

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

**WILL THE BBNJ
AGREEMENT SUPPORT
EFFORTS TO MITIGATE
THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE ON HIGH SEAS
BIODIVERSITY?**

**Law and Nature Dialogue
Webinar Series**



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Prof. Karen N. Scott | 30 April 2021, 1pm (AEST/Sydney time)

Session Chair : Dr Hannah Harris

This paper explores the question of whether and to what extent the BBNJ Agreement, currently under negotiation under the auspices of the UN, will provide opportunities to develop and support measures relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on high seas biodiversity and ecosystems. While there are obvious connections between the BBNJ Agreement and climate, particularly in respect of the parts related to area-based protection and environmental impact assessment, this paper will critically examine more generally the extent to which the BBNJ agreement provides an opportunity to connect the law of the sea and the climate regime and to integrate climate concerns into high seas decision-making affecting biodiversity and ecosystems.

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Prof. Karen Scott

Karen Scott is a Professor of Law at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. She teaches and researches in the areas of the law of the sea, international environmental law and Antarctic law and policy.

Recent research projects have focused on ocean acidification and a due diligence obligation (IJMCL, 2020), New Zealand oceans policy (Ocean Yearbook, 2021, *forthcoming*), marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean (Korean Journal of International Law, *forthcoming*) and informal law-making and area-based protection (Klein (ed), 2021, OUP, *forthcoming*). Recent books edited by Karen include: Erika Techera, Jade Lindley, Karen N. Scott and Anastasia Telesetsky (eds), [Routledge Handbook of International Environmental Law](#) (2nd edition, Routledge, 2021); Karen N. Scott and David L VanderZwaag (eds), [Research Handbook on Polar Law](#) (Edward Elgar, 2020); and Karen N. Scott, Kathleen Claussen, Charles-Emmanuel Côté and Atsuko Kanehara (eds), [Changing Actors in International Law](#) (Brill, 2020).

Karen is the Editor-in-Chief of *Ocean Development and International Law* and the current President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law (ANZSIL).

