

Marine Spatial Planning in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Opportunities and challenges

Side event: Building MSP frameworks to enable Blue Growth
Intergovernmental Conference on biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

UN Headquarters, New York, 4 September 2018

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Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



Sustainable
Development
Goals



2nd International Conference on **MARINE/MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING**

15-17 March 2017
Paris, France

ISSUE BRIEF

N°08/18 • JUNE 2018

Marine spatial planning in areas beyond national jurisdiction

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KEY MESSAGES

- Negotiations for an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) regarding marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) provide an opportunity to facilitate the development of marine spatial planning (MSP) in these areas.
- MSP can be a key tool for implementing ecosystem-based management but it requires a framework for collecting, sharing, and updating scientific research.
- A new ILBI could provide a foundation for MSP by refining existing obligations and provisions on cooperation and the integration of biodiversity into marine management.
- The ILBI could set out a tailored process for MSP in ABNJ, including by defining the triggers for initiating MSP, establishing a mandate for cooperation and coordination, and providing oversight and review.

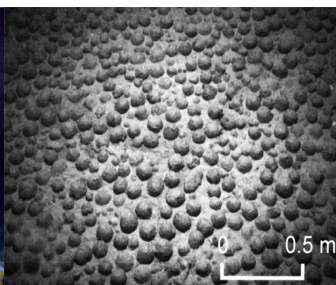
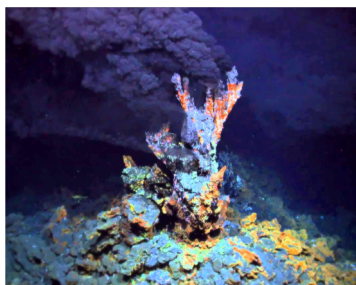
Brief available for download at: <http://bit.ly/2CeTCBe>

Full article in press:

“Marine spatial planning in areas beyond national jurisdiction” (2018) *Marine Policy*

1. Marine Spatial Planning
 2. Existing sectoral measures
 3. Examples
 4. Challenges
 5. Potential role for a new agreement
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- “potential for **conflicting and cumulative** pressures”
- “in most cases, those various activities are **increasing without any clear overarching management system** or a thorough evaluation of their **cumulative impacts** on the ocean environment”



*“a **public** process of **analysing and allocating** the spatial and temporal **distribution** of human activities in marine areas to achieve **ecological, economic and social objectives...**”*



Developed with the financial support of



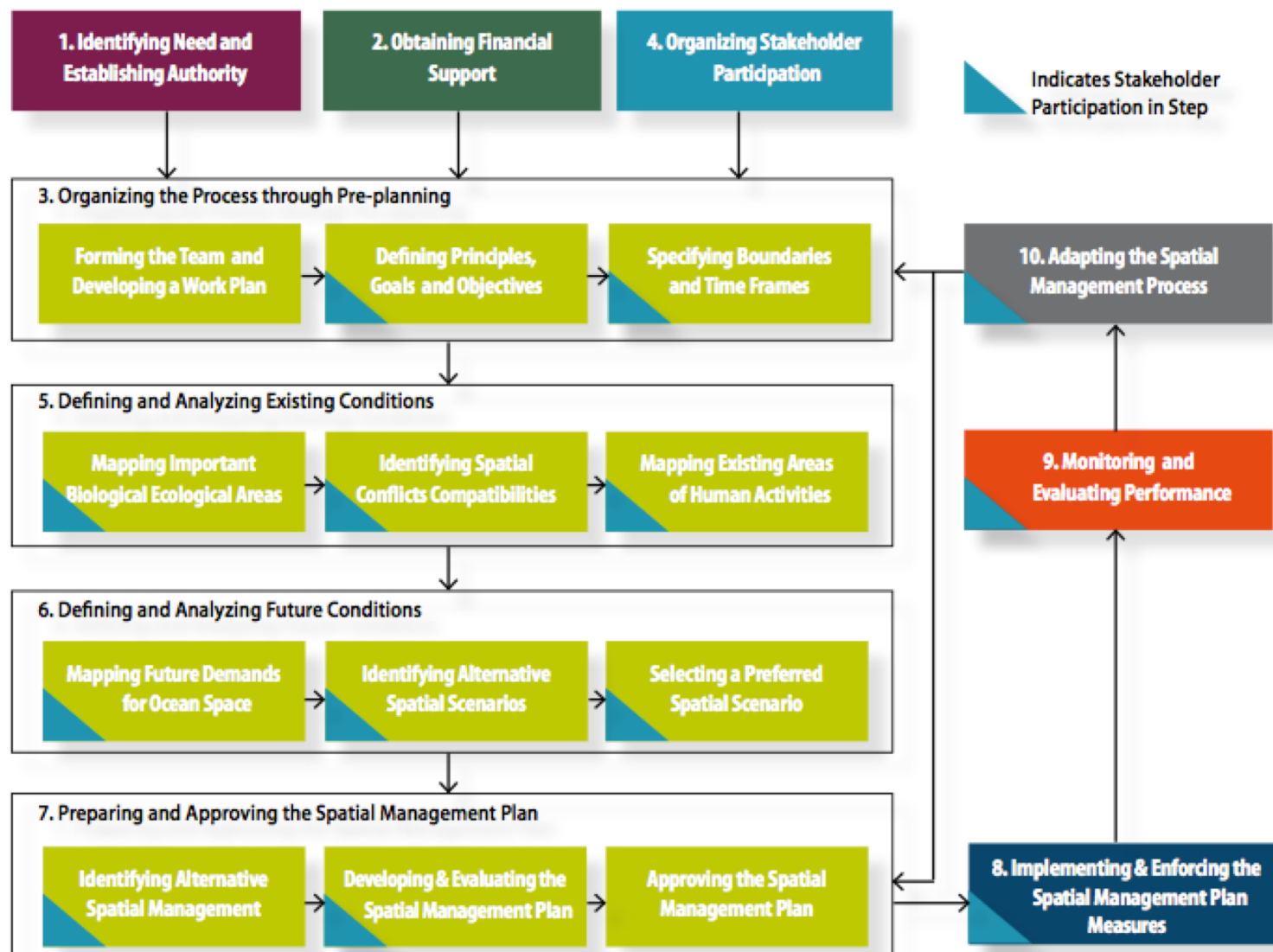
Additional support was provided by WWF International and the government of Belgium.



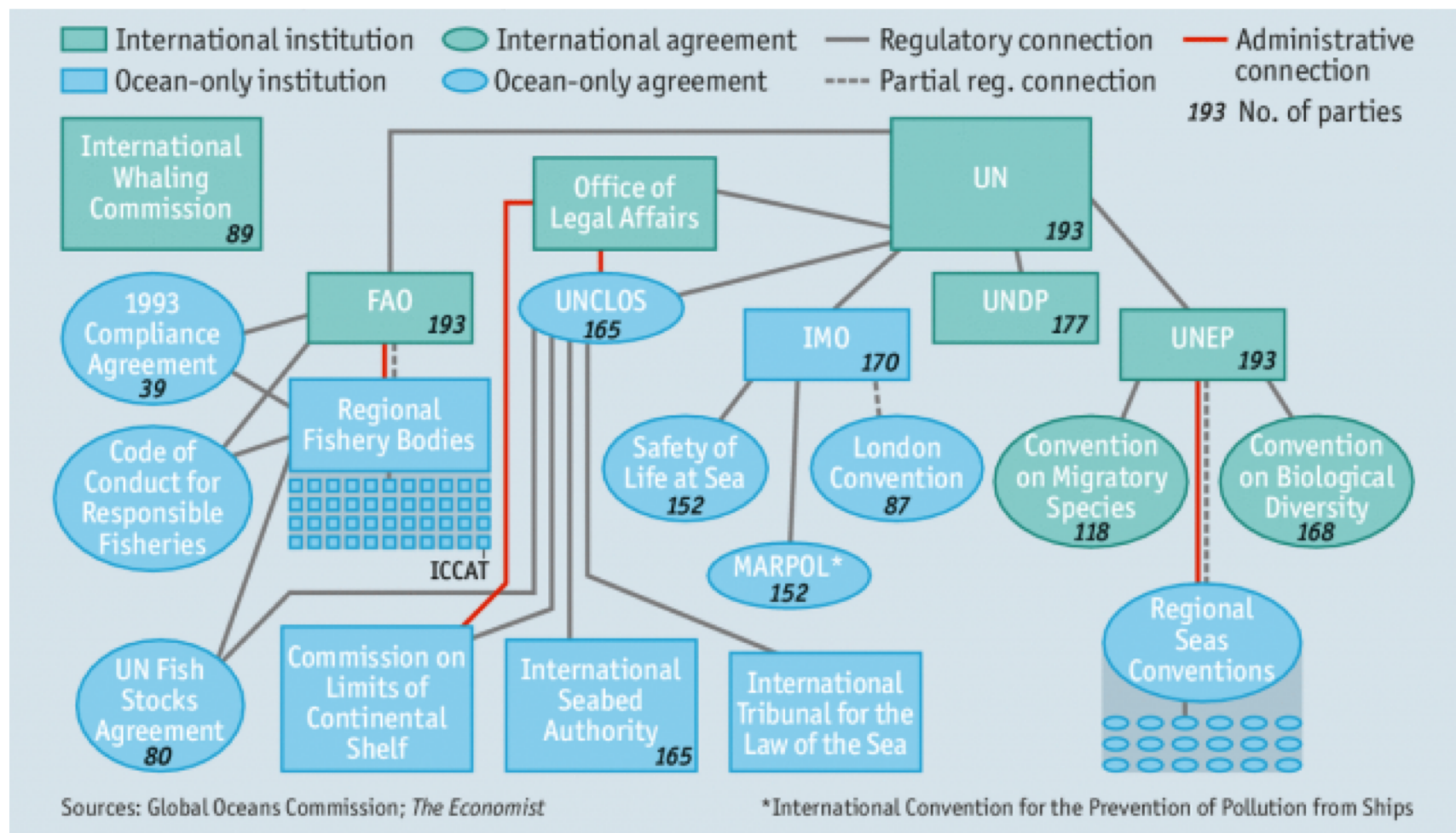
- Practical method for rational organization of marine space:
 - balance demands for **development** with each other and with protection of marine **ecosystems**; and
 - achieve **social & economic objectives**.

- A **future-oriented** process

- Selects appropriate **management** strategies

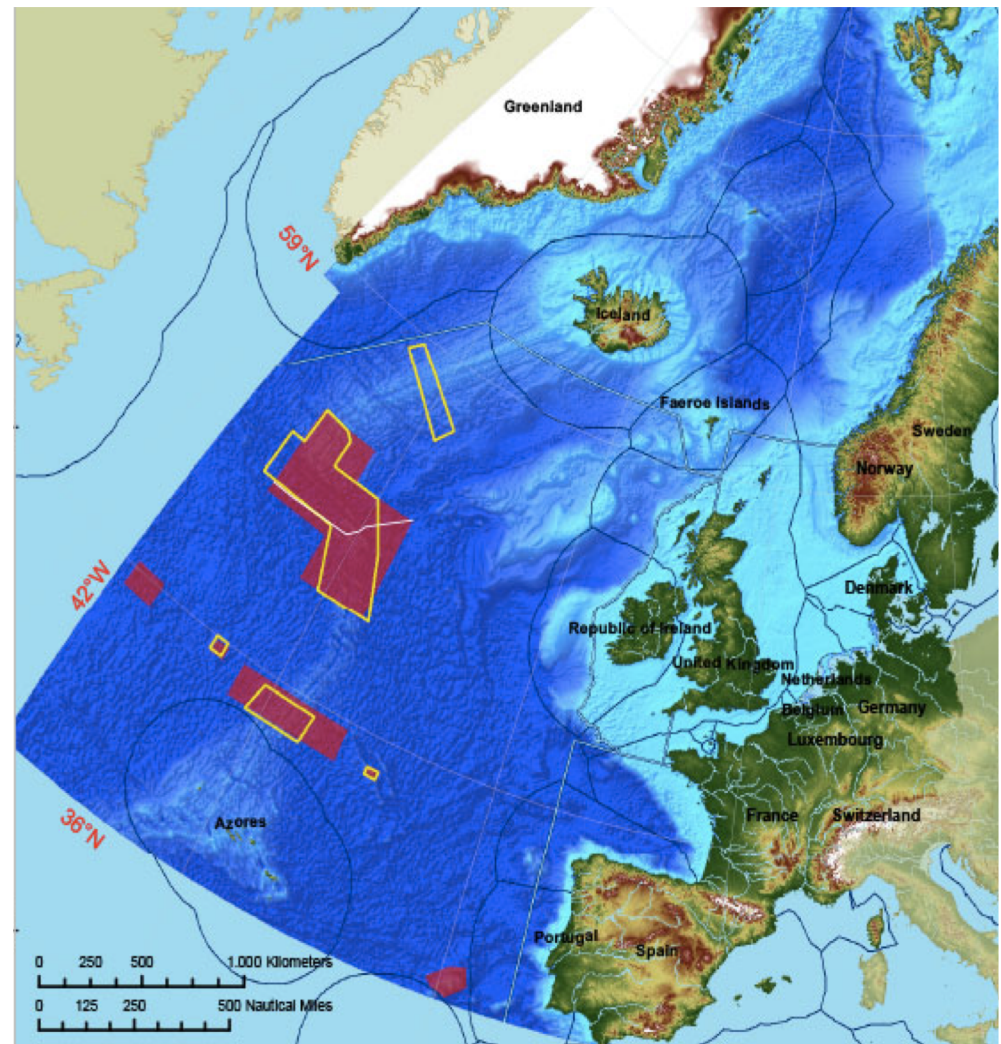


2. Existing sectoral measures



- **Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)** closed to bottom fishing
- **Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (APEI)** where no seabed mining is permitted
- **Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)** to protect areas that are deemed vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities
- **International Whaling Commission** sanctuaries
- **Environmentally or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)**
- **Regional Seas programmes**
- **UNESCO World Heritage Convention**

3. Examples





Lessons learned

- Patchwork of partial protection regimes
- Lack of common goals, criteria and scientific advice
- Still missing: ecosystem and precautionary approaches
- Need for global level accountability, mandate and support to spur regional level action

4. Challenges

- **Scale** of ABNJ
- Lack of comprehensive **data**
- Diverse & diffuse group of **stakeholders**
- **Overlaps, conflicts, gaps** between existing sectors/plans
- No body with **authority** to coordinate implementation
- No **legal framework** to underpin such a body/decisions
- **Logistical & political difficulties** of organizing a legal, effective & equitable MSP process.

5. Potential role of a new agreement

- **Authority** - mandate to oversee planning & implementation
- **Scientific/technical body** or mechanism
- Mechanisms for **funding to support collaboration** between countries of different capacities
- Framework for collecting, sharing, updating **research/data**
- Other provisions: Secretariat; reporting; financial resources; dispute settlement; monitoring; review & compliance
- **Models**: global, regional or hybrid?

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