



LSMPA Managers' Summit 2021 – High-Level Outcomes

- 85 registered participants
- Participants included LSMPA managers and other site representatives from sites, community members, scholars, and people from the broader community of practice.
- Members from the 2016 Think Tank on the Human Dimensions of Large-Scale MPAs designed the survey and set the stage for developing a long-term social science dataset.

Big Ocean's informal tagline rang true, "Bigger isn't better, but size and scale matter." Considering that of the 17,000 plus MPAs of all sizes globally, 70% of current ocean protection comes from approximately forty-one sites. Therefore, based on this element alone, we must consider effectively and appropriately using the Large-Scale MPA model and better supporting and resourcing managing agencies globally.

Outcomes from Breakouts and Group Discussions:

1. **Increased budgets and more effective sustainable financing mechanisms are needed.**
 - a. No single LSMPA is fully funded (relatively speaking); current funding mechanisms are inflexible and often built around "high-impact, near-term outputs" versus the actual needs of sites, communities, and managing agencies.
 - b. A consensus on the "silver lining" is that management teams have become more innovative and partnership-oriented to compensate for inadequate budgets.
2. **Understanding the impacts of a site's enabling environment must be prioritized** to enhance durability.
 - a. Being aware of a site's broader context is more critical in places with frequent and highly variable political shifts or for sites (or countries) that have historically challenging relationships with the conservation sector.
3. **Supporting a diverse and informed community of practice is essential;** building management capacity alone is insufficient.
 - a. The world of marine conservation, especially at scale, is influenced by a more comprehensive set of variables, and the ability of managers to track emerging trends and stay abreast of critical issues is limited. As a result, a more comprehensive range of expertise is needed to complement peer-to-peer (and community-to-community) learning.
 - b. Survey responses revealed a disconnect or possible lack of communication or understanding between those working to amplify conservation efforts versus those working on the ground as part of site management teams.
4. **Decision-making processes must include Indigenous peoples/communities, customary authorities, and rights holders.**
 - a. Community engagement is a generic term that isn't adequate to describe the processes needed to effectively and appropriately include Indigenous peoples/communities, customary authorities, and rights holders. Most approaches have been designed and led by non-indigenous and non-community people; this must change.
 - b. Communities need more support and resources to more effectively engage with managing agencies.
5. **Surveying managers regularly and supporting peer-to-peer learning is essential** for LSMPAs to be successful long term from both a biophysical and social science perspective.
 - a. We must broaden our ideas of success and find more nuanced ways to evaluate and interpret responses to questions like, "Do you have sufficient funding ... robust community engagement ... integration of indigenous knowledge ...or strong political support?"



- b. We must support managers and communities to share experiences and lessons and help design approaches that can help transfer learnings between and amongst sites.