

13th WIOMSA Symposium Special Session: BBNJ DAY Agenda (DRAFT)

Date: Friday, 3rd October 2025

Location: Manta Ray, Pride Inn Paradise Resort

Format: Hybrid (In-person & Virtual)

Target Audience: Researchers, Policy Makers, Early Career Researchers, Ocean Governance Experts and NGO practitioners.

Co-organisers: High Seas Alliance (HSA), Institute for Security Studies (ISS), International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Eastern & Southern African Regional Office (IUCN-ESARO), Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS) under the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Ocean Voices & Seychelles Conservation & Climate Adaptation Trust (SEYCCAT).

Morning Session: Understanding the BBNJ Agreement and Aligning with Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Priorities

Session Objectives:

- Clarify the BBNJ Agreement's provisions and discuss alignment with WIO priorities.
- Facilitate dialogue among governments, civil society, & academia on ocean governance.
- Identify needs for effective BBNJ implementation, particularly regarding capacity-building & marine technology transfer.

Moderator(s): Sibongile (HSA/TNC)

Note taker: Magali Rocamora (IUCN-ESARO) & Plaud note Ai

Media: Ghaamid Hatibu (IUCN-ESARO)

See Annexe 1 for the agenda.

Afternoon Session: The Science We Need for the WIO & its Role in BBNJ Implementation

Session Objectives:

- Identify scientific engagement & capacity gaps
- Discuss data, platforms, and priority research themes for BBNJ
- Explore conservation strategies and the role of NGOs, institutions, and scientists

Moderators(s): Sheena Talma and Marie-May Jeremie

Note taker: Laura Monatano & Plaud note Ai

Media: Ghaamid Hatibu

See Annexe 2 for the agenda.

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Annexe 1:

Understanding the BBNJ Agreement and Aligning with WIO Priorities

Time	Duration	Topic	Speaker(s)
09h00-09h30	30 mins	Registration - coffee and tea	
09h30-09h40	10 mins	Opening: - Welcoming & introduction of co-organisers - Welcoming remarks	Sibongile Manzana,, Alberto Pacheco Capella (UNEP) Sheena Talma (Talma Consultancy/ Ocean Voices)
09h40-09h50	10 min	Keynote: <i>BBNJ in Africa</i>	Marie-May Jeremie (WIOMSA/ SEYCCAT)
09h50-10h00	10 min	Overview of the BBNJ Agreement & status of ratification	Jeremy Raguain (IUCN-ESARO)
09h50-10h00	10 min	Outcomes of the Preparatory Commission	Sinkinesh Jimma (UNEP)
10h00-10h10	10 min	BBNJ Support for E. & S. Africa	Yvonne Khaemba (IUCN-ESARO)
10h10-10h20	10 min	WIO Participation & Support needs	Dr Jared Bosire (NCS)
	The Pillars of the BBNJ Agreement		
10h20-10h25	5 min	Marine Genetic Resources	Sheena Talma
10h25-10h30	5 min	Area-Based Management Tools incl. MPAs	Marie-May Jeremie
10h35-10h40	5 min	Environmental Impact Assessments	Jeremy Raguain
10h40-10h45	5 min	Capacity-Building & Technology Transfer	Jeremy Raguain
10h45-11h00	15 min	Plenary Q&A	Sibongile Manzana
11h00-11h15	15 min	Capacity-Building & Technology Transfer Priorities & Challenges in the WIO	Barkha Mossae
11h15-11h30	15 min	Plenary Q&A	Sibongile Manzana
11h45-12h00	15 min	WIO Regional BBNJ Vision & Implementation Framework	Chris Mcowen (UNEP-WCMC)
12h00-12h15	15min	Plenary Q&A	Sibongile Manzana
12h15-12h30	15min	Wrap-up & invitation to subsequent session	Sibongile Manzana
12h30-14h00	90 min	Networking Lunch	

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Annexe 2:

The Science We Need for the WIO & Its Role in BBNJ Implementation

Time	Duration	Topic	Speaker(s)
14h00-14h10	10 min	Session Introduction	Sheena Talma and Marie-May Jeremie
14h10-14h30	20 min	Building Inter-operable Science and Technical Capacity – Focus on the WIO region’s scientific baseline for BBNJ	Barkha Mossae
14h30-15h00	30 min	Overview of science platforms	Dr Kirsty McQuaid (Nelson Mandela University) Dr. Taryn Murray (NRF-SAIAB) Dr Thomas Dzeha (D. John Faulkner Centre for Marine Biodiscovery and Biomedicine)
15h00-16h40	100 min	Breakout Discussions 1. Scientific engagement and capacity gaps 2. Data, platforms, and priority research themes for BBNJ implementation 3. Conservation strategies and role of NGOs, institutions, and scientists 4. Financial Mechanisms and Needs	To be determined by the groups.
16h40-17h15	35 min	Report-back & Synthesis	To be determined by the groups.
1715-17h30	Closing	Summary of key discussion points and next steps	Sheena Talma and Marie-May Jeremie