

***DOSI Report on WG2020-5 and COP 15:
Montreal, Canada
3-13 December 2022***

Anna Metaxas attended WG2020-5 and COP15 on behalf of DOSI and supported by DOSI funding. This was DOSI's second participation in the CBD process and was much more active than the first one. Activities included meetings with several Party delegations, participation on a panel on Ocean and Climate Change, two interviews, one of which was a major press release of a policy brief by Senckenberg Society, as well as attendance in several sessions and side events. The goal was to increase the visibility of DOSI and the deep sea in general, as well as bring attention to the shortcomings of the existing indicators that will be used to report on WG2020 to the marine environment. Important connections were made that, if pursued further, can position DOSI well for participating in efforts for the development of indicators, which can be a focus for the Task Force on the Conservation of Biodiversity.

DOSI Delegation

Anna Metaxas, Canada (DOSI C-Lead of Task Force for Conservation of Deep-Ocean Biodiversity)



DOSI Activities at WG2020-5 and COP15

1) Interactions to Advance Science

Metaxas had a number of productive meetings with several Party and Observer delegations:

- She met with members of the Canadian Delegation (Renée Sauvé, Fariz Ahmadov, Caroline Longtin and Jessika Woroniak) on 4 Dec and discussed

several aspects of / concerns with the relevance and availability of indicators that are being proposed to track progress on Goals and Targets of the WG2020

- After a second meeting on 12 Dec, Metaxas provided written feedback to Ahmadov on a document on indicators prepared by Longtin. Metaxas was assured that she will be contacted when experts are being proposed for the further development of indicators.
- She met members of the UK delegation and the JNCC (Daniela Rooke and Gemma Singleton) to discuss a document on metrics of OECM effectiveness produced by JNCC and the relevance of indicators, particularly of connectivity, for the marine environment. It was agreed that DOSI will follow up in January 2023 to explore potential collaborations for the development of indicators.
- In a meeting with member of Fiji delegation (Sandeep Singh) on 8 Dec, Metaxas shared her concerns about the suitability of the proposed indicators for the marine environment, especially for connectivity, and the particular concern for ocean Parties (such as SIDS) which will need to report progress by 2030. Singh was very interested and also expressed desire to connect with DOSI for BBNJ 5.bis. Metaxas followed up by sending relevant publications on connectivity, various DOSI briefs and linking the Fiji delegation at COP15 with the DOSI leads for BBNJ.
- Metaxas had a long meeting with a member of the Costa Rica delegation (Guido Saborio) on 9 Dec, where the issue of available and relevant indicators was again addressed, particularly for the marine environment and for connectivity. Saborio is very concerned about this issue and would like to keep in touch as we go forward.
- Metaxas met with Natasha Ali (UNEP-WCMC) from the group who produced a document on metrics of connectivity, which did not address marine connectivity at all. Ali fully recognizes the issue and UNEP will start working on it in 2023.
- Metaxas also attended a number of side events, in which she actively promoted DOSI, and the gaps in relevant indicators and in addressing connectivity broadly in the marine realm and more specifically the deep ocean. Specifically, she attended: a GOBI-CBD side event on EBSAs; a France-GOBI side event on connectivity; the Science Biodiversity Workshop on 6 Dec and the 5th Science-Policy Forum on 11 and 12 Dec.
- She had a brief informal meeting with Jihyun Lee, CBD Secretariat, and stressed the need for development of better indicators for the marine realm.
- Metaxas joined on behalf of DOSI the newly formed Academic & Research CBD Group.

2) Sessions

- Metaxas attended several sessions throughout the WG2020-5 meetings and COP15. Of note were the three marine themed sessions on EBSAs and Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, where an explicit statement on deep-sea mining was included.

3) Interventions

No interventions were given as there was very little opportunity for interventions by non-parties, particularly since most sessions occurred in working groups with only a few, mainly stock-taking, plenary sessions.

4) Side Events

Metaxas participated in a panel during a side event entitled “From Local to Global: Collaborative Efforts to Protect Marine Biodiversity in a Changing Climate” organized by NOAA, which focussed on MPAs, marine and coastal biodiversity, climate change and the Decade of Ocean Science and Sustainability. Other panelists included Christine Dawson, Director of Office of Conservation and Water, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State and ICRI co-chair, Dr. Tommy Moore, Oceanographer at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Lauren Wenzel, Director of Marine Protected Areas Center, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Metaxas introduced DOSI in terms of structure, work that we do, collaborations that we forge (and general philosophy) and global engagement; she also spoke of Challenger 150.

5) Interviews/Press

Metaxas conducted two interviews. One was a short video for the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition on why we must protect the deep sea and how scientific knowledge is essential for progress at COP15. The video was shared on social media (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBPwEohLNz8#t=2m13>).

The second interview was for a press conference associated with the release of the policy brief entitled “Diving through the darkness: Species information is vital for effective marine conservation” prepared by the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research. The media release was organized by Mr. Terry Collins (Terry Collins & Associates) and included approximately 30-40 journalists in person. Based on a report by Collins on 12 Dec, the media coverage included 45 articles published in seven languages across 13 countries with total potential impressions of roughly 82 million (e.g. Canada, China, Japan, India, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Vietnam, UK, USA) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvlCMUVWNck>).