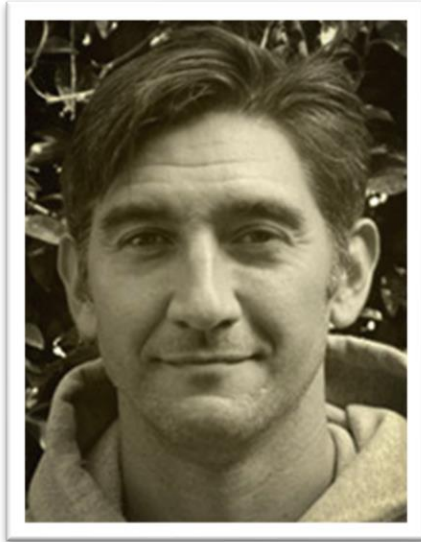


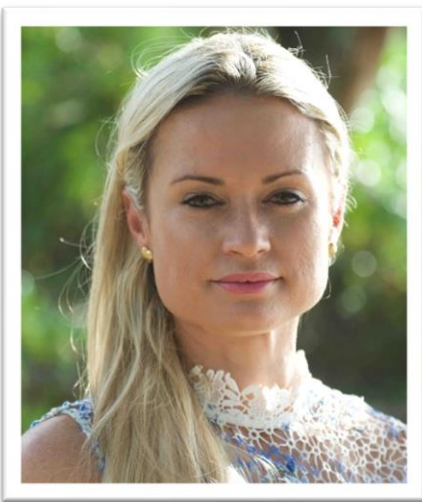
Keynote Speakers



Dr Jose Borrero

Jose Borrero is a founder and director of newly formed ORCAS Consulting based in New Zealand (www.orcas-coastal.com). He is a coastal engineer and scientist with a Ph.D. in civil, environmental, and coastal engineering from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. With more than 20 years in consulting, he specialises in the modelling and assessment of coastal hazards and has extensive experience in tropical small island developing states (SIDS). He has led numerous projects that combine field data collection, wave, hydrodynamic and sediment transport modelling, and engineering design to arrive at effective and workable solutions for dealing with coastal problems. He has a keen interest in the design of nature-based solutions including submerged and multipurpose

reefs for coastal protection and amenity enhancement, coastal plantings, dune management, beach rehabilitation, sea grass restoration and living shorelines. In the area of submerged reefs, he has worked on designs aimed at enhancing recreational amenities such as snorkelling or diving trails as well as for the creation of surf breaks. He also has extensive experience in surf break science including the characterisation and preservation of natural surf breaks and when possible, enhancement of surfing resources. In his talk, Dr. Borrero will discuss a recent World Bank funded project that looked at the causes, effects and potential solutions for erosion and coastal flooding at several sites in Seychelles. He will also discuss ongoing efforts to work with nature to preserve, protect and enhance Seychelles beaches, one of its most important and valuable assets.



Helena Sims

Helena is a marine biologist and conservation practitioner with 20 years of experience in the conservation of tropical ecosystems and MPA network expansion in the Western Indian Ocean region. She has a strong understanding of Small Island Developing States' environmental issues and development challenges with recognised capacity to develop and lead programs in alignment with national priorities. She has over a decade of experience in Marine Spatial Planning and in the management of national, regional and international projects with the capacity to replicate and scale them

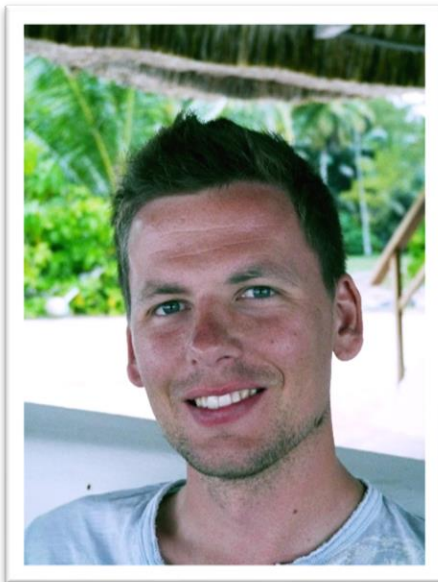
up. She is currently board member of multiple non-government organisations. Some of the highlights of her career include being part of the team to finalise Seychelles' and the World's first debt restructuring for a marine area, to lead the operationalisation of

the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) in 2015-2016 and to develop the first and largest Marine Spatial Plan in the WIO, which includes meeting a 30 % marine protection goal. Ms Sims is currently the Project manager of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP) initiative, at the International Non- Profit organisation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and she works very closely with SeyCCAT.



Sheena Talma

Sheena Talma is a marine biologist from the Seychelles, her work focusses on deep-sea ecosystems, fisheries and genetics. As a freelance consultant she works with several organizations both within her home country and intentionally. Sheena is a NatGeo Explorer, an Ocean Voices Fellow and is currently pursuing a DPhil in deep-sea ecosystems. Sheena finds the most joy in working within the science to policy nexus and highlighting the relationship between nature and humans. She aspires to work with collaborators to garner more deep-sea scientists within the Western Indian Ocean Region and to further highlight the need for science to be led by a diverse group of partners. Sponsored by WIOMSA



James Lea

James is the chief executive officer of the Save Our Seas Foundation. He gained a first-class Honours degree in biological sciences from the University of Oxford and then volunteered as a shark researcher at the Bimini Biological Field Station. At Bimini he cut his teeth catching, tagging and tracking sharks, and working with them so closely consolidated his passion for sharks and motivated him to fight for marine conservation. James then moved to work as a research scientist for the Save Our Seas Foundation, before completing a PhD in marine biology at the University of Plymouth in collaboration with the D'Arros Research Centre. His primary research focus was a comprehensive tagging programme tracking almost 200 sharks of seven different species in Seychelles, aiming to determine the factors that drive their movement behaviour and use this knowledge to inform effective conservation strategies. He continues his research as part of the Evolutionary Ecology Group at the University of Cambridge. He is honoured to speak at the inaugural Seychelles Marine Science Symposium, where he will provide an overview of the work of the D'Arros Research Centre.