

FROM BLUE FOOD FOR THOUGHT TO BLUE FOOD FOR ACTION

Facilitated hybrid roundtable dialogue with partners and guest speakers

monaco
ocean week

Wednesday, 23 March, 2022, 16h00-17h30

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References:

From Blue Food for Thought to Blue Food for Action:

[Full paper](#)

Summaries in [English](#) and [French](#)

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PARTICIPANTS:

- Rémi Parmentier, The Varda Group, lead author of From Blue Food..., (facilitator)
- Sylvie Goyet, Advisor to CEO and President, Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco (host)
- Dona Bertarelli, DB Philanthropy * (partner)
- Romain Troublé, Executive Director, Fondation Tara Océan (partner)
- Marie Romani, Executive Secretary, MedPAN (partner)
- Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO *
- Lisa Levin, Scripps Institution of Oceanography *
- Loreley Picourt, Secretary General, Ocean & Climate Platform
- Karen Sack, Executive Secretary, Ocean Risk and Resilience Alliance
- Tanya Brodie Rudolph, Enviromer, South Africa
- Professor Françoise Gaill, CNRS, France
- Geneviève Pons, Director General, Europe Jacques Delors Institute *
- Elizabeth Karan, Pew High Seas Project *
- Jérôme Petit, Pew Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy
- Anna Zivian, The Ocean Conservancy
- Markus Reymann, TBA21 Academy
- Torsten Thiele, Global Ocean Trust
- James Barnes, Board Chair, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition *
- Susana Salvador, Executive Secretary, ACCOBAMS
- Sabine Jessen, Executive Secretary, International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5)
- André Abreu, Fondation Tara Océan *
- Florence Tercier, DB Philanthropy
- Corinne Copin, Institut Océanographique, Fondation Albert I Prince de Monaco
- Anaïs Deprez, Ocean & Climate Platform
- Sandya Nishanthi Guansekara, School of Law, Brisbane, Australia *
- Claudia Big, International law practitioner (France)
- Giuditta Andreaus, IUCN
- Simon Davis, Seadling, Malaysia
- Julian Jackson, Pew High Sea Project *
- Isabel Leal, The Varda Group *
- Paula Castillo, The Varda Group trainee *

*: via Zoom

RÉMI PARMENTIER

Welcomed the participants, thanked the partners. Introduced the paper *From Blue Food for Thought to Blue Food for Action*, published on the websites of the Prince Albert of Monaco Foundation and the Monaco Ocean Week. Last year during the lockdown a first draft was published on the Monaco Ocean Week 2021 website, which received positive and constructive, sometimes even enthusiastic feedback on the *out-of-the-box* ideas discussed. Some of these expressions of interest or support are contained in the new paper published in March 2022. A number of people asked last year whether and how some of these ideas could be brought to scale. This encouraged The Varda Group to prepare this second updated and

augmented edition, and with support from Dona Bertarelli, the Tara Ocean Foundation, and MedPAN, to prepare a series of webinars between April and June 2022 before the UN Ocean Conference, on each of the proposals discussed in our paper, namely:

- Making ocean protection the norm rather than the exception
- Numerical management of large fish populations
- Disarmament agreements to stop funding overfishing
- Treating micro-plastics like we treat radioactive wastes, and
- Establishing Regional Ocean Management Organisations.

This workshop held during the Monaco Ocean Week 2022 in the form of a tour de table with experts in ocean science, ocean policy and ocean advocacy provides the opportunity of a first general exchange of views before the thematic workshops take place in the next three months. At the end of the thematic webinar series, in June before the UN Ocean Conference another report will be published and presented. Some of the original ideas may be validated or improved or complemented by others; some maybe be validated but parked because maybe now is not the time; some may simply be dumped in the bin because there's not enough support. One key criteria will be the interest and willingness of a critical mass to carry them forward, and this is also where participants in the workshop and the follow-up webinars come in play.

WELCOME REMARKS - SYLVIE GOYET, PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION

During the Monaco Blue Initiative meeting on Monday 21st March, Secretary John Kerry, President Biden's Special Envoy for Climate, called on all of us to be bold and to come up with *out-of-the-box* ideas. So, congratulations to Rémi and The Varda Group and to your partners, because this is exactly what you are doing with this report and this process. One function of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is to act as a platform for bringing partners together. As philanthropists, the Foundation can take a bit of risk in support of innovation. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't, but it is a privilege to be part of these attempts. It is in this spirit that the Foundation's CEO and President Olivier Wenden agreed to support the first publication *Blue Food for Thought* last year, and now the second one, *From Blue Food For Thought to Blue Food for Action*.

DONA BERTARELLI, DB PHILANTHROPY

Because the world keeps changing and the international order is no longer the same, we need to change the way we negotiate and build policies, which is why she is very supportive of this process kick-started today, because we need bold approaches and innovating thinking. There are high hopes for the 30x30 goal, for example there are a great deal of announcements coming out of Latin America and elsewhere. But whether this will be enough remains to be seen. Hence we need to think bigger and that is why this initiative is so relevant, to supplement what is already into action.

ROMAIN TROUBLÉ, FONDATION TARA

Very happy to see so much interest. Now is the time to think outside of the box, to build stronger policies and to create new tools. Building policy requires collaboration and engaging many different stakeholders by using new approaches. This is why Tara is inspired and committed to supporting this process.

MARIE ROMANI, MEDPAN

MedPAN is made up of many different actors acting at local, regional, and global levels in the Mediterranean. It is a network of many committed people who believe in the value of empowering stakeholders to take action and achieve the 30x30 target with effective MPAs covering all aspects and activities of MPAs. But MedPAN is also aware that MPAs are only one small tool to address wider ocean conservation challenges at large, including those triggered by pollution, tourism and other human-induced activities. In the Mediterranean, only approximately 8% of the marine environment has some kind of protection status, and even there effective governance, enforcement, and resources are lacking.

This why MedPAN agrees to the need for a new vision, intrigued by the new approach outlined in the paper, to take a new approach “making ocean protection the norm rather than the exception”, willing to help bringing it forward.

VLADIMIR RYABININ, UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC)

IOC is a little bit overwhelmed right now. More than 250 ideas were submitted in response to the first call for actions in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This resulted in 31 programmes, and after the second call and the upcoming call, with the Advisory Board we will have around 40 programmes. To enable codesign of the Decade, IOC has developed a dedicated forum and a website where people can join in the discussion. IOC wants interested individuals and organizations to commit to the plans and add in more ideas; in that context there is a lot of potential in some of the ideas exposed in the Blue Food for Action report. In particular, the idea of making ocean protection the rule rather than the exception can shape the BBNJ discussions to influence the thinking in the right direction. Even when ideas are too bold, they can have an influence. “It is never too bad to dream.” The idea of treating micro-plastic particles like radioactive substances is also interesting because it requires cutting edge science and innovation (i.e. tracing origin sources of pollution, including plastic). The discussion on Regional Ocean Management Organizations is also useful: the current system is not really working perfectly; in terms of management we go into small details and there is the possibility of consolidation on the basis of science. This document fits the title: thank you for thinking boldly and for waking us up; it gives me food for thought: you have achieved your targets.

LISA LEVIN, SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Protection rather than exploitation: People don’t protect what they don’t know; They protect what they love. In the case of the largest part of the ocean – the high seas and deep seas – this argues for exploration before exploitation, and there is a major role for science to help map, explore and observe. Strongly supports that plastics merit respect and treatment of chemical and radioactive wastes, and suggests a role for science in detecting plastic occurrence transport, sources and effects on human health. Consider advocating for plastics as an *Essential Ocean Variable* in the Global Ocean Observing System framework. Regional Ocean Management Organization is an idea whose time has come as pressures mount on multiple fronts. Just as we realized it is impossible to eradicate hunger and poverty without considering the environment and empowering people (leading to a shift from the Millennium Goals to SDGs) we may realize we cannot manage the high seas for fisheries (RFMOs) without considering their environment and other stressors. A holistic perspective that enables management of biodiversity, fish, minerals, energy, carbon and contaminants in one interconnected ocean is needed. Opportunities include linking the global assessments (IPBES,

IPCC and WOA), and linking UN bodies to enable integrated ecosystem assessments. We need improved scientific interfaces and make a better job to bring science to ocean management.

LORELEY PICOURT, OCEAN & CLIMATE PLATFORM

One of the tasks of the Ocean & Climate Platform is scaling up action, pushing forward the ocean-climate-biodiversity approach, as they are all linked: climate smart and biodiversity positive. For the last few years, we've heard too many times that last year, this year or next year are "super years for biodiversity," or "super years for the ocean." Instead, you can count on the Ocean & Climate Platform to put into action the super ideas that we need, like the ones of the Food for Action document.

KAREN SACK, ORRA

This paper is very useful, but it could be bolder. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, someone stood up to address high seas bottom trawling and said that we needed to take baby steps, or we will not get anywhere and we have been taking baby steps since. Instead of baby steps, let's call for the closure of the high seas to fishing; focus on getting the funds required to create a central ocean data service, because we keep hearing the excuse that we do not have enough data. [Pressure the private sector and countries to invest in ocean resilience](#). Shipping companies for example, are using services from the ocean without paying for it. Need an ocean resilience fund to shift subsidies to pay for 30x30 and ocean regeneration. This institution to step out from baby steps, because we need to do more.

TANYA BRODIE RUDOLPH, ENVIROMER

Exciting how emotive language in the imaginative paper is used to reach a broader audience and galvanise action. Interested in the collision of new ideas and how they can be integrated into shifts underway, such as the High Level Panel commitment to 100% sustainable EEZs. A reverse listing approach would support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of science-informed strategic corridors, providing opportunities to coordinate across jurisdictional zones. The disarmament of fishing fleets will require sharing catch, a very effective strategy in the transition towards sustainability known as precompetitive collaboration. Monitoring and enforcement of these negotiated fishing efforts can easily be achieved through the Global Fishing Watch platform. The idea of Regional Ocean Management Organizations is also very inspiring, and can draw on principles of international law for transboundary watercourse sharing arrangements.

FRANÇOISE GAILL, PROFESSOR EMERITA, CNRS

Supports the concept of reversing of the burden of proof, as a new way of taking action by changing the perspective. Reversing one's perspective of a landscape can be a way to find the exit. It can help identify new ways to address nature-based solutions. The analogy of plastic particles with radioactive wastes is also intriguing, and the use of luminescent particles to identify plastic particles in the ocean can help trace their origin.

GENEVIEVE PONS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, EUROPE JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Speaking as co-chair of Antarctica 2020, we have not gained further MPAs designations because CCAMLR requires consensus, and support from Russia and China are missing. Discussions within Antarctica 2020 are on-going. As we are looking for new ideas, the idea of reverse listing is a bold idea which can make people reflect. Reverse listing can be useful in the

Antarctic treaty negotiations, in the post-war scenario. Also agree that the ideas need to come from a higher level too. For the time being, these are good because they make us come back to the origins of the Antarctic treaty, when it was based on peace and protection principles. However, there are two obstacles to overcome: First, we have to wait for better times, and consider it in a post war agenda, given the role of Russia, and – second - the legal feasibility has to be studied with care: it seems a bit late to be introduced into BBNJ or CBD COP15; but even if this is so, it can help as far as the obligation to perform environmental impact assessments, which are part of the BBNJ negotiations.

ELIZABETH KARAN, PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS, HIGH SEAS PROJECT

Captured by this idea of reversing the burden of proof. There is a sense of urgency, and it is not too late. Having these discussions is important to understand why a high seas agreement is needed. Touching upon the plastics idea, there is also a potential BBNJ angle to that too, through Environmental Impact Assessments. Treating plastics as radioactive waste can give weight to think about different tools that prevent plastics entering the system.

Lastly, on the idea of Regional Ocean Management Organizations: although there is in the BBNJ talks a reluctance to create new governance bodies (because there will always be competing interests between organizations) we are always going to fall short of true ambition if there is not an adequate institution or mechanism; not sure that ROMOs are the good way to go, but certainly think the idea is interesting. Above all we need the engagement of civil society, and it is encouraging that we are starting to get a seat in the BBNJ table.

JÉRÔME PETIT, PEW BERTARELLI OCEAN LEGACY

The idea of shifting the burden of proof is not only inspiring but also feasible. The Polynesian concept of *rahui* may help. In French Polynesia people typically live on one side of their atoll, and when resources are depleted there, they move to the other side. But sustainable management of natural resources would be reinforced if the reversal of the burden of proof was implemented in Polynesia.

ANNA ZIVIAN, OCEAN CONSERVANCY

The paper as a breath of fresh air. Especially the idea of shifting the burden of proof, drawing on past successes, and also the idea of Regional Ocean Management Organizations which could be an opportunity to bring in local voices, to include Indigenous peoples and local communities impacted by extractive activities. Agrees that we have to look for ways around WTO, to go to the source rather than the end of chain. And glad there is a mention of the climate/fossil fuels interrelation with the plastics realm, as it is a key issue. Plastics are made from fossil fuels which then end up in the atmosphere and enhance climate change.

MARKUS REYMAN, TBA21 ACADEMY

Coming from the peculiar angle of arts, I appreciate the shift of looking at the challenge and appreciate the escalation of language, because I am tired of listening to the same words in all the conferences. But I am not sure though about the target audience of the first idea. There is a crisis of imagination. We do not dare to think. This is a starting point. We are addressing challenges that are decades old and need to go further. We need to find experiences that bring the ocean back to people; one question here is who has the right to speak and who is being addressed. The ocean-climate nexus is one thing, but social and environmental justice and

intersectionality issues are another. All in all, these are difficult topics and concepts, and for addressing these intertwined menaces, we need to train ourselves to accept complexity, and for that the role of the media is vital.

TORSTEN THIELE, GLOBAL OCEAN TRUST

The Ocean Panel has proposed 100% sustainable ocean plans. Also, Seychelles has committed to protect 100% of its seagrass by 2030. Financing is needed to bring this tool into action. Can we get 100% seagrass protection? Back to the question of Regional Ocean Management Organizations, financial structures are needed to make this happen. And on the idea of numerical management of large fish populations, we need practical knowledge to know how this can be actually done.

JIM BARNES, BOARD CHAIR, ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN COALITION (ASOC)

It's been 30 years since the Madrid Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty. The paper is a new and fresh blood flow to move aspirations higher. There is often a misunderstanding on what the Madrid Protocol does. It covers the entire Antarctic Treaty area south of 60 degrees South, but some provisions apply only to the Continent, especially EIAs. It is worth having a debate about whether fishers shouldn't also be required to do EIAs. With regard to numerical management of large fish, Antarctic toothfish, the main target of Southern Ocean fisheries together with krill, should be considered: they are large and long-lived fish, and since there are no sharks in the Southern Ocean, they play the role of sharks in that ecosystem. Southern Ocean fisheries are probably all subsidized in one way or another, but that is basically not addressed by CCAMLR so far, although there are no legal reasons not to do so; some analysts say that without subsidies, there would be no fishing in the Southern Ocean. The proposal to hold an Antarctic Life Summit raises the question of who goes to CCAMLR and to the Antarctic Treaty negotiations: mainly low- and intermediate-level country representatives. Heads of State and Foreign Ministers do not attend, except Prince Albert who attended a couple of meeting - it was wonderful to have him there and it changed the dynamic for the Ross Sea MPA, making it a priority. Raising further the ambition of senior government officials is therefore crucial. Regarding UNFCCC, we should ask "Who represents there Antarctica -- 10% of the Earth?" The answer is a few NGOs. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), whose scientists know the truth about how the Antarctic is affected by global climate change, could officially represent Antarctica.

SUSANA SALVADOR – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ACCOMBAMS – AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS AREA, AND FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF OSPAR

The challenging tone of the report urges for reinforced efforts and concrete actions towards Ocean's conservation. The suggested reverse of the burden of proof provides a fresh perspective as to how the international community might wish to tackle emerging and growing concerns on the state of marine environment. Many existing organisations - like OSPAR or ACCOBAMS - already make the difference in contributing to improving the state of marine environment, as productive regional cooperation mechanisms under which countries join efforts to protect the Ocean from the many human uses. Despite their work and the efforts of the international community through the different global and sectoral agreements and commitments, the preservation of marine biodiversity is still far from being attained. Unprecedented knowledge and information being now overwhelming and accessible as never before, also thanks to the work of such organisations and agreements, an outstanding

foundation is offered for action. Only a cross-sectoral dialogue involving institutions and the various stakeholders of the Ocean, will pave the way for taking remedial and preventive action. The latest ACCOBAMS overview on the conservation status of cetaceans in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, and the contiguous Atlantic area, which provides some encouraging signs, but also less good news on the status of some species that became “endangered”, such as fin whales.

SABINE JESSEN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF IMPAC5

The combined biodiversity and climate crises are having significant and increasing impacts on the health of the global ocean, and we need new ideas and new solutions. Globally, we are all working toward very ambitious conservation targets and we need to consider how we are going to meet them, and how we can collectively build the roadmap to get there. This will be a major focus for the 5th International MPA Congress (IMPAC5) to be held in Vancouver, Canada. At IMPAC5 we are looking for innovative and transformational ideas to help address the urgent issues facing the ocean. The ideas in the Blue Food for Action paper are the kind that will provide for engaging and provocative conversations at the Congress. We invite everyone here to come to Vancouver for IMPAC5 and bring their new ideas to help change the trajectory of the ocean crises.

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