

# Main challenges and opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of the Domo

## Challenges

Unsupervised activities:

-  **Navigation**
-  **Fishing**
-  **Scientific investigation**



Being offshore, the Dome **lacks a regulatory framework** to protect it from human activities.

At present **it is not possible to ensure conservation** and sustainable use of its resources and ecosystems.



## Opportunities



The United Nations (UN) is working on a negotiation process for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the high seas (BBNJ agreement).

Benefits of marine governance

-  **Reduces threats of overfishing**
-  **Assesses the impact of human activities**
-  **Aims to clean the seas and avoid pollution**



The BBNJ agreement aims to address key issues for the conservation of biodiversity in the high seas, such as:

- **Equitable distribution** of benefits derived from marine genetic resources.
- **Management mechanisms** based on geographical zones, including marine protected areas.
- Preparation of **environmental assessments**.
- Capacity building and transfer of **marine technology**.

# The changing nature of the Dome implies the coexistence of two legal management systems

## Two scenarios

- 1** The Thermal Dome **is located in the high seas.**
  - When this happens **the dome resources are left unprotected.**
- 2** During specific times of the year it extends to the EZZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) of the Central American countries.
  - When this happens, local regulations of each country apply. An **ecosystem approach** should be promoted.

## What is the MarViva Foundation doing?

**MarViva continues to promote the proper management of the Thermal Dome, with the support of national, regional and international organizations.**

- Strengthening of governmental and regional capacities on the social, environmental and economic relevance of the Thermal Dome.
- Generation and management of scientific knowledge about the Dome
- Consolidation of knowledge about the connectivity between the species of the Thermal Dome and the economic activities of the countries of the region.
- Awareness among decision-makers about the importance of promoting a governance framework for this area.



The leadership of SICA and its environmental, fishing and maritime transport authorities will be key to promote the Thermal Dome as one of the first sites in the high seas with a governance framework.

### International organizations that promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Thermal Dome areas in the high seas:

**SICA**  
Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana  
SICA  
Central American Integration System

**OMI** ORGANIZACIÓN MARÍTIMA INTERNACIONAL  
OMI  
International Maritime Organization

**CIAT** IATTC  
CIAT  
Inter-American-Tropical-Tuna Commission

**CCAD**  
COMISIÓN CENTROAMERICANA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO  
CCAD  
Central American Commission for Environment and Development

**OSPESCA**  
Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuicultura del Istmo Centroamericano  
OSPESCA  
Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

**COCATRAM**  
COCATRAM  
Central American Commission for Maritime Transportation

