chief Executive Officer  
Seychelles Fishing Authority

**Seychelles**

***Funded by the GEF/FAO Project on Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the ABNJ***

**Mr. Paulus Inekela Kainge**

Chief Fisheries Biologist, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources/Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization

**Namibia**

***Funded by the Government of the Netherlands***



**Ms. Felismina Armando Antia**  
National Director of Maritime and Fishing Policies  
Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries  
**Mozambique**  
*Funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

**Ms. Kanako Hasegawa**  
Associate Programme Officer for Regional Seas  
Coordination  
UNEP  
**Japan (stationed in Kenya)**  
*Funded by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the ABNJ Capacity Project*

*Funded by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Republic of Korea*

**Mr. Dong-yeob Yang**  
Director of Guidance and Fisheries Negotiation Division  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF)  
**Republic of Korea**

**Mr. Sangkil Lee**  
Director of Management Support, Division of Incheon  
Regional Port Office, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries  
**Republic of Korea**  
*Funded by the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Program, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)*

**Mr. Kouété Afachawo**  
Deputy Adviser, Legal Affairs  
National Organization of State Sea Action  
**Togo**

**Ms. Bojotlhe Butale**  
State Counsel  
Attorney General's Chambers  
**Botswana**

**Ms. Caroline Gichuri**  
State Counsel  
Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice  
**Kenya**

**Ms. Chizoba Odanwu**  
Principal State Counsel  
Federal Ministry of Justice  
**Nigeria**

**Mr. Zaki Busro**  
UN DOALOS-Nippon Foundation Fellow  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations  
**Indonesia**

**Ms. Jacqueline Joyce Espenilla**  
Attorney  
Department of Justice  
**Philippines**

**Mr. Eveli Maisema**  
Technical Officer  
Ministry of Land and Mineral Resources  
**Fiji**

**Mr. Randy Bumbury**  
Fisheries Officer  
Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture  
**Guyana**

**Ms. Vivian Lezama Pizzati**  
Consul  
Honduras General Consulate  
**Honduras**

**Mr. Aruna Maheepala**  
Senior Scientist  
National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency  
**Sri Lanka**

**Ms. Didina Maria Assunção Coelho Da Silva**  
Desk Officer  
Directorate for Southeast Asia and Oceania  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste  
**Timor-Leste**  
*Funded by the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Fellowship on Oceans and Seas*

**Mr. Semisi Seruitanoa**  
Americas Desk Officer  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Fiji**

**Ms. Kasipo Margaret Teo**  
Fellow, PSIDS Fellowship on Oceans and Seas  
Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations  
**Tuvalu**

**Ms. Landisang Lysandra Kotaro**  
Fellow, PSIDS Fellowship on Oceans and Seas  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations  
**Palau**

**Ms. Rose Lesley Kautoke**  
Assistant Crown Counsel  
Attorney General's Office  
**Tonga**

### **Observers**

#### **Ms. Lizanne Aching**

Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to  
the United Nations

**Trinidad and Tobago**



## **2015 Regional Leaders Program**

*The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program was inaugurated in 2015, with a first session held on 15-21 January 2015 at the United Nations in New York.*

*Fourteen participants were selected from a pool of 108 applicants based on the following criteria: Focal area/sector, Regional/National Leader, potential for ABNJ leadership, relevant work, educational background, years of experience, also taking into account other considerations such as representation from various world regions.*

*ABNJ Regional Leaders participated in the 9th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and gave presentations on capacity development and ABNJ, including regional and national perspectives from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific Islands at a formal UN side event during the negotiations.*

*The training was held at UNDOALOS (on 15, 16, 19, and 21 January), the Church Center of the United Nations (17 January), and at UN Headquarters (20, 21 January).*



#### **Steven Ambabi, Namibia**

Mr. Ambabi is Deputy Director in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, in the Directorate of Operations responsible for Technical Services, where he is tasked with regulating fishing activities within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone and beyond through Monitoring, Control and Surveillance. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT) and a member of the Board of Trustees and Chairperson of the Swakop Uranium Foundation. Mr. Ambabi has served as the Head of the Namibian delegation to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Board member of Fisheries Observers Agency, and Deputy Director of the Division of Technical Services in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.



#### **Mohamed Badal, Mauritius**

Mr. Badal is the Head of the Office of Ocean Affairs and Development at the Prime Minister's Office, Government of Mauritius, where he focuses on offshore hydrocarbon and minerals, continental shelf submissions, development of the Ocean Economy Roadmap and Implementation plan, and co-management of the Joint Zone in the Mascarene Plateau with the Seychelles. He has experience as the



Office-in-Charge and Principal Research Scientist at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and as a Programme Specialist at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Mr. Badal holds a Ph.D. in physical oceanography from the University of Mauritius, with a focus on oceanic processes of the SW Indian Ocean and a study on tsunami modeling and preparedness.



**Abou Bamba, Cote d'Ivoire**

Mr. Bamba is the Regional Coordinator for the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa (Abidjan Convention). He has many years of experience in international governance as a Regional Coordinator for Africa for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Coordinator for the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, and Technical Advisor for the World Bank/International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Mr. Bamba holds an M.Sc in Management of Marine Resources from the Université du Québec à Rimouski, Quebec, Canada and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies, Paris, France.

**Michael Donoghue, New Zealand**



Mr. Donoghue, New Zealand, is the Threatened and Migratory Species Advisor at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), where he leads a team in the conservation of iconic Pacific species, such as turtles, sharks, whales, dolphins, and dugongs, co-ordinates SPREP's involvement with the Marine Sector Working Group of the Pacific Leaders Forum, and heads the Blue Team which reports to the Director-General of SPREP on various marine issues. He has also served as Executive Director, Pacific Islands Programme at



*Francois Baillet, UNDOALOS, lecturing to the Regional Leaders*

Conservation International and in the New Zealand Department of Conservation as a Marine Mammals Policy Advisor. Mr. Donoghue holds a Master's Degree in Oceanography from Southampton University.



**T. Suka Mangisi, Tonga**

Mr. Mangisi is the Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations, responsible for providing policy and legal advice, as well as guidance on day-to-day operations of the Mission with regards to foreign policy issues and interests, UN elections, the Mission's budget and management, and human resource and personnel management. He has experience as the Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Principal Assistant Secretary (legal) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Tonga. Mr. Mangisi holds a Ph.D. in International Public Policy from Osaka University.



**Rose Mtui, Tanzania**

Rose Sallema Mtui is a Principal Environmental Management Officer (PEMO) working with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) under the Ministry responsible for Environment in Tanzania. NEMC oversees all environmental matters in the country and coordinates both national and regional coastal and marine programmes/projects. Ms. Mtui heads the Environmental Research Coordination Department and also supervise coastal/marine management projects such as Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem, Western Indian Ocean Marine Highway Development and Coastal and Marine Contamination Prevention and Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project and Tanzania Coral Reef Task Force (TzCRTF). With the WIOMHP project, Ms. Mtui supervised the development of Environmentally Sensitive Area Maps, which mapped the



*Amrikha Singh receives her ABNJ Regional Leaders Course Certificate*

whole coastline of Tanzania including Zanzibar, including identifying all sensitive areas with Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Sea-grass beds, oil and gas exploration and extraction sites, fish landing sites, shipping routes (marine highway), cetacean migratory routes, socio-economic activities, and tourist sites. Ms. Mtui holds a Master's Degree in Aquatic Sciences from the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.



**Andrei Polejack, Brazil**

Mr. Polejack is the Coordinator for Ocean Sciences and Antarctica at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in Brazil, the nationally designated institution for IOC/UN-ESCO. He represents the Ministry in national and international fora relating to ocean and Antarctic sciences, provides technical advice, and negotiates agreements and cooperation in support of marine research. Mr. Polejack has also served as the Technical Advisor for the Brazilian Antarctic Program at the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. He holds a Master's Degree in ecology from the Universidade de Brasilia.



**Seema Parkash, Singapore**

Ms. Parkash is First Secretary, UN Matters, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations. She was formally a Foreign Service Officer at the International Organisations Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore. She analyzes, reports, and provides policy advice pertaining to Singapore's strategic interests. She has previously contributed to developing and implementing Singapore's Arctic engagement policy and strategy and managing bilateral relations with South Asian countries. Ms. Parkash has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Duke University.



**Rodney Quatre, Seychelles**

Mr. Quatre is the Head of the Conservation and Research Section at the Seychelles National Parks Authority, where he is responsible for overseeing ongoing projects, liaising with local and international scientists and organizations, representing the organization at international and regional meetings/workshops, and preparing cabinet papers for the ministers in Seychelles. He also serves as the Secretary of the Shark Research Foundation Seychelles and country focal point for the coral reef monitoring network. He also has experience as a

Research Officer and Senior researcher at the Seychelles Center for Marine Research and Technology and project officer in the Coastal Zone Management unit of the Ministry of Environment. Mr. Quatre holds a Master's in Environment from the Australian National University.



**Amrikha Singh, Barbados**

Ms. Singh is the Senior Project Officer for the Sustainable Development Sub-programme, Directorate of Human and Social Development, Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Secretariat (headquartered in Guyana), where she is responsible for designing regional programmes in oceans governance, collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme for regional environmental governance, and supporting CARICOM in international environmental governance. She has experience as an Environmental Officer and Research Officer in the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage, Government of Barbados, and has worked as a United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Consultant. Ms. Singh holds a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of the West Indies.



**Hendra Siry, Indonesia**

Mr. Siry is the Secretary for Coordination and External Affairs Interim-Regional Secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) (a multi-lateral partnership by Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste working to sustain marine and coastal resources) and the Deputy Director for Coastal Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation in the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. While working in the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, he has served as the Deputy Director for Spatial and Zoning Plans Region II, Senior Researcher and Chair for the Research Center for Marine and Fisheries Socio-Economic Data Center, Deputy Director for Technical Affairs, and was also the lead negotiator on Ocean Dimensions for the Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research during the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Meetings. Mr. Siry holds a Ph.D. from the Resources Management in Asia-Pacific Program at the Australian National University.



**Raymon Van Anrooij, the Netherlands**

Mr. Van Anrooij, the Netherlands, is a Fishery and Aquaculture Officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization



(FAO) in Barbados, where he is the Secretary of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). He has experience in developing FAO's programme in fisheries and aquaculture in Central Asia; contributing to the development of methodologies and guidelines on co-management and fisheries credit and insurance issues; conducting economic and social studies on management and development of aquaculture; and analyzing the global socio-economic situation in fisheries and aquaculture. Mr. Van Anrooij holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Madison University.



*Stefan Amundsen, NEAFC, lecturing on the role of regional fishery management organizations in ABNJ*



***Zheng Miao Zhuang, China***

Mr. Zheng is a doctor of environmental science at China Agriculture University in Beijing and also serves as a research fellow in the China Institute for Marine Affairs of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), where he focuses on marine environmental management and law of the sea, particularly on marine genetic resources and biodiversity conservation. He has drafted the East Asian Seas sustainable development strategy–China's implementation plan framework, participated in the preparation of China's Ocean Development Report, attended the UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ), and written about BBNJ. Mr. Zheng holds a Ph.D. from China Agriculture University.



*Dr. Miriam Balgos, Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain and Dr. Palitha Kohona listen to comments from regional leaders*



***Zheng Yuanjie, Singapore***

Mr. Zheng works for the International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore. He has several years of experience working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the embassy in Tokyo, Northeast Asia Directorate, and as a country officer to Japan and Korea. Mr. Zheng holds a Master's of Arts in Global Studies from Sophia University.



*Michael Donoghue receives course certificate from Biliانا Cicin-Sain*



*Dr. Miriam Balgos lectures regional leaders*



## **Short Course Content, 2015 ABNJ Regional Leaders Program**

A total of six course modules, each consisting of a lecture, followed by a discussion period, comprised the course. Lectures were given by 18 experts during the ABNJ introductory course. Please see the summary of course modules and the list of lecturers below.

### **Course Modules**

**Module 1, “Overview: The Importance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Why Should you Care?”** provided a broad overview of ABNJ issues, including: Significance; ecosystems and threats; major uses; protection of marine biodiversity; legal and policy frameworks; ongoing debates about future policy directions; major issues; and how can regional leaders contribute to the application of integrated, ecosystem-based approaches to ABNJ.

**Module 2, ‘The Legal and Policy Framework for Managing Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction—Global Level,’** provided the legal and policy background for ABNJ. Topics covered include: The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (evolution, conflicts, maritime jurisdictions, continental shelf, outstanding issues, the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and other related agreements.

**Module 3, “Ecosystems and Resources in ABNJ, Threats and Opportunities,”** examined the ecosystems and resource of ABNJ. Topics included: types of ecosystems and issues that are raised; marine biodiversity; threats; overview of ecosystem approaches; gaps in current legal and policy frameworks regarding ABNJ ecosystems, resources, and marine biodiversity; uses and applications of marine genetic resources; and an overview of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS).

**Module 4, “Existing Authorities and Processes Related to ABNJ at the Global Level,”** presented the existing authorities and processes working in ABNJ. Topics discussed were: fisheries, shipping and control of marine pollution; deep seabed mining, submarine cables, and marine biodiversity.

**Module 5, “Authorities and Processes Related to ABNJ at the Regional Level: Experiences and Lessons Learned,”** compared regional ABNJ experiences. Each participant presented his/her regional/



national experience, interests in ABNJ, challenges, lessons learned, and possible future improvements/needs. Additionally, participants heard lectures from a regional fishery management organization (RFMO) and a voluntary regional environmental stewardship entity on their experiences at the regional level.

**Module 6, "Global Negotiations Regarding ABNJ: Evolution, Issues, Possible Outcomes of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction,"** provided background on the BBNJ Working group. Topics included: Evolution of the UN Working Group, major issues, Rio+20 outcomes, and outlook for current negotiations.

## Course Lecturers (in the order of module presentation)



**Biliana Cicin-Sain**, University of Delaware and Global Ocean Forum

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain (PhD in political science, UCLA, postdoctoral training, Harvard University) is President of the Global Ocean Forum, and Director of the Gerard J. Mangone Center

for Marine Policy and Professor of Marine Policy at the University of Delaware. An expert in the field of integrated coastal and ocean governance, she has authored over 100 publications in the field, and has forged international collaboration among all sectors of the international oceans community to advance the global oceans agenda, as founder and president of the Global Ocean Forum. Dr. Cicin-Sain's international ocean work has been recognized through a number of awards, including: 2010 Laureate for the Elizabeth Haub Award for Environmental Diplomacy; 2010 honorary doctorate in maritime law by Korea Maritime University; 2007 Coastal Zone Foundation Award (US); 2007 Elizabeth Mann Borgese Meerespreis (Prize of the Sea, given by the Ministry of Science, Economics and Transport of the Land Schleswig-Holstein, Germany); 2002 co-recipient of the Ocean and Coastal Stewardship award (given by the California and the World Ocean Conference).



**Miriam Balgos**, University of Delaware and Global Ocean Forum

Dr. Miriam Balgos is an Associate Scientist at the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy at the University of Delaware and Program Coordinator for the Global Ocean

Forum. Miriam's expertise is in providing leadership and services in integrated and ecosystem-based

ocean and coastal resources management and climate change. Prior to her current position, Miriam served as a Research Associate at the WorldFish Center in the Philippines. Miriam has also served as a consultant for USAID-RDMA, FAO, CBD, URI-CRC. Miriam has a Ph.D. in Marine Studies from the University of Delaware, and a BSc in Fisheries and MSc in Marine Biology from the University of the Philippines.



**Vladimir Jares**, UN DOALOS

Mr. Vladimir Jares is the Deputy Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. He has dealt with many issues concerning the law of the sea, in

particular those related to the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related Agreements. Since 1997, he has been involved in providing services to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and, currently, serves as its Secretary. He has also been involved in capacity-building activities of the Division, delivering many of its training courses, including on UNCLOS article 76 implementation.



**Alice Hicuburundi**, UN DOALOS

Alice Hicuburundi is from Burundi and a Senior Legal Officer at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations. Ms. Hicuburundi studied Law at the University of Montpellier I, in France. She joined the United Nations in 1989 as a successful candidate to the United Nations National Competitive Examination Programme. For the last eight years, she has focused her attention on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. She was the current Secretary of the Working Group established by the General Assembly on those issues. Ms. Hicuburundi is also the Secretary of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process established by the General Assembly in order to facilitate the annual review by the Assembly of developments in ocean affairs, including issues related to marine biodiversity and fisheries. She is team leader with regard to issues relating to oceans and sustainable development, marine scientific research, migration by sea and international cooperation and coordination. Before joining the United Nations, Alice Hicuburundi served as counsellor to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Burundi from 1987 to 1989.



**Francois Bailet**, UN DOALOS

François Napoléon Bailet, BSc (Environmental Sciences), Diplôme d'Étude Approfondies - DEA (Law and Economics of Development) and PhD (International Public Law) served as the late Elisabeth Mann Borgese's Special Assistant until her passing in 2002, after which he was appointed Deputy Executive Director of the International Ocean Institute Network (IOI), then Expert Advisor in Ocean Governance to the IOI, and now serves as Honorary Adviser to the President of IOI. In August of 2004, he assumed his current post as Senior Legal Officer in Charge of Capacity Building and Trust Funds at the United Nations within the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations. He also heads the Maritime Security Cluster within the Division and is the Secretary of the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects. Dr. Bailet is a founding Advisory Committee member of the Global Forum on Ocean Costs and Islands.



**Valentina Germani**, UN DOALOS

Ms. Valentina Germani is a Legal Officer with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), where she has worked since 2001. Currently, she is the Programme Advisor of the United Nations - Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme on Human Resources Development and Advancement of the Legal Order of the World's Oceans. Previously, her assignments at the Division included working on delineation of maritime zones, in particular the continental shelf, marine environment and biological diversity, fisheries, sustainable development and capacity-building. From 2010 to 2012, Ms. Germani was seconded to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, where she worked as a Legal Officer dealing with compliance and the UNFCCC intergovernmental negotiating

processes. Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Germani worked as a Lecturer on the LLM Programme of the University of London, where she taught International Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law at the University College of London and Queen Mary, respectively. Ms. Germani obtained a Master Degree in Law in Public International Law



**Marjo Vierros**, UNU

Dr. Marjo Vierros is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, where she coordinates the Global Marine Governance project. She is also a Senior Fellow with the Traditional Knowledge Initiative of the United Nations University. She has degrees in biology, oceanography and marine biology and has worked with research, conservation and United Nations organizations in the Caribbean, North and Central America, Bermuda and the Pacific. She is originally from Finland and currently lives in Vancouver. Her research interests include linking global and local scales in ocean and coastal management, implementation of an ecosystem approach in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, marine genetic resources, and application of traditional knowledge and science in community-based marine management.



**Ward Appeltans**, UNESCO-IOC

Mr. Ward Appeltans is the marine biodiversity focal point at UNESCO-IOC where he manages the Ocean Biogeographic Information System and supports the new Biology and Ecosystems Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System. He graduated as a marine biologist at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium and before he joined IOC in 2012, he was a project manager for nearly 10 years at the Flanders Marine Institute where he managed, among others, the World Register of Marine Species and worked for several European marine biodiversity projects.







**Jessica Sanders, FAO**

Jessica Sanders is a Fisheries Officer in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics and Policy Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. She works on a wide range of issues related to fisheries management

from policy to institutional issues to cross-disciplinary topics. She has been working on management of deep-sea fisheries and conservation of associated ecosystems, including the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, in areas beyond national jurisdiction since the development of the FAO Deep Sea Fisheries Program in 2006.



**Merete Tandstad, FAO**

Merete Tandstad is a Fishery Resources Officer in FAO's Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF). She has degrees in marine biology and aquatic resource management from universities in the UK. After a few years with the Norwegian Hydro technical Laboratory in Trondheim, Norway, working on water quality and rearing of marine species, Merete came to FAO in 1995 as an Associate expert with the then Nansen Programme (now EAF Nansen project) supporting the implementation of project activities with a focus on shared stock management in West, Central and Southern Africa. Since then she has held various positions and responsibilities within FIRF. Current areas of work include: ecosystem approach to fisheries, resource assessment, biodiversity issues in fisheries, regional collaboration and deep-seas fisheries. She is also providing technical support to a range of projects in West Africa and globally - and is the Lead Technical Officer for the ABNJ Deep-sea project.

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**Fredrik Haag, IMO**

Fredrik has a background in applied environmental research, focusing on Marine and Coastal Zone Management. Whilst working for the Swedish Maritime Administration, he was transferred to IMO on secondment in 2006,

initially working as GESAMP Officer within the Office for the London Convention and Protocol, coordinating the work of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection. In 2008, he moved to the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project as Technical Adviser, and took over the management of the project as its Chief Technical Adviser in 2011. Throughout his time at IMO, he has been actively involved in the technical cooperation and assistance programme of the organization, implementing technical workshops on IMO subject matters in all parts of the world. In late 2012, he joined the Office for the London

Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs as the Technical Officer. Apart from the abovementioned topics he is also involved in other issues, such as the technology transfer for ships' energy efficiency, sustainable development and the post-2015 agenda, and represents the Organization in several UN-wide mechanisms and initiatives.



**Michael Lodge, ISA**

Michael W. Lodge is Deputy to the Secretary-General and Legal Counsel for the International Seabed Authority (ISA). He received his LLB from the University of East Anglia, and has an MSc in marine policy from the London School of Economics and Political

Science. He is a barrister of Gray's Inn, London. His professional experiences to date include serving as Legal Counsel to the ISA (2007-2010 and 1996-2003); Counsellor to the Round Table on Sustainable Development, OECD (2004-2007); Legal Counsel to the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (1991-1995). He has also held appointments as a Visiting Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford (2012-2013) and an Associate Fellow of Chatham House, London (2007). Currently, he is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Oceans.



**Jihyun Lee, CBD Secretariat**

Jihyun Lee is the Environmental Affairs Officer for marine and coastal biodiversity within the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, covering various issues related to the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate, such as integrated marine

and coastal management, marine protected areas, conservation of deep sea biodiversity, and marine invasive alien species. She serves as coordinator for UN-Oceans Task Force on Marine Protected Areas and Other Area-Based Management Tools as well as Working Group on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas of the Global Ocean Forum.



**Douglas Burnett, International Cable Protection Committee**

Douglas R. Burnett, International Law Advisor for the International Cable Protection Committee (since 1999), and Maritime Partner in the New York office of Squire Patton Boggs (U.S.) LLP,

douglas.burnett@squirepb.com an international law firm with 44 offices in 21 countries. His practice focuses on international law, submarine cables, maritime and shipping, involving litigation and arbitration. Douglas is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and University

of Denver Law School and is a retired captain in the U.S. Navy. He has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and testified as an industry expert on submarine cables before the 2007 Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the UNCLOS hearings. Douglas has worked on submarine cable cases for over 30 years. He has frequently instructed at the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy in Greece.



**Ambassador Palitha Kohona,**  
Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to  
the UN

Ambassador Dr. Palitha T.B. Kohona served as the Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka until his appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Prior to this he served as the Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) established by the Government of Sri Lanka. Dr. Kohona was the Co-Chair of the 9th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, the Chairman of the UN Ad-Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and a Vice President of the 23rd Meeting of the States Parties to the Law of the Sea Convention. He is the Chair of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Territories Occupied since 1967.



**Charlotte Salpin,** UN DOALOS

Ms. Charlotte Salpin is currently Legal Officer at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, where she has worked for the past 9 years. Her areas of focus include the protection and preservation of the marine environment, marine biodiversity, marine scientific research and sustainable development. She previously worked at the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of the United Nations Environment Programme and in non-governmental organizations. Charlotte holds masters in international law and in environmental law from Paris University and London University. She has authored and co-authored several articles on various aspects of ocean affairs and the law of the sea.



**Stefan Asmundsson,** NEAFC

Stefán Ásmundsson is the secretary of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). In 1998 Stefán Ásmundsson graduated with distinction from Lancaster University, with a

Masters degree (LLM) in international law and international relations. In his studies, he placed an emphasis on the international legal framework of fisheries. He then worked until 2009 in the Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries, as a Director from 2003, working on various fisheries related issues, mainly involving international aspects and including being Iceland's Head of Delegation to NEAFC. He served as President of NEAFC 2007-2009. Stefán worked as a Policy Officer in the European Commission in 2009-2011, working on the reform of the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy. He took up the post of Secretary of NEAFC on 1 July 2011.



**David Freestone,** Sargasso Sea  
Commission

Professor David Freestone is an adjunct Professor and Visiting Scholar at George Washington University Law School in Washington D.C. He is the Executive Secretary of the Sargasso Sea Commission, established by the 2014 Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea, and working to protect this unique high seas ecosystem. He is also founding Editor of the International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law (now in its 30th year). From 1996-2008 he worked at the World Bank in Washington DC, first as head of the international law group, and from 2004-2008 as Deputy General Counsel/Senior Adviser. He holds an advanced Doctorate in Law (LL.D) from the University of Hull, UK and an LL.M from the University of London. He has published more than 20 books on law of the sea and environmental law, including *The 1982 Law of the Sea Convention at 30 (ed.)* (2013, Martinus Nijhoff) and *The World Bank and Sustainable Development* (Martinus Nijhoff, 2012).



**Tina Farmer**

Tina Farmer is the Communications Adviser to the FAO Office of the Deputy Director-General covering topics related to natural resources. Prior to that she was the information officer for the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, including as editor of the flagship publication "State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture" and also as the FAO Lead Technical Officer for the ABNJ Capacity Project. Tina has been covering global processes such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.





**UN Side Event on Capacity Development and ABNJ: Regional and National Perspectives Examples from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific Islands**

### **Participation in the BBNJ Process**

ABNJ Regional Leaders Participants--armed with knowledge from lectures on international negotiations (including history, purpose, and main organs of the UN; understanding the structure and dynamics of negotiations; national delegations; non-governmental organizations; and participation in the BBNJ meeting), were then able to observe the BBNJ process at UN headquarters on 20 and 21 January as accredited participants.

A side event at the BBNJ meeting, organized by the GOF and the ABNJ Regional Leaders featured group presentations (by region: Africa (Atlantic and Indian Ocean), Latin America and the Caribbean (Atlantic), Asia and the Pacific Islands) from the ABNJ Regional Leaders, which covered: 1) a synopsis of the EEZ/ABNJ context; and 2) perceived needs for capacity development on ABNJ. The side event was co-chaired by Ambassador Mahe 'U.S. Tupouniua of Tonga and Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, with Ambassador Ronald Jumeau, Seychelles, providing introductory and closing comments. The side event drew about 50 attendees, including many representatives from governments.

### **Evaluations of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program 2015 Session**

At the close of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program, participants completed a course evaluation. The purpose of the course evaluation was to determine the effectiveness of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program in order to improve implementation of future training sessions. The course evaluation had a total of 14 questions, including yes or no, ranking, and open-ended questions.

- More than 90% of the participants gave an overall rating of very good and excellent for the course
- More than 80% of the participants noted at least a very good improvement in their ABNJ leadership knowledge/skills as a result of this course.
- More than 90% of the participants reported that they were likely to apply the ABNJ knowledge and skills learned in this course when they returned to their respective jobs.

*Regional leaders and organizers at the 9th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction*



## Commentaries on the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

*“As an Island State with great aspirations regarding its surrounding ocean for its economic welfare, the Republic of Mauritius cannot neglect the potential and linkages to ABNJ close to its boundary. The Global Ocean Forum has added much to the understanding of this part of the ocean, which has long been considered of lesser importance by Island Nations. This is now being challenged and programmes such as the ABNJ Regional Leaders contribute to dealing intelligently and responsibly with ABNJ.”*

*– Dr M. Rezah Badal, Prime Minister’s Office, Mauritius*

*“The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program opened my eyes to processes in other sectors related to ocean governance. Until then I was largely focused on fisheries, but now I have seen the value of inter-sectoral approaches and learning from each others’ regional governance processes”*

*– Raymon VanAnrooij, West Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Barbados*

*“From my attendance of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Programme, I gained a better understanding of the origins of UNCLOS, how the numerous parts of the agreement fit together, and why some Articles, especially those related to the high seas, are now in some ways coming to inhibit the sustainable utilisation of marine living resources, particularly in the Pacific islands region. I also came to realise that each area of the world has a different set of problems associated with ABNJ - the issues in the Pacific Islands, for example, are fundamentally different from those of continental countries, especially in Africa. The programme also allowed me to develop an excellent network of contacts throughout the world, allowing a more informed input to regional efforts to promote a coordinated approach towards ABNJ issues, including contributions to various briefs for UNFCCC COP 21, and to Pacific Island delegations at the UNGA on Oceans issues, including Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the Secretary General’s report on Oceans.”*

*– Mike Donoghue, SPREP, Apia, Samoa*



## Commentaries on the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

*“Thank you indeed for making the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program experience truly memorable and an educational one as well. As the Ambassador from Seychelles said at the UN side featuring the ABNJ Regional Leaders, a primary goal of the program was to have us talking to each other on this one topic of BBNJ/ABNJ. We are committed to many other issues and wearing many other hats but the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program has allowed us to speak and learn on this very important topic.*

*– T. Suka Mangisi, Permanent Mission to the UN, Kingdom of Tonga*

*“I should say that the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program exceeded all of my expectations. We were able to see the many different perspectives on issues related to the high seas and the deep sea bed through the lectures. This was a fantastic experience! The whole group was intense in its discussions and exchange of views and information. This was key to better understanding the challenges we are now facing with respect to ocean governance. I learned a lot about the interconnections between science and policy from the different perspectives presented. The high point of the training was certainly experiencing the real negotiations, in which everything we learned was there, being put in action. Once again, thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity!”*

*– Andrei Polejack, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil*

### For More Information Information on the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program:

Please contact:

Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain: [bilianacicin-sain@globaloceans.org](mailto:bilianacicin-sain@globaloceans.org)

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Dr. Miriam Balgos: [miriambalgos@globaloceans.org](mailto:miriambalgos@globaloceans.org)









