



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

Side Event

Towards an Effective High Seas Treaty Building on and Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance

New York, 25 March 2019



ABIDJAN CONVENTION
CONVENTION D'ABIDJAN

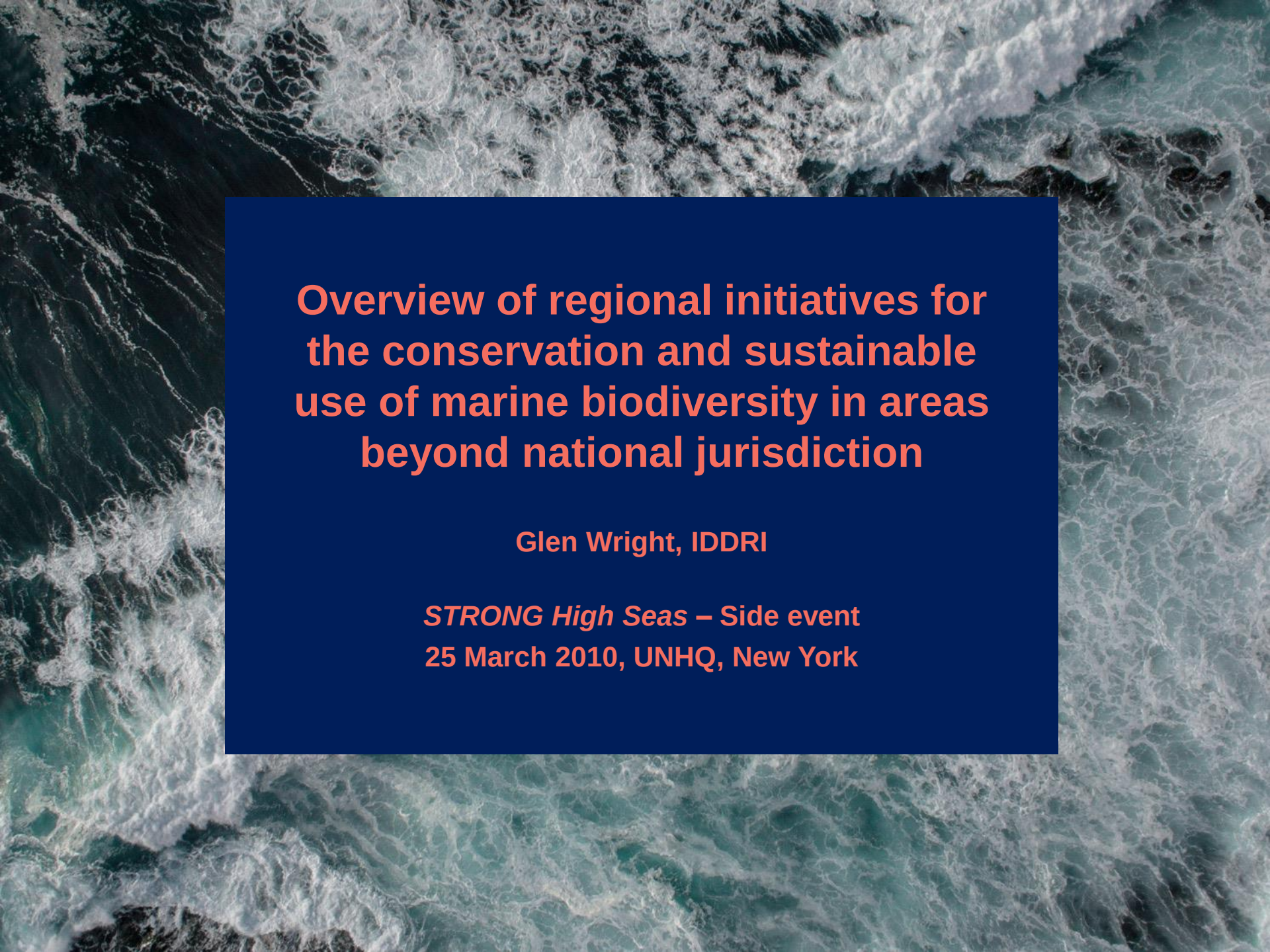


IDDRI



International Ocean Institute
African Region

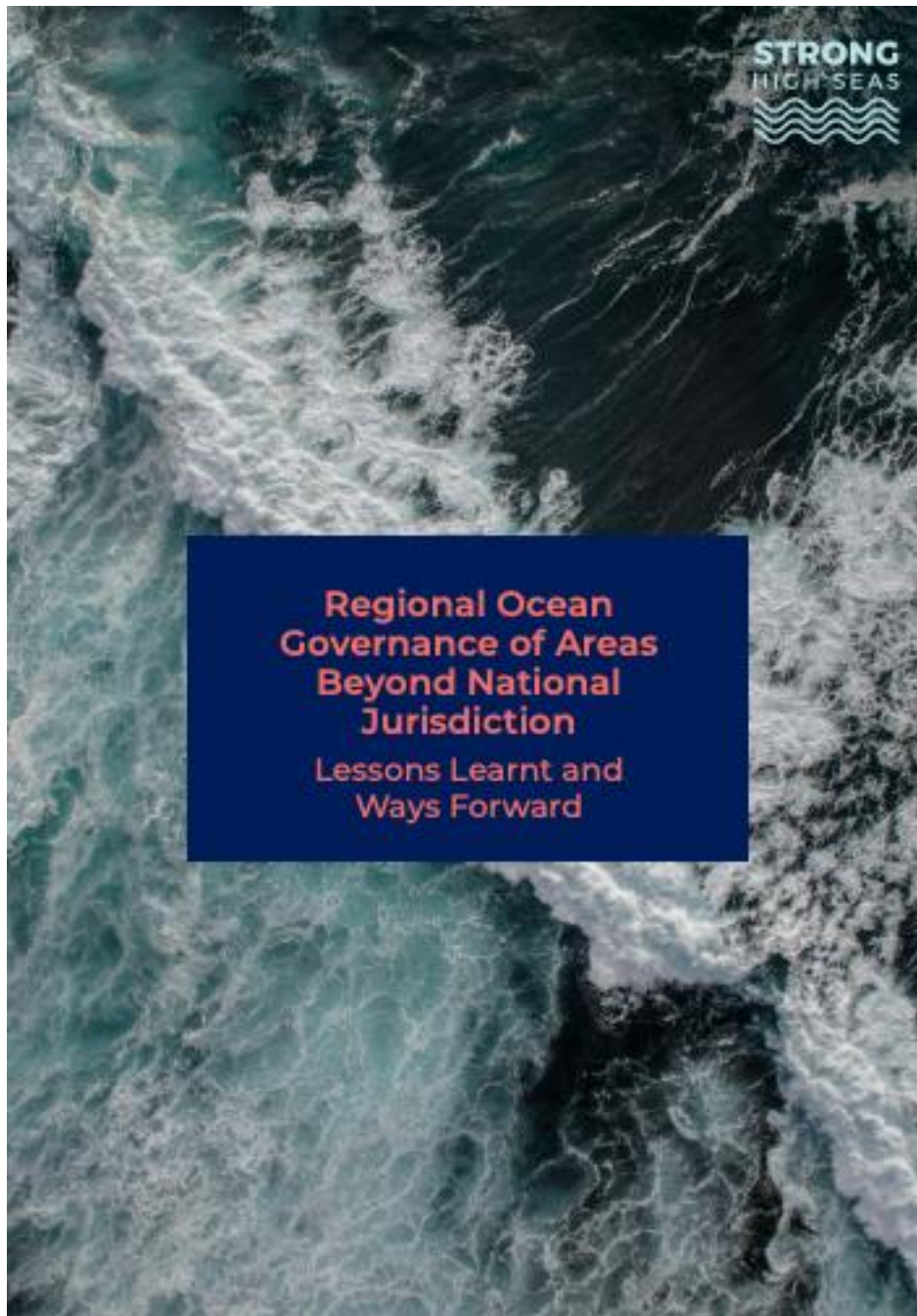




Overview of regional initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

Glen Wright, IDDRI

STRONG High Seas – Side event
25 March 2010, UNHQ, New York



STRONG
HIGH SEAS

**Regional Ocean
Governance of Areas
Beyond National
Jurisdiction**

**Lessons Learnt and
Ways Forward**

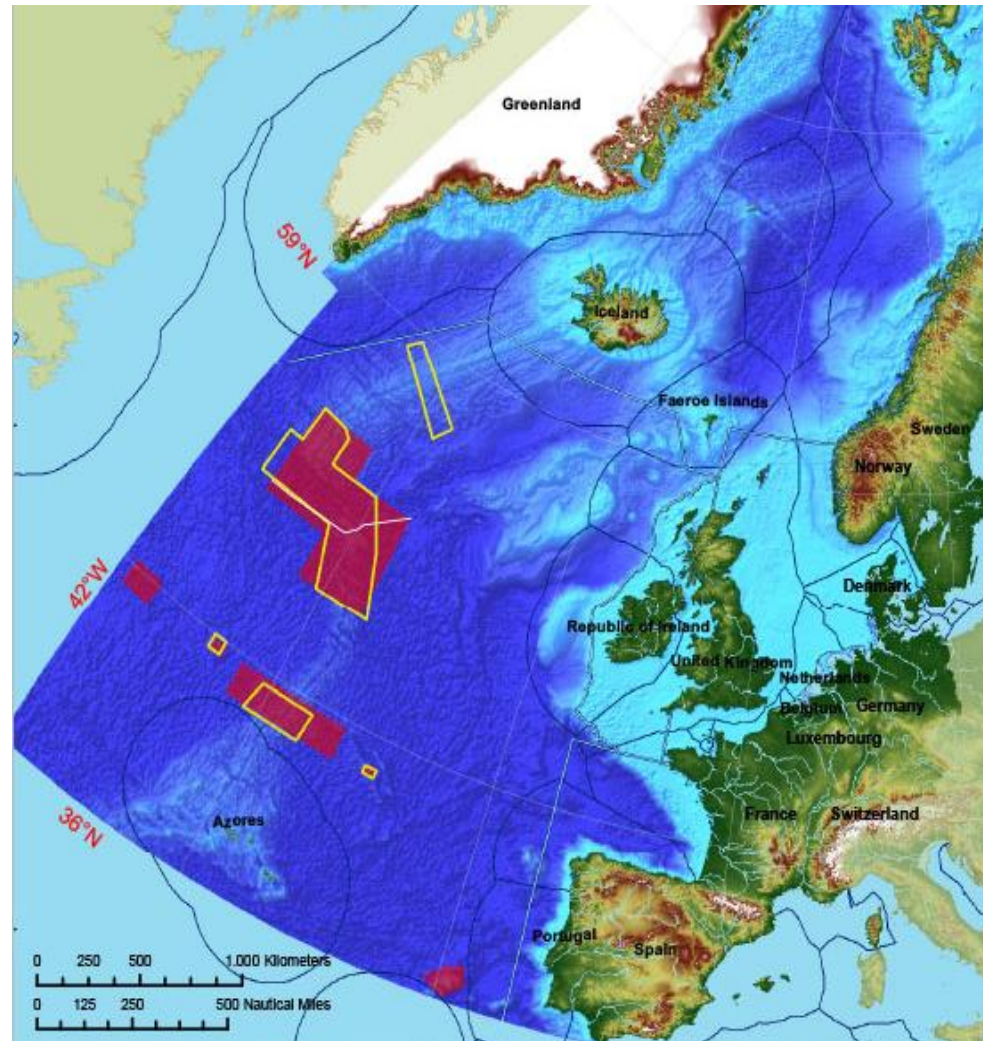
STRONG
HIGH SEAS

Ongoing initiatives



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Collective Arrangement for the North-East Atlantic | 6. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) |
| 2. Sargasso Sea Commission | |
| 3. Pelagos Sanctuary | 7. Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) |
| 4. Antarctic Treaty System | 8. Nairobi Convention |
| 5. Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) | 9. Abidjan Convention |

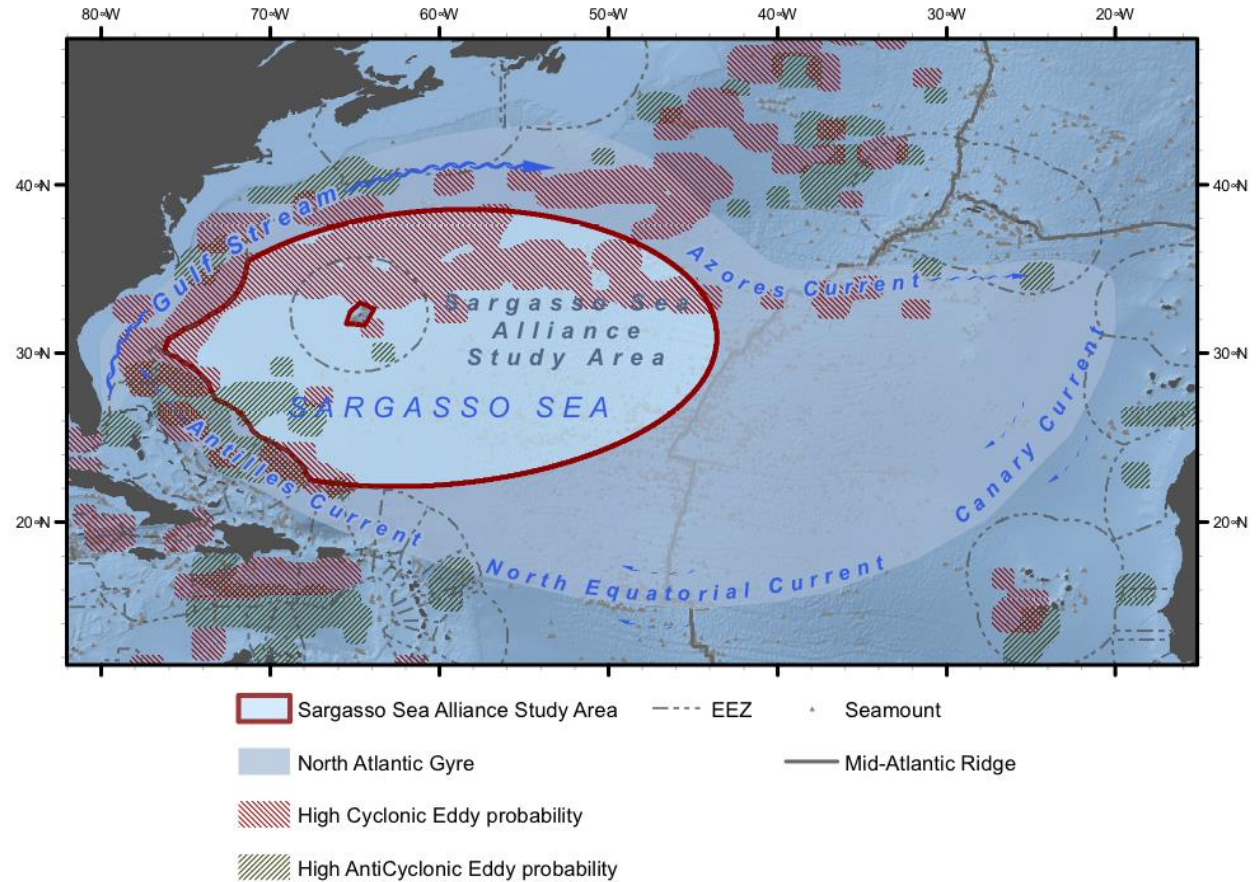
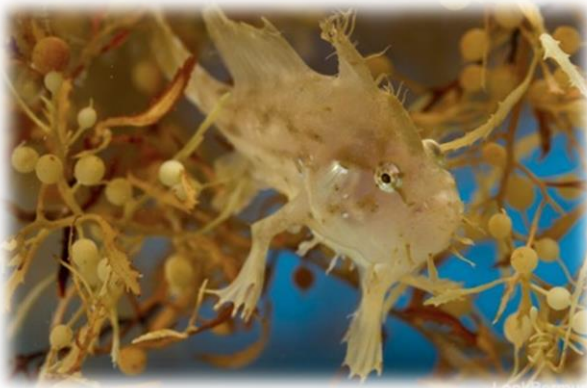
North-East Atlantic



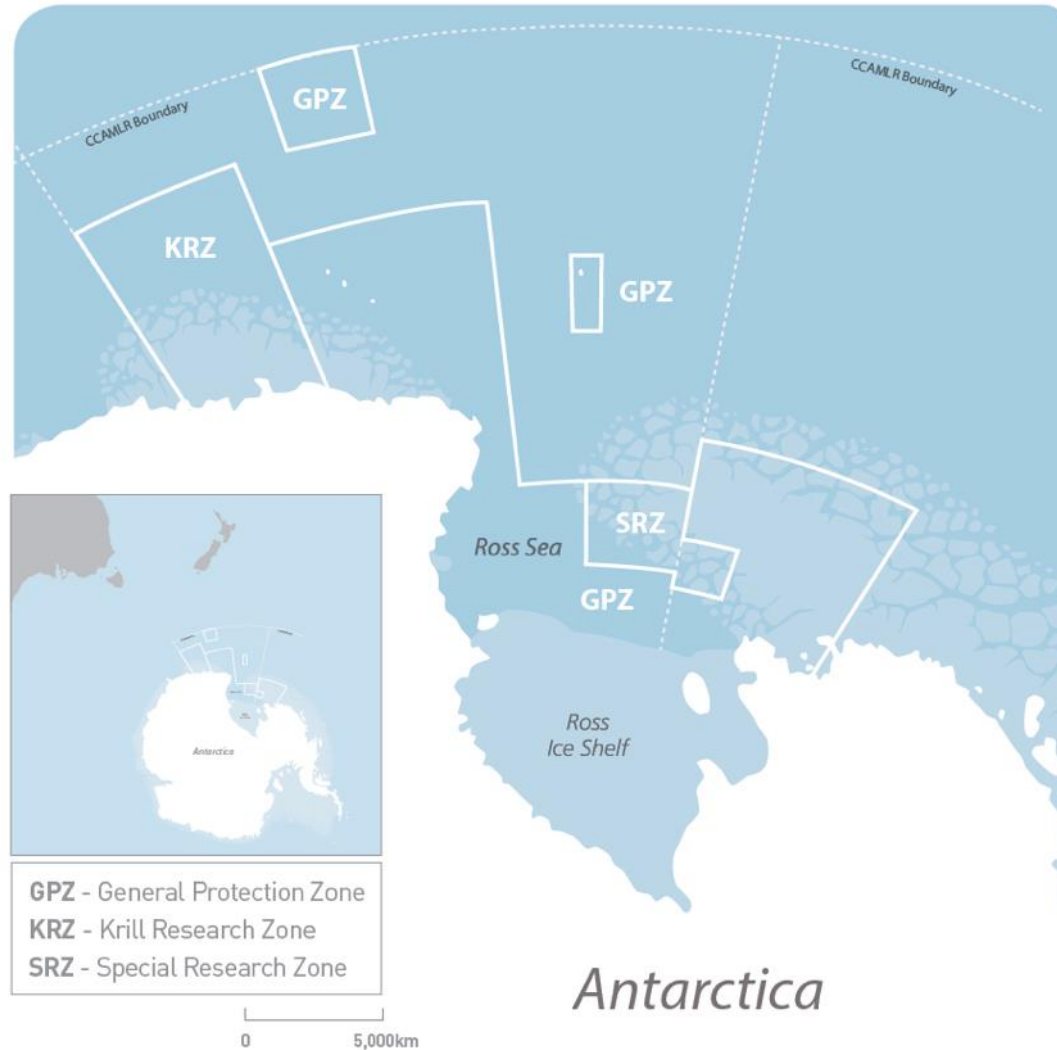
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

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

Sargasso Sea



Southern Ocean



CCAMLR

Lessons learned

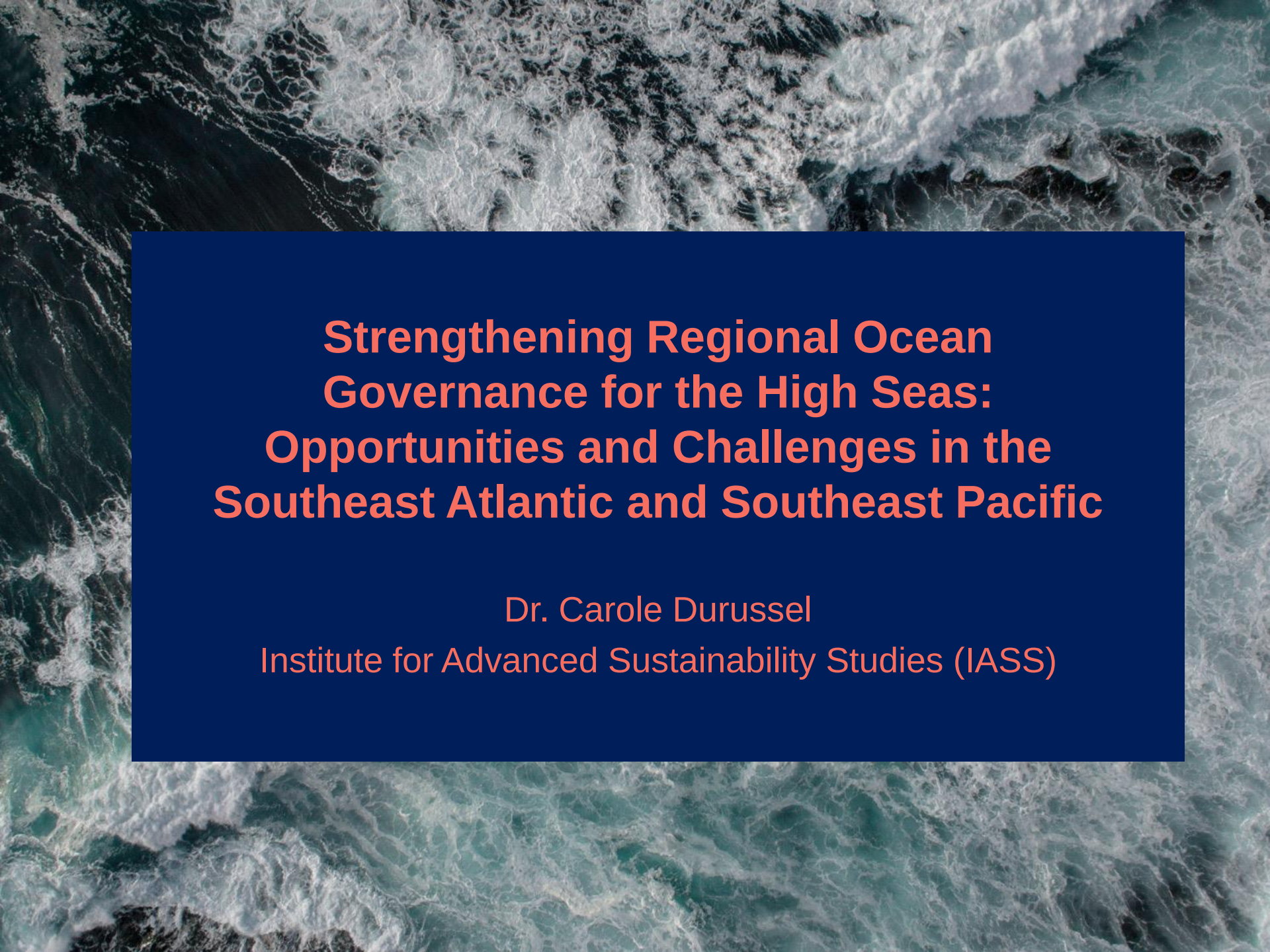
1. The need for cooperation and coordination
2. The role of champions and leaders
3. The importance of developing a dynamic science-policy interface
4. The need for an appropriate legal framework



Thank you

**glen.wright@iddri.org
[@MarinePolicy](#)**

**IKI STRONG High Seas project
prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas/**



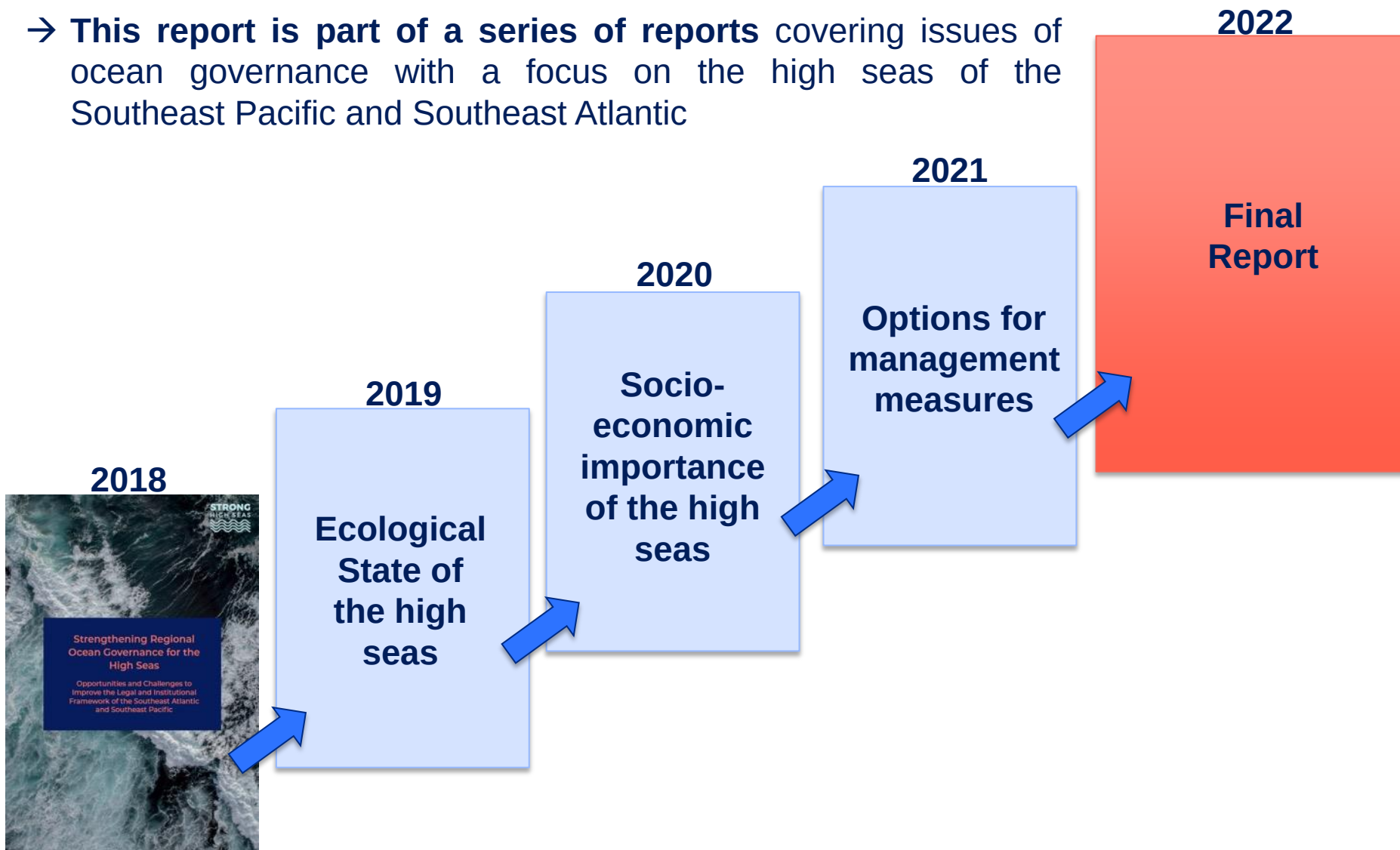
Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas: Opportunities and Challenges in the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific

Dr. Carole Durussel

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

STRONG High Seas Reports

→ This report is part of a series of reports covering issues of ocean governance with a focus on the high seas of the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic



Objectives of the Report

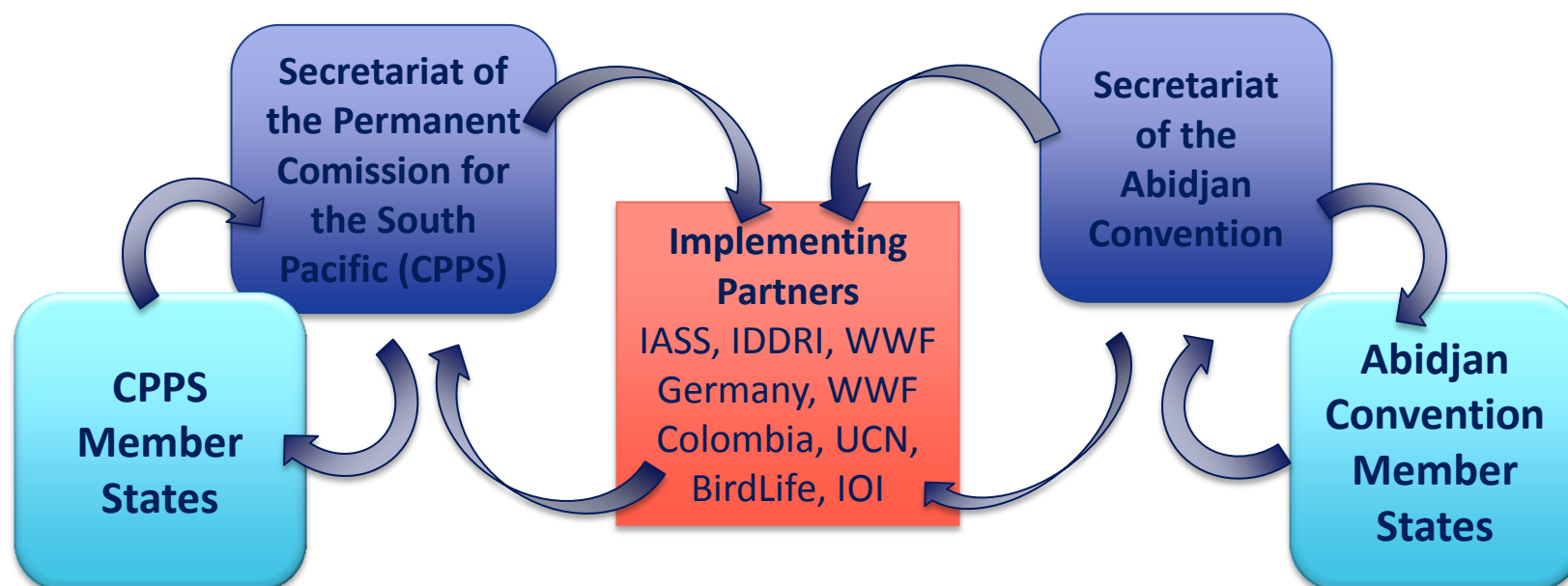
- **Assess the relevant governance frameworks** currently in place for the management of high seas biodiversity in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic
- **Identify the challenges and opportunities** for advancing conservation and sustainable use of high seas biodiversity around two important 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**

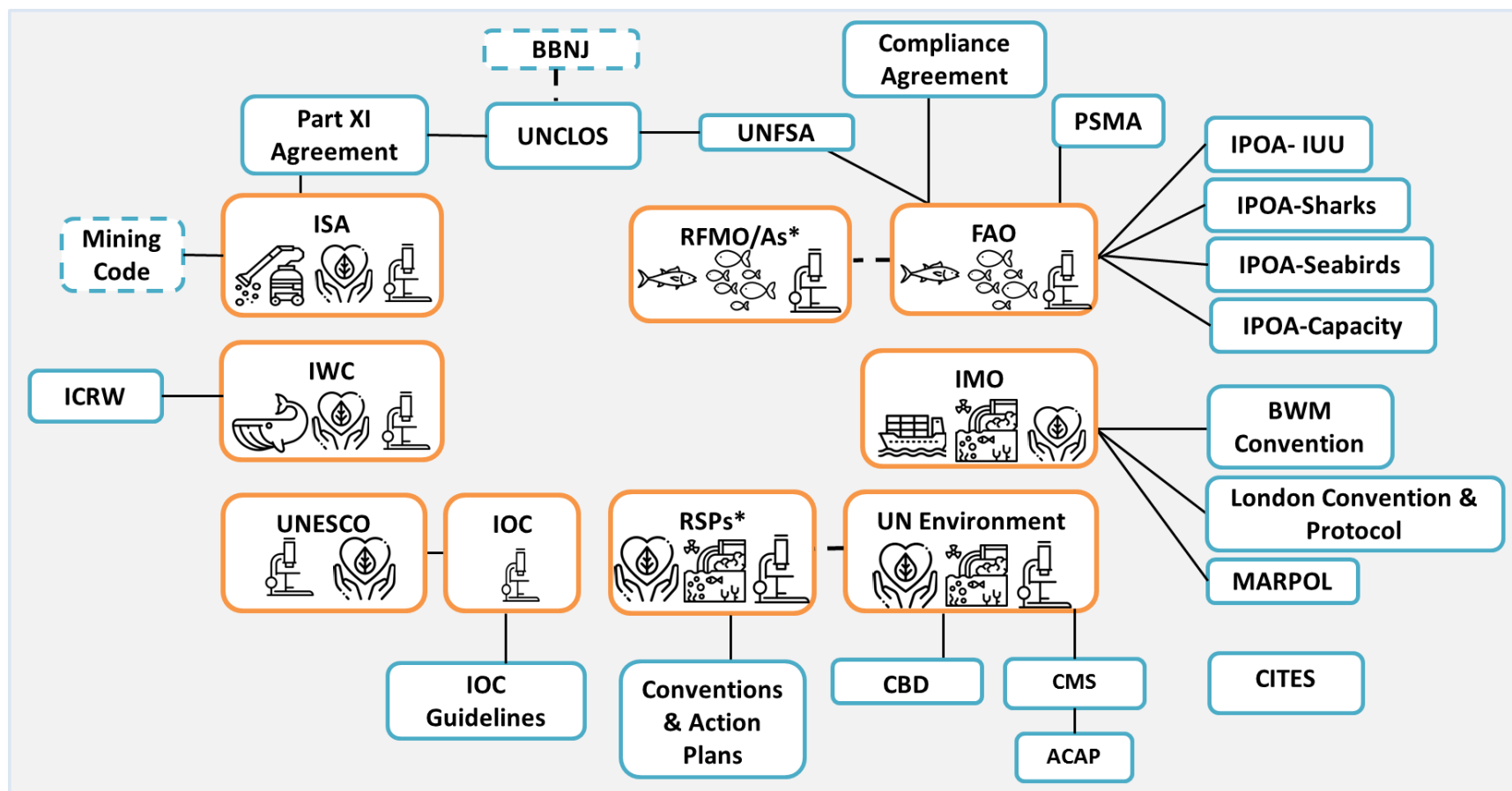
BBNJ Elements:

- **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

Global Governance Framework for BBNJ



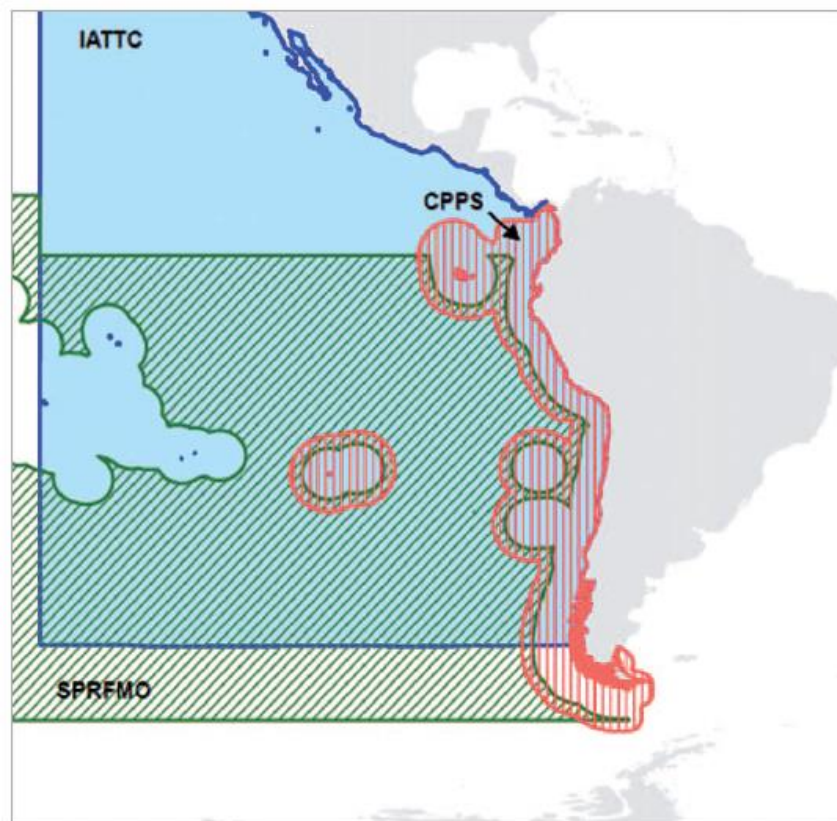
Legend

 Organisations
  Agreements
  Agreements under negotiation

Depiction of main mandates/activities



Regional Governance Framework for BBNJ

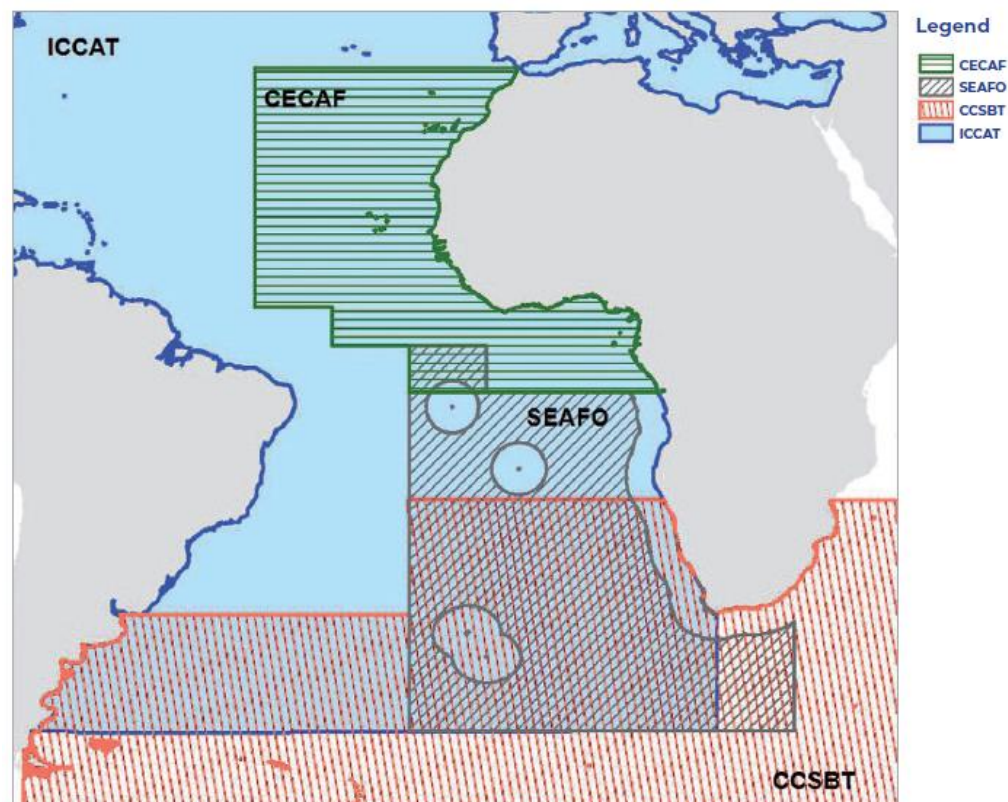


Southeast Pacific

Legend

- CPPS
- SPRFMO
- IATTC

Southeast Atlantic



Legend

- CECAF
- SEAFO
- CCSBT
- ICCAT

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

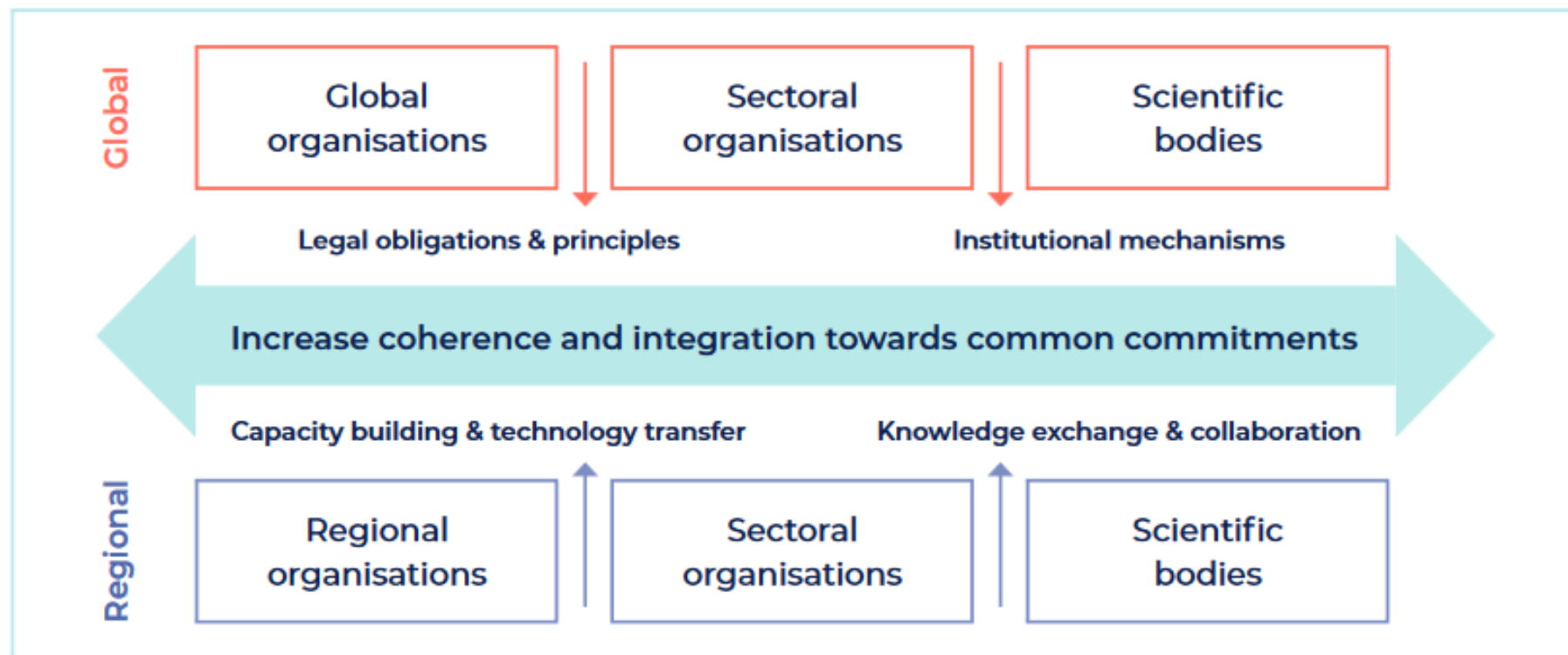
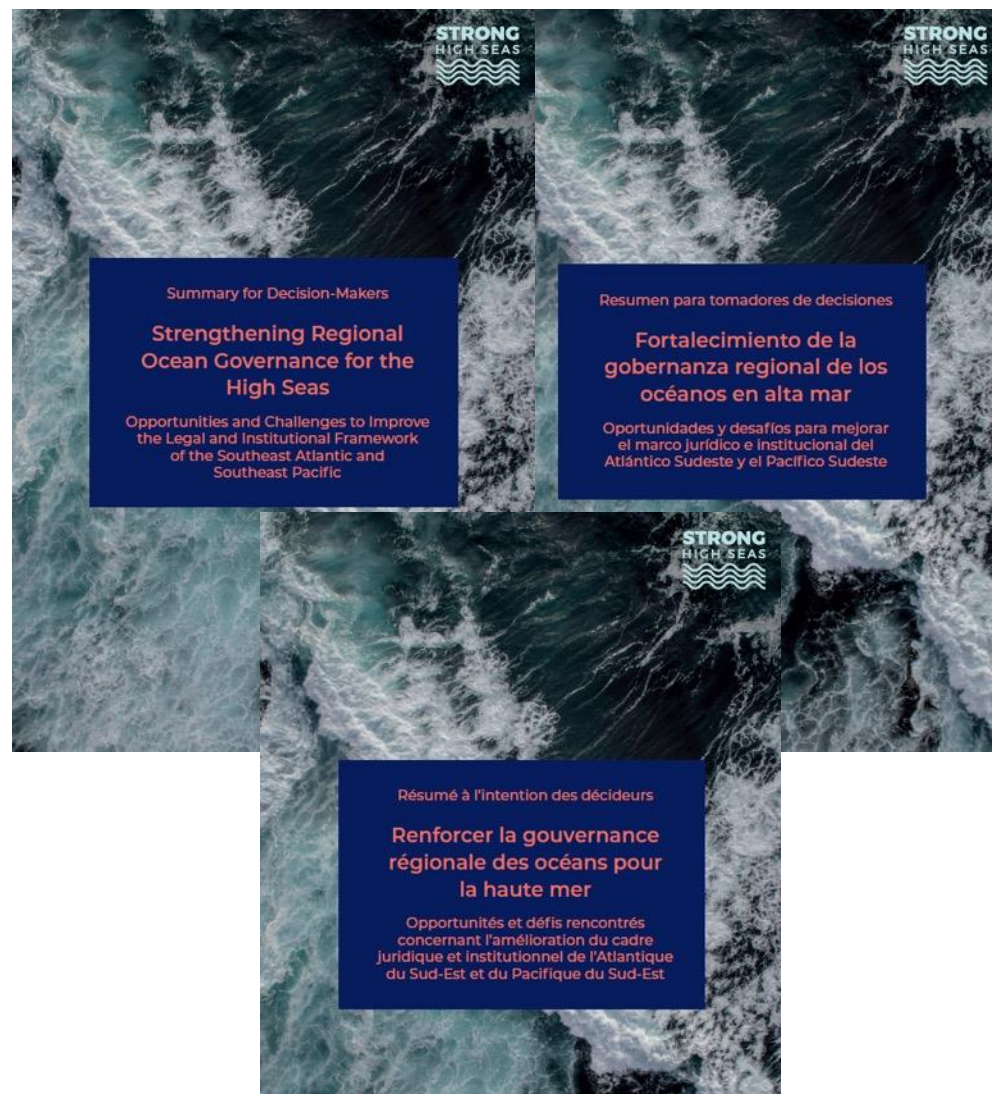
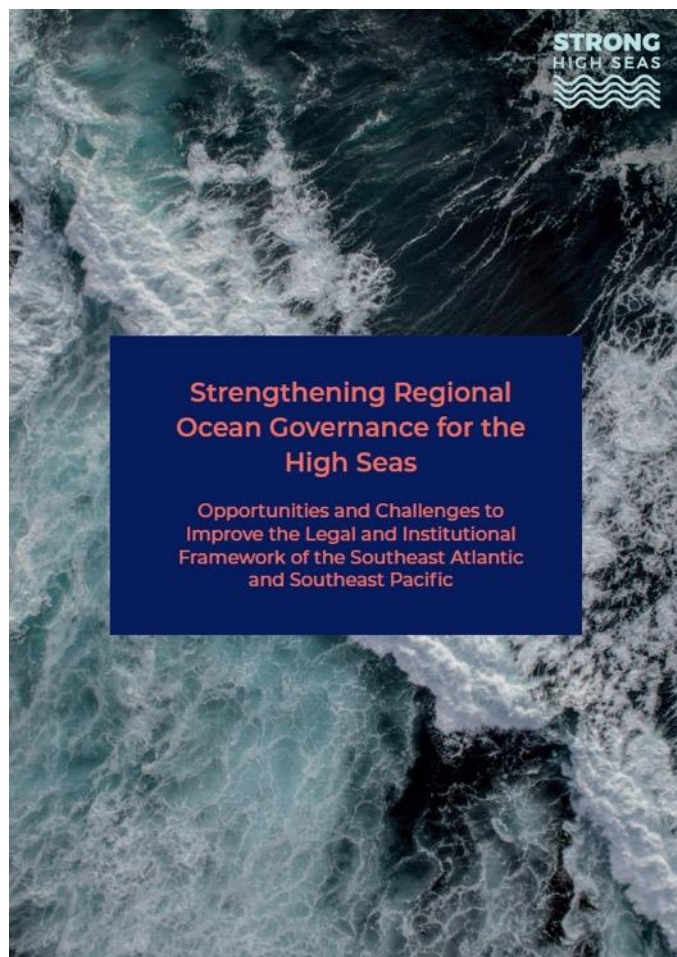


Figure: A new agreement will need to increase coherence and integration between and across regional and global institutions, both vertically and horizontally, to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ

You can download the reports here:

<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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**Underpinning a treaty with strong
regional and sectoral governance:**
Need for strengthening regional and
sectoral governance

Kristina Gjerde

STRONG High Seas Policy Brief



**Conservation and Sustainable
Use of Marine Biodiversity
in Areas Beyond
National Jurisdiction:**

**Options for Underpinning a Strong
Global BBNJ Agreement through
Regional and Sectoral Governance**

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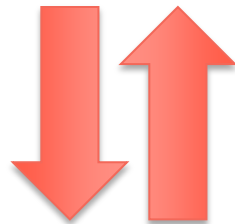
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BBNJ Agreement as an Opportunity

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 decision making body

- Establish & manage Global MPAs
- Endorse Regional MPAs, sectoral ABMTs
- Review EIAs and SEAs
- Enable cross-sectoral planning processes
- Review and oversee implementation

Other bodies

- Science advisory body
- Capacity
- Financial mechanism
- Compliance/implementation review
- Regional coordination mechanisms

➤ Platform for cooperation

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



**Summary: achieving coherence requires commitment
and capacity at all levels!**

