

2014 Potsdam Ocean Governance Workshop: Entry Points to Sustainability

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam

29-30 October 2014

1. Whilst there is global consensus that the sustainable use of resources in the ocean and coasts is essential for achieving global sustainability, the health and productivity of marine ecosystems continue to decline. The 2014 Potsdam Ocean Governance Workshop will bring together outstanding scientists and representatives from governments, international organisations and civil society to explore possible new entry points to ocean sustainability.

2. A number of critical policy processes are now approaching their conclusion: In the framework of the post-2015 development agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will be agreed – one of which will probably address ocean and coasts. The global community will also decide on the need for a new legal instrument (an UNCLOS Implementing Agreement) for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (“High Seas”), covering almost half of the Earth’s surface. Meanwhile, new industrial activities progress inexorably towards an uncertain outcome

3. In this context the aim of this workshop is to provide a transdisciplinary platform to advance creative thinking and to put forward governance options that could feed directly into these processes. Following the first Potsdam Ocean Governance Workshop in 2013¹, this year’s dialogue will be oriented around three thematic working groups that will focus on opportunities to ocean sustainability at three different scales:

- a) A Sustainable Development Goal for Ocean and Coasts: From global goal framing towards indicators and targets for implementation;
- b) Governing the High Seas: Linking global governance and regional implementation;

¹ The workshop “Oceans in the Anthropocene: Advancing governance of the high seas” was jointly organized with IDDRI and took place from 20-21 March 2013. For information on last year’s event please see:

<http://www.iass-potsdam.de/research-clusters/global-contract-sustainability/sustainability-governance/ocean-governance/news>

c) Ocean sustainability through transparency: The potentially transformative role of transparency in the governance of human activities such as fisheries and deep sea bed mining.

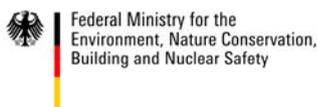
4. The workshop will be hosted by Professor Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam and organised in collaboration with GEOMAR Helmholtz-Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, University of Kiel (Cluster of Excellence "The Future Ocean"), the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

5. During the workshop the 40th anniversary of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme will be marked with an evening reception and key note address on day one. The BMUB and UNEP will provide respective input.

6. Potsdam Ocean Governance Workshops at the IASS provide a unique opportunity for scientists, decision makers and civil society to meet in a secluded environment and to engage in focused dialogues on ocean sustainability issues. The Workshop is by invitation only and funds are available to support travel expenses, if required.

7. A draft agenda is outlined below. Further detailed information and preparatory documents will be distributed in advance of the workshop.

Partners:



Funded by:



Draft Agenda

Arrival – Tuesday, 28 October 2014

19:00 *Welcome dinner at a restaurant in Potsdam*

Day 1 – Wednesday, 29 October 2014

9:30-10:00 *Welcome coffee in the Fireplace Room at IASS*

10:00-10:30 Opening by Klaus Töpfer (IASS) together with Teresa Ribera (IDDRI) and Martin Visbeck (GEOMAR/University of Kiel)

10:30-10:45 Video Message by Achim Steiner, Executive Director (UNEP), introduced by Jan Dusík, Regional Director and Regional Representative for Europe (UNEP)

10:45-11:00 Introductory presentation: Rémi Parmentier (Global Ocean Commission):
From Decline to Recovery - A Rescue Package for the Global Ocean

11:00-12:30 Presentation and discussion of issue papers on the three workshop themes:

- i) A Sustainable Development Goal for Ocean and Coasts: Martin Visbeck (GEOMAR /University of Kiel) and Kate Houghton (IASS)
 - Commentary by Heike Imhoff, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
- ii) Governing the High Seas - Linking global governance and regional implementation: Julien Rochette (IDDRI), Takehiro Nakamura (UNEP) and Sebastian Unger (IASS)
 - Commentary by Darius Campbell, (OSPAR Commission)
- iii) Ocean sustainability through transparency: Michael Lodge (International Seabed Authority) and Jeff Ardron (IASS)
 - Commentary by Ricardo Serrão Santos (Member of the European Parliament)

Coffee served in between

12:30-13:30 Key note address: Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

13:30-14:30 *Lunch served at IASS*

14:30-18:00 Formation of the three working groups, each of which will begin to consider the relevant issue papers and discuss possible policy options.

Coffee served in between

18:00-19:00 Evening reception: 40 Years of Action - the UNEP Regional Seas Programme

Key note addresses by:

- Jan Dusík, Regional Director and Representative for Europe
- Heike Imhoff (TBC), Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

19:00 *Dinner served at IASS*

Day 2 – Thursday, 30 October 2014

09:30-10:00 Feedback from day one in plenary

10:00-11:30 Return to working group discussions and possible exchange between the groups on cross-cutting themes

11:30-12:00 *Coffee break*

12:00-13:00 Plenary session on working group discussions

13:00-14:00 *Lunch served at IASS*

14:00-16:00 Drafting of working groups' conclusions and recommendations

Coffee served in between

16:00-17:00 Working groups' reporting back

Synthesis and workshop conclusion: Recommendations and next steps

Professor Klaus Töpfer (IASS) and partner institutions (UNEP, BMUB, IDDRI, GEOMAR/University of Kiel)

An excursion to historic Potsdam and UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites will be offered on Friday, 31 October 2014.