



## 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

### *Biodiversity for a Resilient Planet: A Deeper Look*

June 28th, 2022 1:15pm – 2:45pm, Pavilion of Knowledge

Organized by: The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI), The University of California San Diego, The University of Aveiro, IUCN, Challenger 150, IOC-UNESCO, Ciência Viva, the Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS), and Okeanos.

#### **Background on the event**

The deep ocean contains over 90 percent of the living space for life on Earth, and its remarkable biodiversity is critical for human well-being. While it can seem remote and unchanging, this deep-sea biodiversity faces clear and increasing threats from climate change, mining, fishing, and pollution. To make sure deep-ocean life can keep supporting a liveable planet, we need new partnerships and policy solutions that make good use of the latest ocean science. This panel, designed for all audiences, gathered top experts to share ideas for scaling up effective management and conservation of the deep sea. [The event recording is available here.](#)

#### **Key Issues discussed**

- Important benefits provided by deep-sea biodiversity
- Current threats facing deep-sea life
- The current state of deep-ocean policy
- Steps we can take in policy or science to conserve deep-ocean biodiversity equitably
- The importance of building connections between science, policy, and legal experts

## **Key recommendations for action**

- A robust section on capacity building is needed in the BBNJ agreement, and current commitments must be carried out.
- Think of our ocean as one ocean that works best when it works together, overcoming artificial divisions in policy and science.
- Build a commitment to marine scientific research including both national waters and the high seas, especially before considering extractive activities. We need a “digital revolution” for information in the ocean.
- To invest in science, we need to invest in people, especially in Small Island Developing States. We need a more diverse deep-sea workforce. Do more to create a more inclusive environment that allows new people to lead research, both through funding and fairer approaches to partnerships.
- Tackle and solve the climate change problem, as this is incredibly important to vulnerable states and the deep sea.
- Effective coordination, like that pursued by the Challenger 150 program, is needed. There need to be close ties between ocean scientists, lawyers, and policymakers. Those with scientific knowledge, especially of the younger generation, should consider going into politics and using their platforms to communicate deep-ocean challenges and solutions clearly.

## **Voluntary Commitments**

During the event, DOSI highlighted its voluntary commitments to projects like [Challenger 150](#), which is working to coordinate deep-ocean research to inform management. These commitments are ongoing and, especially in the case of Challenger 150, are preparing to launch into new and exciting phases.