



Ongoing initiatives





- 1. Collective Arrangement for the North-East Atlantic 6.
- 2. Sargasso Sea Commission
- 3. Pelagos Sanctuary
- 4. Antarctic Treaty System
- 5. Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs)

- 6. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)
- 7. Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
- 8. Nairobi Convention
- 9. Abidjan Convention

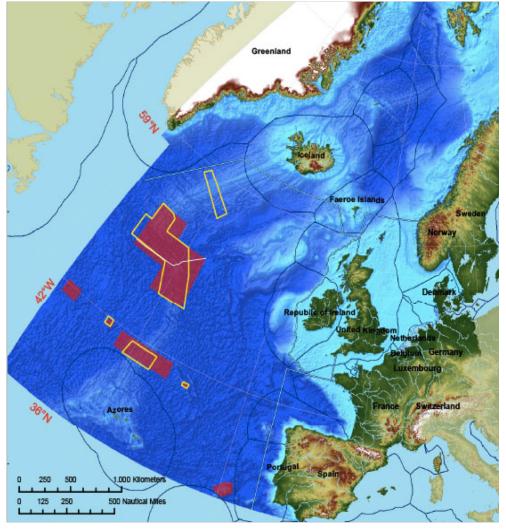
North-East Atlantic











German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

http://mare.essenberger.de/en/karte-charlie-gibbs-schutzgebiet.php

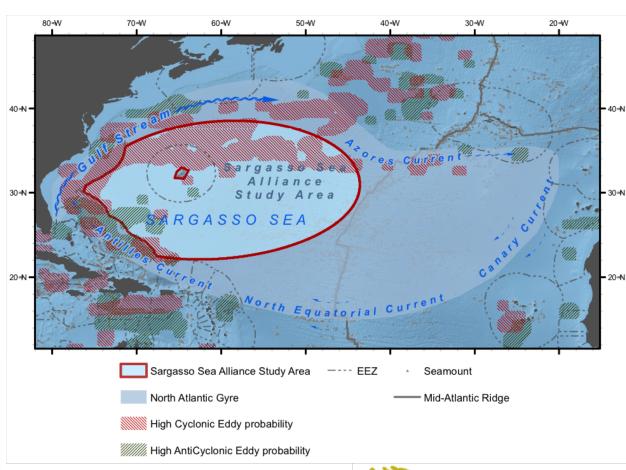
Sargasso Sea







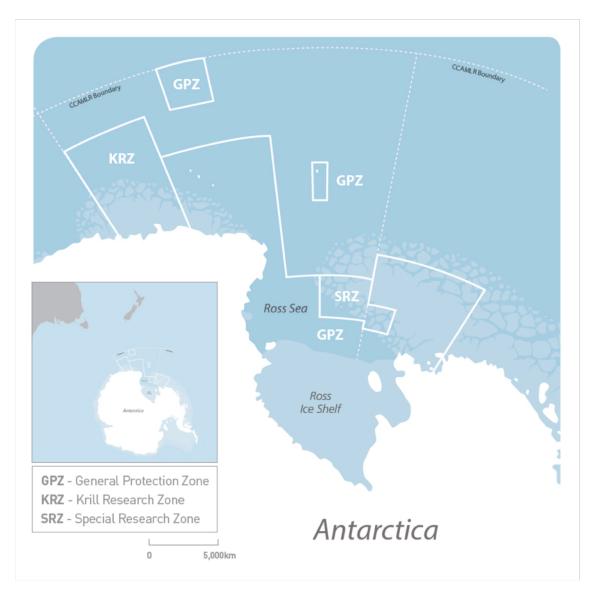






Southern Ocean





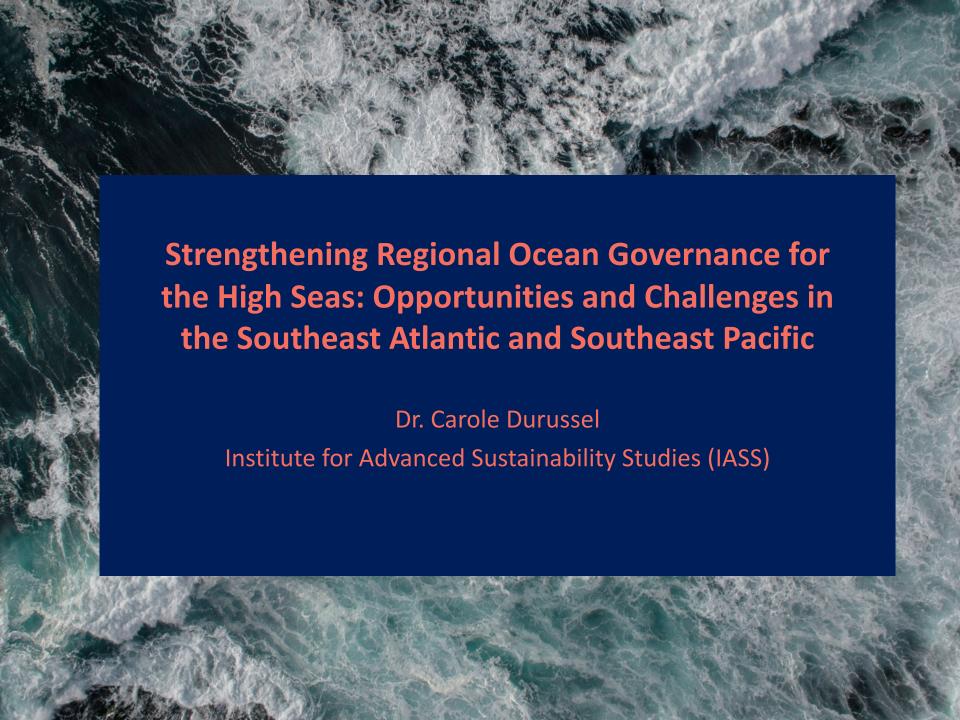


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Lessons learned

- 1. The need for cooperation and coordination
- 2. The role of champions and leaders
- 3. The importance of developing a dynamic science-policy interface
- 4. The need for an appropriate legal framework

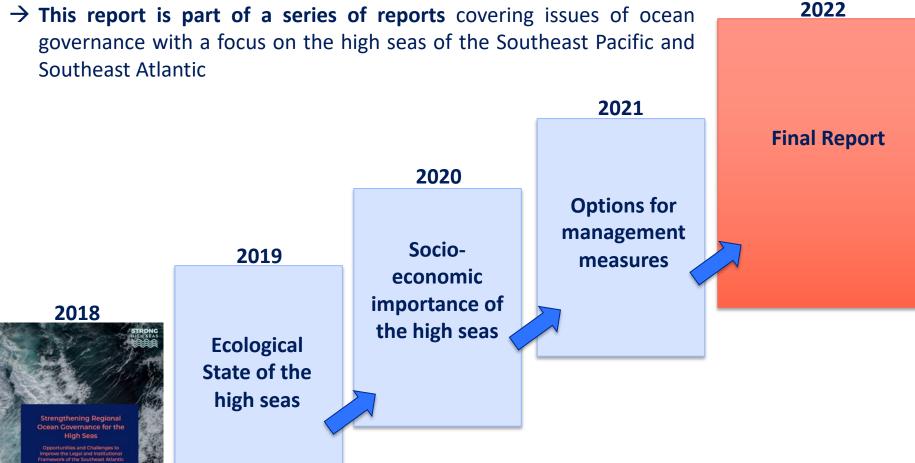






STRONG High Seas Reports

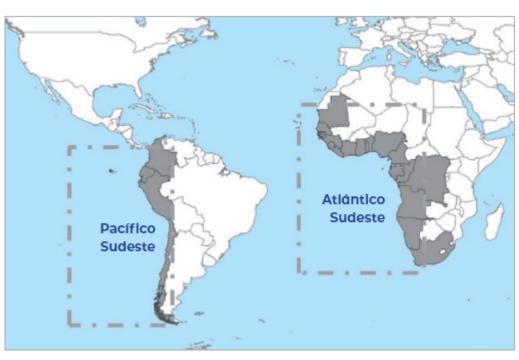
→ This report is part of a series of reports covering issues of ocean Southeast Atlantic





Objectives of the Report

- Assess the relevant governance frameworks currently in place for the management of high seas biodiversity in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic
- Identify the challenges and opportunities for advancing conservation and sustainable use of high seas biodiversity around two important ongoing international processes: the BBNJ process and Sustainable Development Goal 14
- Identify possible options for strengthening governance and regional cooperation

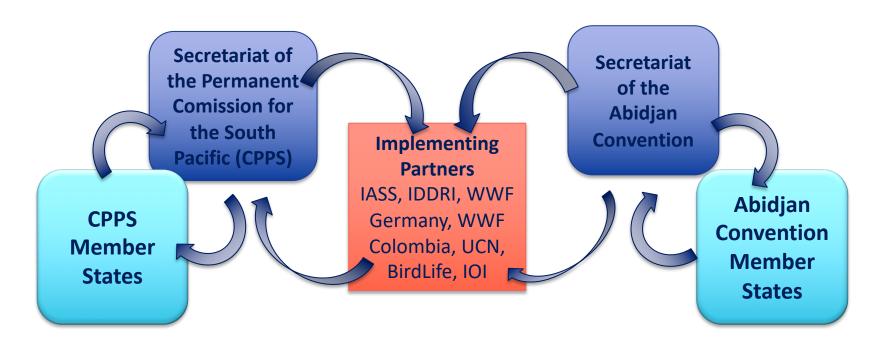


Focal regions of the STRONG High Seas project



Methodology

- Co-design of scientific assessments with Secretariats in both regions and involvement of stakeholders through regional workshops and expert opinion
- Extensive **literature review** and detailed **analysis of legal and policy documents** (based on previous studies)
- Review by ocean governance experts and STRONG High Seas project advisory board members



BBNJ Elements and Sustainable Development Goal 14



The discussion in this report is structured **around two important ongoing international processes**:

- The ongoing negotiations within the United Nations for an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ); and
- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

BBNJ Elements:

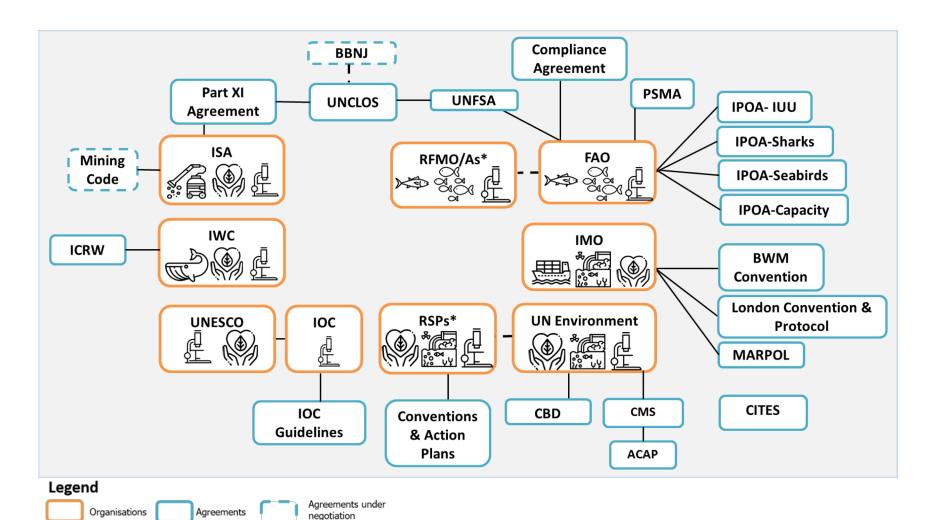
- Area-based Management Tools (ABMTs)
- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)
- Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs)
- Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology

SDG 14:

- 14.1 Marine Pollution
- 14.2 y 14.5 Management and Protection of Marine Ecosystems in ABNJ
- 14.4 Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

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Global Governance Framework for BBNJ



Depiction of main mandates/activities











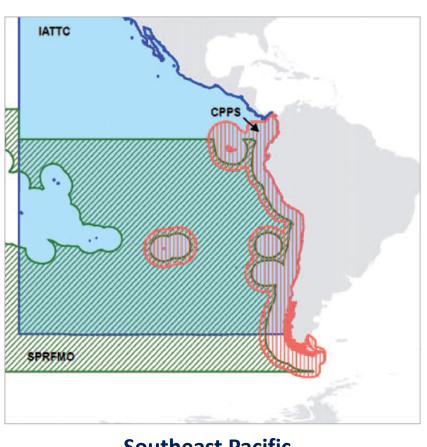




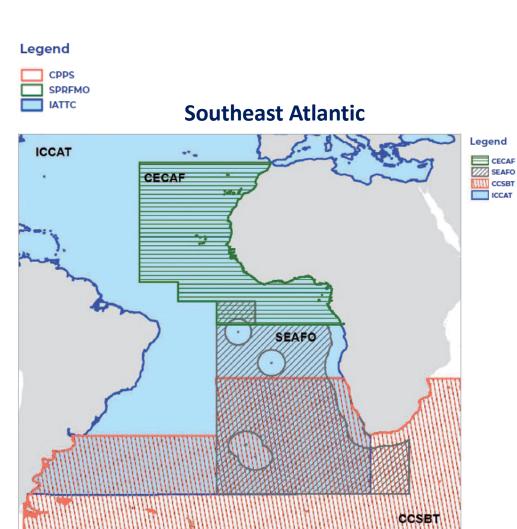




Regional Governance Framework for BBNJ



Southeast Pacific



Challenges in the Regions



- Organisations within the regions have varying and non-comprehensive or limited mandates to address issues related to BBNJ – in the Southeast Pacific, organisations have a complementary mandate;
- There is limited cross-sectoral cooperation within the regions, with individual organisations adopting their own principles, resolutions and recommendations for addressing BBNJ challenges;
- There exists varied and uneven participation in regional and global agreements within both regions, making it difficult to fully address issues related to biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) without an adequate legal basis or, in the case of the Southeast Atlantic, also an institutional basis;
- Member States in the Southeast Atlantic are diverse in terms of culture, language and available capacity.

Possible Options to Strengthen Regional Ocean Governance in the Regions



- Cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to ensure the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach to the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ:
 - can be eased if more States in the regions become parties to key international and regional agreements → shared basis for common action
 - through e.g. joint programmes, Memoranda of Understanding, and participation in events;
 - could support a coordinated, regional approach to conservation and sustainable management through e.g. the expansion of efforts to coordinate BBNJ issues by empowering regional seas programmes to consider areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

Possible Options to Strengthen Regional Ocean Governance in the Regions



- States in the regions could:
 - implement a common approach or policy for the region on conservation priorities by championing flag State responsibility to impose regulations regarding areas or activities that are not currently covered by a competent management authority;
 - form coalitions to promote mutual interest in specific BBNJ-related issues within existing processes;
 - promote conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ by voicing their views and proposing management actions at global and regional fora;
 - **support a robust scientific basis and the development of capacity** for taking action to ensure the establishment of conservation and management measures and ensure the complementarity of sectoral measures.

Linking Global and Regional Governance



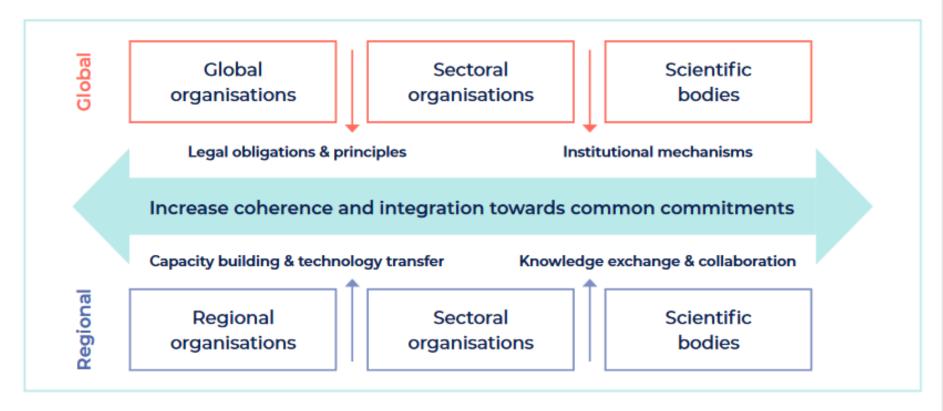
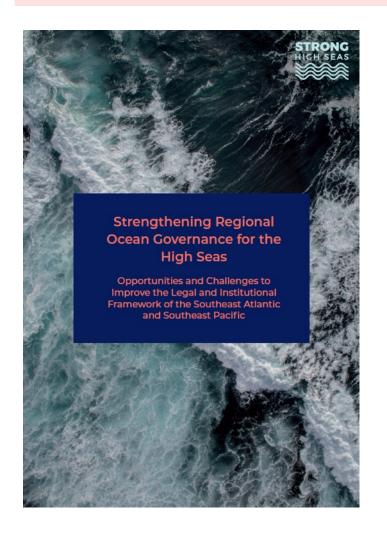


Figure: A new agreement will need to increase coherence and integration between and across regional and global institutions, both vertically and horizontally, to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ





https://www.prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas/strong-high-seas-resources/





Thank you!



Supported by:







based on a decision of the German Bundestag

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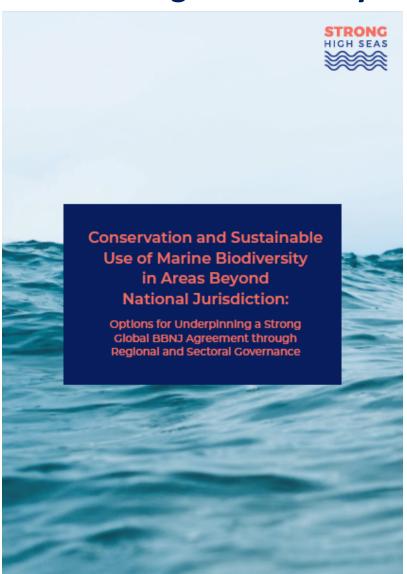








STRONG High Seas Policy Brief



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BBNJ Agreement as an Opportunity

Regional ocean institutions, processes and coordination mechanisms play a significant role in advancing the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ by contributing to improved global governance of the ocean



Achieving and using this potential at the global level will **require a new enabling** & strong BBNJ agreement

"Strong efforts in just a few regions will still not prevent loss of marine biodiversity at the global level." Bille et al, UNEP 2016



Raphaël Billé, Lucien Chabason, Petra Drankier, Erik J. Molenaar, Julien Rochette, 2016. Regional Oceans Governance: Making Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Fishery Bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem Mechanisms Work Better Together. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 197, 60 pp.

So... How?



Consideration I

How can a **BBNJ agreement enhance the effectiveness, inclusiveness and capacity** of regional and sectoral institutions?



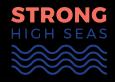
By creating the conditions and practical arrangements for effective cooperation, coordination and action ('interplay')

Consideration II

How can regional activities and mechanisms bolster the achievement of global objectives set forth in a new agreement?



By being important means of translating global agreements to specific geographical areas, which is essential for an ecosystem approach



Building blocks for strengthening regional ocean governance

What needed in global agreement? Shared Commitments

Overarching obligations to cooperate to:

- Protect and preserve
- Conserve
- Integrate biodiversity
- Share data
- Apply precaution
- Maintain ecosystem health

Specific obligations to:

- Develop sectoral & regional biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Include marine spatial planning as part of process
- Adopt measures at national, regional and sectoral level to implement



ABMTs including MPAs: Obligations to establish

- Coherent network of Global MPAs
- Sectoral ABMTs
- Regional MPAs
- Other ABMTs including marine spatial planning

Strategic environmental assessments: Obligations to establish

 Baseline assessment for sectoral and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans

Environmental impact assessments: Obligations to assess

- Transboundary effects
- Cumulative effects
- Climate change inclusive

What needed in global agreement? Institutional mechanisms

Global decisionmaking body

Other bodies

Platform for cooperation

Establish Global MPAs, endorse

Regional MPAs, sectoral ABMTs

Review EIAs and SEAs

Enable cross-sectoral planning

processes

Review and oversee

implementation

Science advisory body

Capacity

Financial mechanism

Compliance/implementation

review

Regional coordination

mechanisms

What needed in global agreement? Capacity building across all issues

Existing regional and sectoral bodies

Regional coordinating mechanism

Regional centres of excellence:

Regional databases of information and data

Joint training in implementation of principles, criteria and standards

Data, equipment and training to:

- 1) advance basic and applied science capacity
- 2) support implementation and enforcement
- 3) incorporate cumulative, transboundary, and climate change impacts

