

MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series

Borderless Conservation: Integrating connectivity into High Seas conservation efforts for the Salas y Gomez & Nazca Ridges

Wednesday, June 15, 5:00 – 6:30pm (CEST)

Venue: Online

Connectivity is essential to consider in area-based marine conservation measures because it greatly impacts vital ecological processes. However, it is generally not well studied or integrated into conservation measures, particularly in the Southeast Pacific. This region is home to the Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges, two adjacent seamount chains that stretch between the Peruvian coast and Rapa Nui (Easter Island), that have been recognized as one of the most important areas to protect globally. However, over 73% of the ridges are in areas beyond national jurisdiction, where they are unprotected and under threat. This presentation will provide a synthesis of what we know about connectivity in the Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges and provide some practical recommendations for integrating this knowledge into conservation and management measures for the region. While data on connectivity is still limited, it should not constrain the development of conservation measures, which should be co-designed and co-developed, leveraging the expertise of international working groups throughout the region. Due to their high rates of endemism, as well as importance as migratory corridors, enacting large-scale conservation measures would address important conservation considerations for both connectivity and representation. Enacting such large-scale conservation measures would not only elevate the Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges as an exemplary example but could also help raise awareness on the severity of externally originating threats like climate change and plastic pollution to global audiences.



Ben Boteler is part of the ocean governance research team at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam, Germany. He is conducting research in an effort to advance and strengthen ocean governance including for the high seas (areas beyond national jurisdiction). In particular, his focus is on the socioeconomic uses and benefits obtained from the marine environment. He was the co-lead of the STRONG High Seas project (Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas), a five year project funded by the German Government (International Climate Initiative (IKI)) that aimed to develop comprehensive, cross-sectoral approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the high seas.

Dr. Carlos Gaymer, UCN Dr. Gaymer is Professor at Universidad Católica del Norte (Chile) and Director of the Center for Ecology and Sustainable Management of Oceanic Islands (ESMOI), a center aiming to provide the scientific basis needed for the conservation of marine ecosystems on seamounts and oceanic islands of the south Pacific.



Dr. Daniel Wagner serves as the Chief Scientist for the Ocean Exploration Trust, where he oversees scientific aspects of research expeditions aboard E/V Nautilus. Dr. Wagner has conducted field research on marine ecosystems for close to 20 years, and has since participated in 27 multi-disciplinary research expeditions that explored some of the most remote deep-sea habitats in the Indo-Pacific, Atlantic, and Southern Oceans. Daniel grew up in Ecuador, and currently resides in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The monthly [MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series](#) offer a virtual space to get information and engage in exchanges on ocean governance issues, through presentations by international experts from academia, governments, international organisations and civil society. It is organised by the MARIPOLDATA project.

To register: via email to maripoldata.erc@univie.ac.at, indicating your name and institution

More information: <https://www.maripoldata.eu>

Project Leader: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alice Vadrot - MARIPOLDATA Principal investigator, University of Vienna - alice.vadrot@univie.ac.at

Seminar Organiser: Ina Tessnow-von Wysocki - MARIPOLDATA PhD student, University of Vienna - ina.tessnow-vonwysocki@univie.ac.at

University of Vienna, Department of Political Sciences, Kolingasse 14-16, 1090 Vienna, www.univie.ac.at ; www.maripoldata.eu

MARIPOLDATA received funding from the European Research Council under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 804599)