

**Advancing The Quality Of Governance Beyond National Boundaries:
Challenges And Solutions For The High Seas And International Seabed Area**

**Workshop In The Stream On Enhancing Diversity And Quality Of Governance Of PAs
Saturday 15 November 1330 - 1500 + 15:30 -17:00
Panel 1: Global Challenges and Solutions**

Cultivating Political Will

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In its most basic form we desire political will with the aim of influencing legislation and regulation at local, national and international levels (regional and global) to improve their performance and effectiveness.

Engendering political will and deploying it effectively and successfully, especially in the high seas arena, depends on:

- Who – who is involved, at what level, how influential they are and their level of understanding of the issues
- Diverse the dialogue – we cannot talk amongst ourselves and those already ‘converted’ – we need to broaden this base and through this raise the ocean/high seas issues up the political agenda
- How the argument/issue is framed in order that it accesses the political ‘sweet spot’ – where the intersection between, understanding, action and policy development/implementation occurs

I would like to offer some thoughts on this drawing upon recent experiences with the Global Ocean Commission to illustrate several of my points.

Conclusions

- **Frame the issue** - Connect the ocean issues that you want to advance politically to those that are in the mainstream of the political agenda – political will follow
- **Information transmission** - Getting the science right and conveyed in a language that politicians and decision makers will understand is important but perhaps even more important is the economics
- **Engaging** the unusual suspects to diversify the ocean debate and

Kristian is the Director of Global Engagement for the Global Ocean Commission. Most recently he was Vice President of SeaWeb, responsible for its sustainable markets, science and Asia Pacific programmes. He was previously Director of the International Coral Reef Action Network and led the Marine Programme at UNEP-WCMC.