Implementation and Compliance under the BBNJ Agreement Workshop

Programme and Participant Information

Date: 27-30 October 2026

Organisers: The University of Edinburgh (Professor James Harrison) and Ocean Voices (Dr Harriet Harden-Davies); CIL (Dr Tara Davenport), KIOST (Dr Wonhee Kim), NCLOS (Dr Maria Madalena Afonso das Neves), ANCORS (Dr Sarah Lothian)

Objectives

1. To unpack the legal, administrative and policy measures required to ensure the effective implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, including each of the four elements of its Package Deal, namely marine genetic resources (MGRs), area-based management tools (ABMTs), environmental impact assessment (EIA) and capacity-building and technology transfer (CBTT);
2. Investigating practical steps to be undertaken to implement the BBNJ Agreement at the national level, including capacity-building needs and challenges;
3. Investigating practical steps to be undertaken to implement the BBNJ Agreement at the international level, including substantive guidance to be adopted by the BBNJ COP and subsidiary bodies;
4. Examining the role and function of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, and its relationship with other bodies established under the BBNJ Agreement;
5. To consider how to work with non-parties to the Agreement to achieve its overall objectives

Day One (Tues 27 Oct) Setting the Scene		
12:00-13:00	**Lunch and networking**	
13:00-13:15	**Welcome and opening remarks**	**James Harrison** (Edinburgh)
13:15-14:00	**Keynote speech**	**Judge Zha Hyoung Rhee** (ITLOS)
14:00-15:00	**Panel 1 - Setting the scene** Presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	**Chair: Wonhee Kim** (KIOST) **Speaker:**

		1. **Amber Rose Maggio** (UNDOALOS) – insights from the negotiation of the BBNJ Agreement 2. **Rozemarijn Roland-Holst** (Edinburgh) – Understanding the oceans as a global commons: implications for the BBNJ Agreement
15:00-15:30	**Coffee break**	
15:30-17:00	**Panel 2 - National implementation: steps so far and challenges ahead** Presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	**Chair: James Harrison** (Edinburgh) Speaker: 1. ***Ingrid Andreassen*** *(NCLOS) - Implementation of the BBNJ Agreement by Norway (online)* 2. **Richard Barnes** (NCLOS) - Implementation of the BBNJ Agreement by the UK 3. **Sarah Lothian** (ANCORS) - Implementation of the BBNJ Agreement by Australia
Day Two (Wed 28 Oct) **Implementation and capacity building**		
09:00-10:30	**Panel 3 - Implementation of Part IV on EIA, SEA and monitoring** Presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	**Chair: Wonhee Kim (KIOST)** Speaker: **1.** **Kristine Gu** (Edinburgh) – developing guidance for SEA ***2.*** ***Vito De Lucia*** *(NCLOS) - Role of the STB with respect to SEA (online)* ***3.*** ***Aline Jaekel*** *(ANCORS) - The requirements regarding implementation of Part IV on EIAs (online)*
10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**	

11:00-12:30	**Panel 4 - The contribution of other international organisations to the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement** Presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	Chair: **Zhen Sun (CIL)** Speaker: 1. ***Constance Johnson*** *(ANCORS) - Compliance with the BBNJ Agreement from a regional governance perspective (online)* 2. **Wei Wu** (Wuhan University) – Fisheries and BBNJ 3. **Ina Tessnow-von Wysocki** (Potsdam Research Institute for Sustainability) – Sharing one ocean: BBNJ and the ISA
12:30-14:00	**Lunch Break**	
14:00-15:30	**Panel 5 - Implementation of Part III: ABMTs and an MPA network in areas beyond national jurisdiction** Presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	**Chair: Sarah Lothian** (ANCORS) Speaker: 1. **Mariana Caldeira** (Edinburgh)– developing guidance for participatory decision-making in the context of ABMTs 2. **James Harrison** (Edinburgh) – towards a network of MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction 3. ***Maria Madalena Afonso das Neves*** *(NCLOS) - Mechanisms for cooperation and coordination between international organizations taking OSPAR's experience (online)*
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break**	
16:00-17:30	**Panel 6 - MGRs, benefit-sharing, and technology transfer under the BBNJ Agreement** Presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	**Chair: Harriet Harden-Davies** (Edinburgh/Ocean Voices) 1. **Lowri Mai Griffiths** (Lowri Griffiths Consulting) **-** Remaining Challenges to Institutionalizing and Implementing Part II of the BBNJ Agreement 2. **Yulu Liu** (CIL) **-** Southeast Asian initiatives in capacity building and technology transfer 3. **Amandine Leonard** (Edinburgh) – The BBNJ Agreement and the patent regime

18:00-	**Workshop Dinner**	This is an event for speakers at the workshop
Day three (Thur 29 Oct) **Compliance, implementation, and cross-cutting issues**		
09:30-11:00	**Panel 7 - Wider perspectives on BBNJ implementation and compliance** Presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	**Chair: James Harrison** (Edinburgh) 1. **Lucy Tomkins** (Edinburgh): Human rights and the BBNJ Agreement – opportunities to mainstream RBA into the treaty regime 2. **Kristine Dalaker** (ANCORS) - Exploring activities and/or measures that support and promote implementation and compliance of the BBNJ Agreement 3. **Zhen Sun** (CIL) - Capacity Building: Measures to Improve Compliance and Lessons from the IMO
11:00-11:30	**Coffee Break**	
11:30-13:00	**Panel 8 - Designing an effective Implementation and Compliance Committee** Presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	**Chair: Sarah Lothian** (ANCORS) 1. **Eva van der Marel** (NCLOS) - Comparative look between different compliance mechanisms 2. **Wonhee Kim** (KIOST) – Role and Function of the Implementation and Compliance Committee under the BBNJ Agreement 3. **Harriet Harden-Davies** (Edinburgh/Ocean Voices) – the relationship between implementation, compliance and capacity-building
13:00-14:30	**Lunch**	
14:30-16:00	**Panel 9 - Cross-cutting issues under the BBNJ Agreement**	**Chair: James Harrison** (Edinburgh)

	Academic presentations x 3 (20 mins each)	1. **Christine Gaebel** (Edinburgh/Ocean Voices) – Clearing House mechanisms 2. ***Tara Davenport*** *(CIL)* **-** *Dispute Settlement under the BBNJ Agreement (online)* 3. **Aixin Yu** (Edinburgh) – The relationship between the Implementation and Compliance Committee and Dispute Settlement mechanism under the BBNJ Agreement
16:00-17:00	**(Roundtable) Wrap up and final reflections - key insights from the workshops and future issues**	Dr Wonhee Kim (KIOST) Dr James Harrison (Edinburgh) Zhen Sun (CIL) Dr Sarah Lothian (ANCORS)
17:00-18:30	**Reception**	
Day Four (Fri 30 Oct) **Excursion for speakers**		

Main organisers and sponsors:









In conjunction with:







