

Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative

Working Towards High Seas Conservation

High Seas in urgent need of international attention

The open oceans and deep seas represent 95 percent of the global biosphere in volume. They play an important regulating role in the Earth's climate and are home to a major part of the world's biodiversity, containing some of the most productive ecosystems, vast natural resources, unique habitats and globally rare species yet to be discovered. However, mounting pressures from intensifying human uses, climate change and ocean acidification threaten to undermine these ecosystems' biodiversity, balance and resilience. Due to their remoteness and the logistic difficulties linked to their exploration, the open oceans and deep seas remain the least known and least protected places on the planet. Currently, only about

Initiative partners include:

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), which is an advisory agency of the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), is Germany's central scientific authority for both national and international nature conservation. It has key enforcement functions under international species, biotopes and area conservation agreements, marine conservation law and the Antarctic Treaty. www.bfn.de