

The logo consists of a square divided horizontally. The top half is white, and the bottom half is blue. The text "National Oceanography Centre" is written in black in the blue section.

National
Oceanography
Centre

BIODIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION

- OPERATOR IMPACTS -

Ella Darlington

I'M NOT A LAWYER... OR A POLICY MAKER

... I AM A CRUISE SCHEDULER

AIMS OF BBNJ?

The agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction ([BBNJ Agreement](#)), also known as the “Treaty of the High Seas”, is key to:

- protect the ocean
- promote equity and fairness
- tackle environmental degradation
- fight climate change
- prevent biodiversity loss in the high seas

OBJECTIVES OF BBNJ

Under the overall objective of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) for the present and in the long-term, through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention and further international cooperation and coordination, the BBNJ Agreement addresses four main issues:

- Sets up a procedure to establish **large-scale marine protected areas** in the high seas. This facilitates the achievement of the target to effectively conserve and manage 30% of land and sea by 2030, which was agreed in December 2022 within the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#).
- Establishes the **sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources (MGR)**.
- Contains **clear rules to conduct environmental impact assessments**, with the right checks and balances, before human activities take place in the high seas.
- Foresees **capacity building and the transfer of marine technology** between the Parties.

After a decade of talks and negotiations...

- 19 June 2023 the Agreement was adopted by consensus at the 5th BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference in New York.
- 20 September 2023 the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, signed the BBNJ Agreement on behalf of the EU.
- The Agreement is open for signature from 20 September 2023 and remains open for signature until **20 September 2025**
- "This Agreement shall enter into force **120 days after the date of deposit of the sixtieth** instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession"
- **January 18th 2026** at the latest
- Currently 7 ratifications to date: Belize, Chile, Mauritius, Micronesia, Monaco, Palau and Seychelles
- ... 53 to go...

CRUISE PLANNING SCENARIO

- NOC & Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) had a 1 day workshop
- Identified key areas in the cruise planning process where **additional steps** are needed
 - Planning
 - Making opportunities transparent
 - Trying to align with current timelines for diplomatic clearances
 - Delivery
 - Issue of batch identifiers for samples
 - Post-cruise
 - Report submissions
 - Storage of samples

ARTICLES 9 & 10

- Question(s) – how can opportunities be made visible and enabled via cruise planning
- Question(s) – how can opportunities to get involved in activities be enabled via cruise planning, incl. grant proposals

MFP | Scientist Portal

Eleanor Darlington

HYBRIDTIMELINETABLEMAPCALENDAR

Ships

« < Today > »

Period: 01/01/2024 - 01/01/2025

12 Months

CodeApplication NamePI/CSDeparture ↑ArrivalDeparture PortArrival PortLocation

Discovery

DY172

New Perspectives on Ocean Pho...

Thomas Bibby

Thomas Bibby

17 Dec 2023

26 Jan 2024

21 Dec 2023

29 Jan 2024

Cape Town

Walvis Bay

South Atlantic Gyre and HNLC region of Southern O...

synopsis

Apply

DY173

Consolidated - Congo Cruise A (...)

Peter Talling

2 Feb 2024

16 Mar 2024

8 Feb 2024

18 Mar 2024

Walvis Bay

Mindelo

Congo Submarine Canyon

synopsis

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DY176

DY Passage CVMIN > ESSCT 2024

Eleanor Darlington

20 Mar 2024

24 Mar 2024

20 Mar 2024

24 Mar 2024

Mindelo

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

synopsis

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DY174

RAPID East (Feb 2024)

Ben Moat

Ben Moat

25 Mar 2024

11 Apr 2024

31 Mar 2024

13 Apr 2024

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

Subtropical Atlantic

synopsis

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SOG SEDIMENT TRAP MOORING...

Corinne Pebody

Katsiaryna Pabortsava

18 May 2024

18 May 2024

To be confirmed

To be confirmed

Atlantic-Southern oligotrophic gyre

synopsis

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James Cook

hello

Matt Tiahlo

14 Jan 2024

8 Mar 2024

To be confirmed

To be confirmed

synopsis

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JC256

JC Passage Jan 2024

Eleanor Darlington

22 Jan 2024

31 Jan 2024

22 Jan 2024

31 Jan 2024

Caldera

Caldera

synopsis

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JC257

NERC Highlight Topic Deep-Sea ...

Adrian Glover

Daniel Jones

1 Feb 2024

21 Mar 2024

6 Feb 2024

25 Mar 2024

Puerto Caldera

Puerto Caldera

Clarion-Clipperton Zone, Pacific

synopsis

Apply

ARTICLE 12 - NOTIFICATION

Project Roles		Accept offer	Penny Holliday, Andrew Gates ✓, Anita Flohr	✓ Complete	...	20/02/2024	View	⋮
PI	Penny Holliday ✎	3. CRUISE PLANNING						
Chief Scientist	Andrew Gates ✎	Submit diplomatic clearance application	Penny Holliday, Andrew Gates, Anita Flohr, Jane Thompson ✓, Sarah Scanlan	✓ Complete		23/09/2023 23/11/2023	View	⋮
Project Manager	Daniel Comben ✎	Edit Draft Supply Agreement	Penny Holliday, Andrew Gates, Anita Flohr, Daniel Comben ✓	✓ Complete		12/11/2023 16/04/2024	View	⋮
Review Manager	N.A. ✎							
Captain	John Leask ✎							
Senior Technician	Nick Rundle ✎							

- Time to submit intentions to the Clearing House Mechanisms – align with normal MSR / Dip-Clearance request
- Reports to be submitted to the Clearing House Mechanism within one year of collection

Upload summary cruise report	Penny Holliday, Andrew Gates, Anita Flohr	Pending	19/06/2024	⋮
Confirm data submission to BODC	Daniel Comben	Pending	26/06/2024	⋮
Review Post Cruise Assessment		Pending	26/06/2024	⋮
Upload NMF technical reports	Alexander Phillips, Helen Oldridge	Pending	26/06/2024	⋮
Final acceptance of NMF data supply	Penny Holliday, Andrew Gates	Pending	15/12/2024	⋮
Upload final scientific cruise report	Penny Holliday, Andrew Gates, Anita Flohr	Pending	15/12/2024	⋮
Close project	Daniel Comben	Pending	15/12/2024	⋮

ARTICLE 30 & 31 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

“When a planned activity may have more than a minor or transitory effect on the marine environment, or the effects of the activity are unknown or poorly understood, the Party with jurisdiction or control of the activity shall conduct a screening of the activity under article 31”

Article 31 – Process for environmental impact assessments

- **Screening.** Parties shall undertake screening, in a timely manner, to determine whether an environmental impact assessment is required in respect of a planned activity under its jurisdiction or control, in accordance with article 30, and make its determination publicly available: [..]
- **Scoping.** Parties shall ensure that key environmental and any associated impacts, such as economic, social, cultural and human health impacts, including potential cumulative impacts and impacts [..] to be included in the environmental impact assessments [..].
- **Impact assessment and evaluation.** Parties shall ensure that the impacts of planned activities including [..] impacts within national jurisdiction are assessed and evaluated using the best available science and scientific information

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS - PRESENT

- Brief EIA on the SME form at application stage
- Follow up EIA once programmed, approx. 6 months before
- We have a EIA assessor, who is going to get busier!
- This is not suited to BBNJ...

[Project Management](#) > [Workflow](#) > [Application Form](#)

Marine Environmental Impact Assessment

Are there any known seasonal environmental constraints for working in the area? (E.g Breeding season)

No

Are any items of deployed equipment planned to remain unrecovered? (E.g. Anchors).

Yes

Potentially weights of the lander depending on lander design.

Is any of the material not planned to be recovered hazardous?

No

Are any substances to be purposefully introduced into the water column to support the science?

No

Will any marine organisms be intentionally sampled/captured/killed (including invertebrates and flora)?

No

Do you plan to recover and import any biological organisms or samples?

No

Will you bring any hazardous materials for the cruise?

No

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

- Using the MFP we will:
 - Publicly advertise **funded** projects
 - Enhance the interface to enable more 'tag-on' projects
- Undertake an EIA once a project is **funded**
- Feed the EIA findings into scheduling the cruise
- Submit required BBNJ forms with the MSR / dip-clear requests
- Require the 'batch identifier' to be located on the MFP for future reference
- Provide a step to submit cruise reports / sample lists in standardised format to the Clearing House Mechanism

WHAT ARE WE NOT DOING (AS VESSEL OPERATOR)

- Finding long term storage solutions for the Marine Genetic Resource (MGR) samples
- This is being looked at by the archives / Discovery Collection team

The logo for the National Oceanography Centre, featuring a white square with a black border. The text "National Oceanography Centre" is written in black, stacked vertically inside the square.

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ANYONE ELSE THINKING ABOUT THIS?

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