Policy Plan 2023

Activities

Throughout 2023, the Stichting High Seas Alliance (HSA) will focus on building a strong common voice and constituency for conservation of the high seas, promoting the protection, conservation and restoration of marine ecosystem health and biodiversity including the high seas and seabed in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

As part of this overall objective, the HSA will:

- Promote the establishment and management of a comprehensive, representative and effective system of fully protected marine protected areas (MPAs), including no-take reserves, to the public, stakeholders and governments;
- Catalyse and monitor the effective implementation of existing and emerging ocean conservation obligations and rules including environmental impact assessments;
- Promote and monitor effective governance, management and enforcement systems that support and ensure conservation, sustainability of use and equitable benefit sharing for all high seas marine resources and species, including fisheries;
- Promote the conduct and dissemination of research, including scientific, policy and legal research, relevant to the marine environment beyond national jurisdiction;
- Promote public awareness and the broad dissemination of information and educational materials of the seabed, the deep sea, the high seas and marine environment through the media, social media and in public events;
- Promote global awareness of the marine environment and in particular the areas beyond national jurisdiction including the seabed, and threats posed to these areas and solutions to those threats; and
● Coordinate non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, scientific and legal experts, and other groups to promote the sharing of information and resources between them in order to better protect the high seas; and
● Promote the United Nations High Seas Treaty and support governments from around the world to ratify the Treaty, in order for it to enter into force and protect marine biodiversity found in waters beyond national jurisdiction. This will be done through the provision of contacts, expertise, information briefings, public events, meetings and workshops.

The Board of Directors will meet twice a year, and additionally as required.

**Fundraising**

The financial means of the HSA shall consist of:

a. Grants and donations made to or for the benefit of the HSA;

b. Contributions of affiliated organizations or affiliated individuals;

c. Grants, residuary and specific legacies and gifts; and

d. Benefits arising from any other source.

**Deployment of Funds**

HSA will make donations through grants where it considers the purpose to meet the goals of HSA, for example, to support advocacy and capacity building activities managed by HSA supporting organisations, including:

**AIDA:** To be spent on coordination of the ratification work in the Latin American region

**Greenpeace:** To be spent on activities related to ratification and MPA work

**Birdlife:** To be spent on coordination of the ratification work in the various regions

**IFAW:** To be spent on coordination of the ratification work in the Middle East

**IUCN:** To support the ratification work, advocacy and capacity building

The Steering Committee will determine the amount and terms of any grant it makes.

HSA funds may be used to:

- Support the development of HSA and/or it’s supporting organizations
- Grow HSA
• Contribute to relevant activities of the HSA
• Fund HSA supporting organisations’ participation and activities where those organisations have insufficient funds
• Support projects that are of strategic value to HSA

Other funds will be used for consultancy and employment purposes and for reimbursement of professional advisers, costs and fees.

Management of assets

HSA reserves and cash funds will be invested in standard no risk savings accounts with one of the major Dutch banks that are government guaranteed. The HSA does not intend to hold more capital than necessary to finance its activities and guarantee the continuity of its activities.