



unesco

UNESCO Conference: Identifying Critical Science Gaps at Marine World Heritage Sites

© zarenkaykaya / Shutterstock.com

Monday 4 October 2021, from 11am-4pm Central European Time, Online

Conference Objectives:

- Identify key knowledge gaps that currently impede the sustainable conservation of [marine World Heritage sites](#);
- Identify obstacles to attracting the science needed for sustainable conservation, as well as solutions to overcome them;
- Develop the foundations of a roadmap for action in marine World Heritage sites throughout the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#).

Participants:

- Local management teams from the 50 marine World Heritage sites
- Ocean science community
- Donor community

Timing (Central European Time):

Access link (only for registered email addresses):

<https://meetingtomorrow.com/webcast/UNESCO>

11:00 Conference Opening (10min)

Moderator:

David Adam

Opening Remarks:

Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin, Assistant Director-General, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO

Mr. Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO

11:10 Keynote: The Critical Importance of Science and the Role of the Ocean Decade in Protecting UNESCO Marine World Heritage Sites (10min)

Ms. Anna Marsden, Managing Director, Great Barrier Reef Foundation

Video: Introduction to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

11:20 Meeting Objectives & Expected Outcomes (10min)

Dr. Fanny Douvere, Coordinator, World Heritage Marine Programme, UNESCO

11:30 Introduction to the Ocean Decade Action Framework (5min)

Julian Barbière, Head, Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, IOC



unesco

UNESCO Conference: Identifying Critical Science Gaps at Marine World Heritage Sites

11:35 Theme 1:

Identifying Critical Technology & Innovation Gaps to Support the Ocean Science Needed to Understand and Manage Marine World Heritage Ecosystems (25min)

- **A View from the Field (10min)**

Dr. Anna Koester, Head of marine programme for Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles)

- **An Expert View (10min)**

Dr. Dawn Wright, ESRI Chief Scientist and Professor of Geography & Oceanography, Oregon State University

Video: The UNESCO Marine World Heritage Managers Network

12:00 Short break // Musical Intermezzo 'Oceanic Majesty'. Inspired by the 50 UNESCO marine World Heritage sites, [music composer Carlos Lalonde](#) expresses their expanse and breadth through a colorful and texturally rich original work featuring a full string orchestra, piano, and bowed percussion.

12:10 Theme 2:

Critical Capacity Gaps that Hinder the Science Needed to Enhance Management at Marine World Heritage Sites (25min)

- **A View from the Field (10min)**

Mr. Joel Johnsson, Chief Resilience Officer, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Ningaloo Coast, Western Australia)

- **An Expert View (10min)**

Ms. Kathy Zischka, World Heritage Conservation Officer, IUCN World Heritage Programme

12:35 Theme 3:

Establishing Long-Term Financing in Support of Science-Based Decision Making at Marine World Heritage Sites (25min)

- **A View from the Field (10min)**

Mr. Sibusiso Bukhosini, CEO iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (South Africa)

- **Expert Introduction (10min)**

Mr. Markus Knigge, Executive Director, Blue Action Fund

UNESCO Conference: Identifying Critical Science Gaps at Marine World Heritage Sites

13:00 Short break // Musical Intermezzo 'Voices of Glacier Bay Soundscape'. Bald eagles and hermit thrushes call back and forth in the tall spruce trees, while roaring sea lions, whistling guillemots, and calling kittiwakes provide background notes to the natural symphony.

13:10 Introduction: Simultaneous Breakout Sessions

13:15 Start Breakout Sessions

Theme 1: Identifying Critical Technology & Innovation Gaps to Support the Ocean Science Needed to Understand and Manage Marine World Heritage Ecosystems

Moderator: David Adam

Guiding questions

- *In order to meet the critical knowledge gaps presented in the survey above, what are the key technology and innovation needs for marine World Heritage sites?*
- *What are typical barriers and solutions for deploying the latest technology?*
- *How can the necessary equipment be deployed for long-term monitoring and surveillance?*

- *How can the latest technology and innovation spearhead a better understanding of sites' ecosystems (habitat mapping, understanding of the nutrient cycle, ecosystem interactions, etc.)?*
- *How to accelerate the deployment of the latest technology and innovation in African and SIDS sites'?*

Theme 2: Critical Capacity Gaps that Hinder the Science Needed to Enhance Management at Marine World Heritage Sites

Moderator: Kathy Zischka

Guiding questions

- *In order to meet the critical knowledge gaps presented in the survey above, what are the key capacity development needs for marine World Heritage sites?*
- *What are typical barriers and solutions for determining research priorities?*
- *How can the necessary equipment be deployed to monitor impacts of climate change?*

- *How to set up management actions that build resilience to climate change impacts? And how to evaluate them as we continue through the Ocean Decade?*



unesco

UNESCO Conference: Identifying Critical Science Gaps at Marine World Heritage Sites

Theme 3: Establishing Long-Term Financing in Support of Science-Based Decision Making at Marine World Heritage Sites

Moderator: Ruth Francis

Guiding questions

- *In order to meet the critical knowledge gaps presented in the survey above, what are the required financial models for marine World Heritage sites?*
- *What are typical barriers and solutions for attracting financial support? What financing models (both traditional and innovative) need to be mobilized to fill the critical knowledge gaps identified above?*
- *Which partners that are not currently engaging in funding marine World Heritage sites could be targeted over the course of the Decade and with which strategies?*
- *What are the most efficient ways to secure sustainable financing of core operation costs?*
- *What are the critical barriers to obtain sustainable financing?*
- *What are the main costs expected to rise over the next 10 years?*
- *What type of financial support has the most promising potential for sustainable future returns?*

14:15 End Breakout Sessions – Reconvene in Main Room - Short Break

14:25 Reporting from Breakout Sessions + Q&A

Theme 1: David Adam, Anna Koester, Dawn Wright, Anna Marsden

Theme 2: David Adam, Kathy Zischka, Alison Clausen, Joel Johnsson

Theme 3: David Adam, Ruth Francis, Fanny Douvère, Markus Knigge

Guiding questions:

- *What are the priority actions that could be undertaken in the framework of the Ocean Decade to address the barriers and needs identified by the group? (rate as high, medium and low priority and short, medium and longer term needs)*

15:30 Announcement New IOC-CLT Joint e-DNA Research Project

Mr. Kris Dierckx, General Representative of Flanders to OECD, UNESCO and Council of Europe

15:40 Conference Closing

Ms. Phénia Marras-Ait-Razouk, Marine Adviser, International Relations, Office français de la biodiversité

15:50 Final Remarks, Follow Up & Adjourn