



Partnering for a Sustainable Ocean:

The Role of Regional Ocean Governance in Implementing SDG14

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Partnership for Regional
Ocean Governance

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Key messages

- Importance of regional partnerships and cooperation in implementing SDG14
- Regional ocean governance initiatives are already making a difference
- Need to build engagement at the regional level

PROG report

- Background and history of regional ocean governance
- Overview of different mechanisms
- Target-by-target analysis with case studies
- Partnership case studies
- Overarching issues, e.g. finance, capacity development

Regional ocean governance (1)

- Transboundary nature of marine resources & threats to the marine environment present unique challenges:
 - cannot be tackled effectively by States acting individually
 - implies a responsibility for national governments to collaborate to achieve SDG14
- UNCLOS, Article 197: encourages States to cooperate “as appropriate, on a regional basis, directly or through competent international organisations for the protection and preservation of the marine environment, taking into account characteristic regional features”
- Highlighted in the 2030 Agenda

Regional ocean governance (2)

Takes many forms, including:

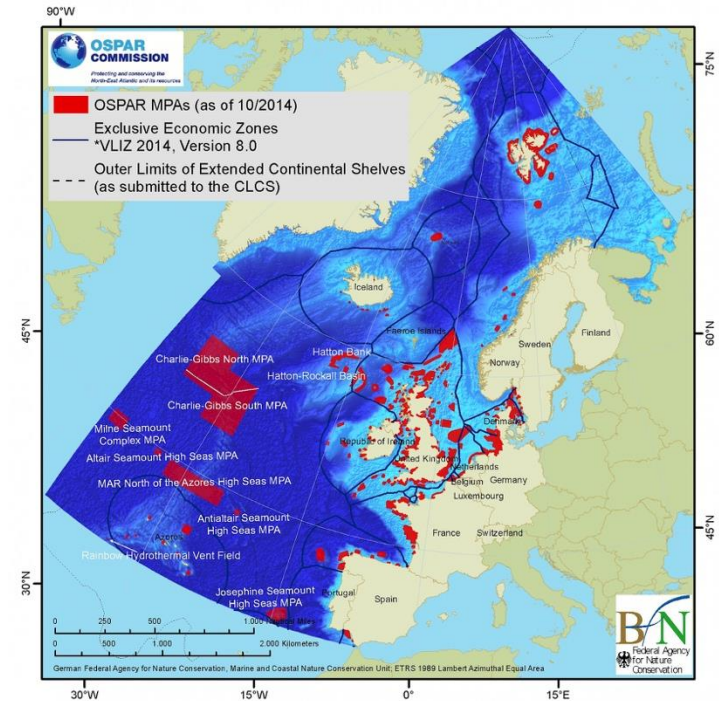
- Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
- Regional Fisheries Bodies
- Political and economic organisations
- Leader-driven initiatives
- Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects

Tackling SDG14 targets at the regional level

1. **Marine pollution**
2. **Sustainable management and protection**
3. Ocean acidification
4. **Sustainable fisheries**
5. **Conservation**
6. Fisheries subsidies
7. **SIDS and LDCs**
 - a. Knowledge, capacity building & technology transfer
 - b. Artisanal fisheries**
 - c. Implementation of international law

Example: North East Atlantic

- OSPAR MPA network/NEAFC fisheries closures



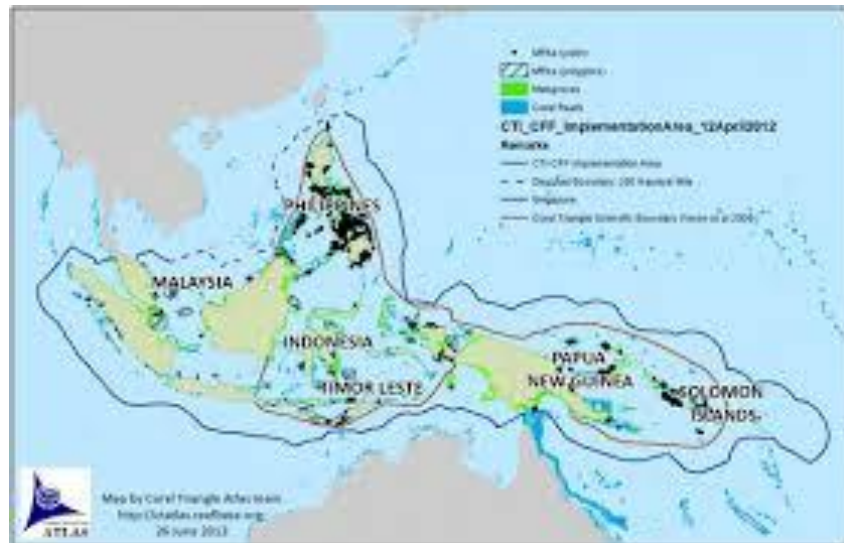
- The “Collective Arrangement”

Example: The Coral Triangle



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY



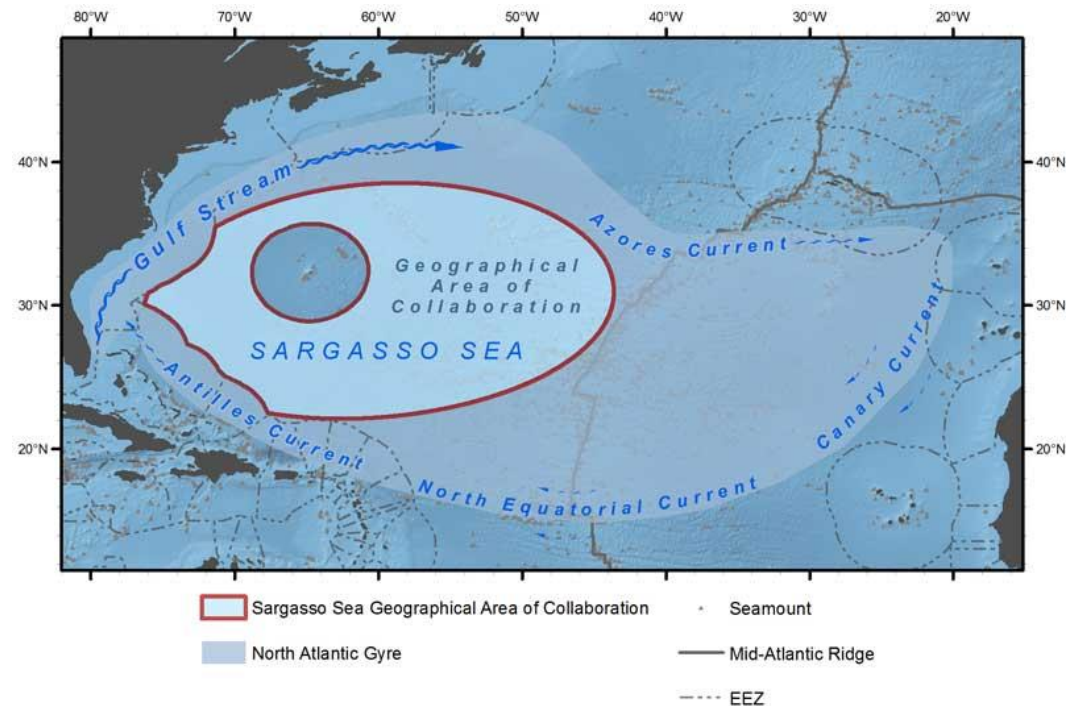
Example: East African Coast



Example: Sargasso Sea



SARGASSO SEA
COMMISSION



Enabling conditions

Some regions benefit from favourable enabling conditions that have allowed them to make impressive progress, while others have created such conditions through cooperation:

- Strong existing legal and policy frameworks;
- A history of active engagement of States in regional processes;
- A clear & present economic/environmental imperative;
- Long-term political and institutional stability;
- Stakeholder engagement & community buy-in;
- Availability of financing for capacity development.

Lessons learned

Regional contexts are highly diverse, but there are a number of common lessons learned:

- Regional champions can play a major role;
- Financing should be long-term, flexible, sustainable, and support both projects & capacity development;
- Need for a common vision or purpose;
- An appropriate institutional structure;
- Targets and deadlines are necessary, but not sufficient. Need action, as well as words.

What's next for regional ocean governance?

- Regional ocean governance to play a key role in harmonising national approaches and increasing ambition
- Development of regional partnerships for sustainable management of ocean
 - June conference a key step – partnership dialogues
- Opportunities for region-to-region exchange



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