
An Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy (OETS) for Barbados

Field Mission to Barbados

20-21 June, 2018
Bridgetown, Barbados



The Commonwealth

Overview

- Fast facts about the Commonwealth
- Commonwealth Ocean Governance work project
- Synergies with UNCTAD (MOU) (OETS) and intended scope
- Commonwealth Blue Charter
- Proposed Outcomes for OETS/Commonwealth

THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT: WHO WE ARE


The Commonwealth



ACROSS



AFRICA



ASIA



CARIBBEAN



AMERICAS



EUROPE



PACIFIC

AMONG THEM ARE
SOME OF THE WORLD'S



LARGEST

WITH
2.2 BILLION
PEOPLE

WE SUPPORT

LASTING
DEMOCRACY



DEVELOPMENT



THAT'S NEARLY
A THIRD
OF THE WORLD'S
POPULATION



SMALLEST
COUNTRIES

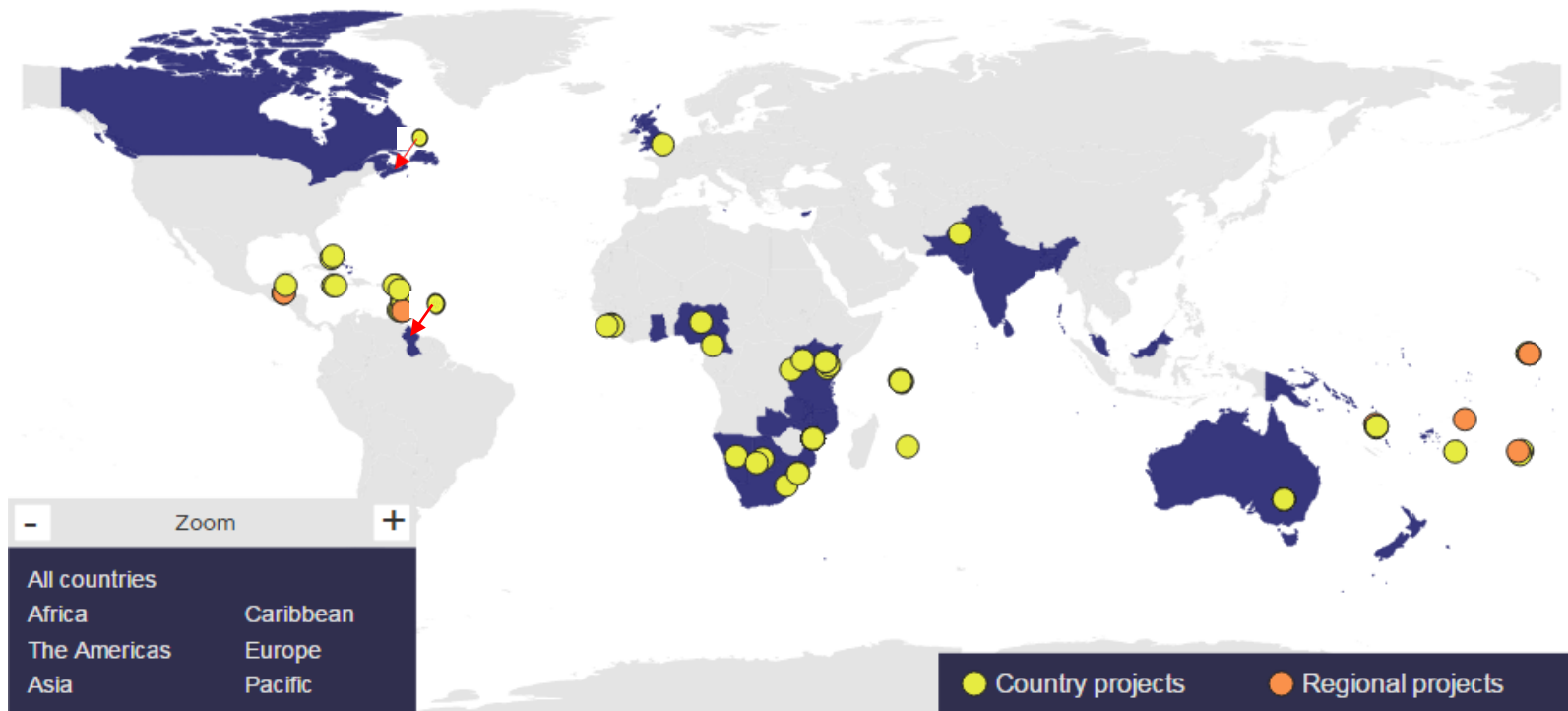




THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT: WHO WE ARE

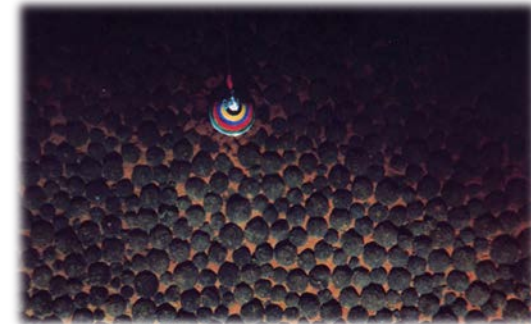
Promotes democracy, rule of law, human rights, good governance and social and economic development. A voice for Small States and youth empowerment.

Activities include: Helping countries with trade negotiations; encouraging women's leadership; strengthening small business sectors; supporting youth participation at all levels of society and providing legal and technical expertise in regulatory frameworks more specifically natural & maritime resources)

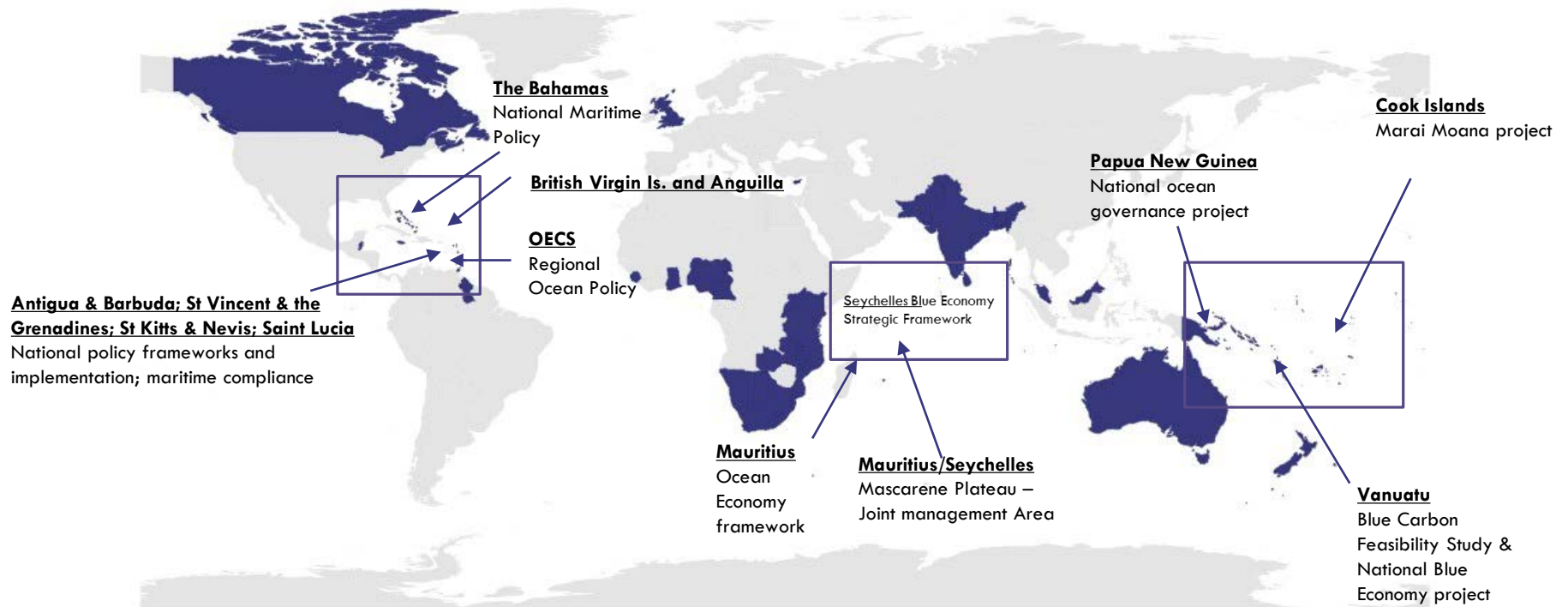


Ocean Governance and Natural Resources Objectives

- Contribute to sustainable economic and social development by assisting Member countries to sustainably manage natural resources and maritime space often several times larger than the terrestrial space under national jurisdiction
- Position Member countries to maximise the benefits arising from the use of natural resources and the development of an ocean-based economy SDG compliance (e.g. SDG 13 and 14: including international commitments)
- Core thread: with acquisition of maritime space as per UNCLOS, need for management of the space in a manner that allows for sustainable exploitation, protection and preservation of marine ecosystems.
- Assessing vulnerabilities and resilience; addressing old and new threats



Commonwealth Ocean Governance Work



Commonwealth & UNCTAD MOU - synergies

Commonwealth provides guidance on policy making, technical assistance and advisory services to Commonwealth member countries and supports governments to help achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable development;

The mission of UNCTAD is to carry out economic research, produce analyses, policy recommendations to support government decision-making, foster consensus building and offer technical assistance to support the countries' effective and equitable integration into the global economy

Identified activities:

Development of national/regional Oceans/Blue Economy and related Trade Strategies in selected Commonwealth countries;

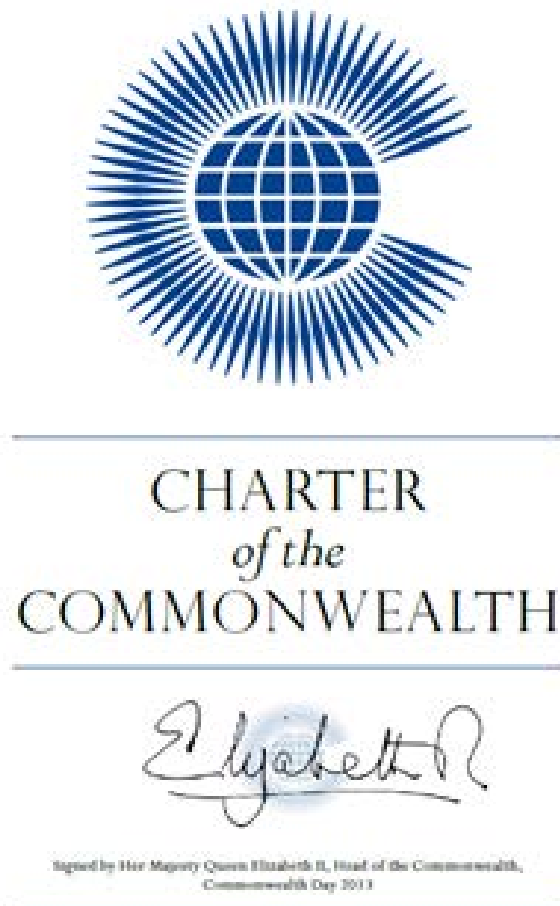
Side events at UNCTAD, Commonwealth, WTO and other conference on themes related to the oceans/blue economy, and in particular in relation to fisheries;



Intended scope

- OETS activities under the MOU - currently conducted via programmatic work under Commonwealth Strategic Plan 2017/18 - 2020/21 and its associated Delivery plan which speaks to Sustainable development of marine, other natural resources, including 'blue economies'.
- Methodology: engaging governments - on the rationale that government will engage key national stakeholders who regularly engage with communities. Not viewed as top down, but rather as lateral (across sectors and stakeholders).
- Field missions to form basis of identification of sectors by national stakeholders, data sheets, review and consultations - great that Barbados considers inclusion of the private sector as early step.
- National, regional and international aspects - addresses domestic priorities, identifies synergies with neighbours suitable for bilateral cooperation, and in the final analysis, supports compliance with international obligations. (SDG 14, Aichi Target 11, WTO...)

Charter of the Commonwealth



'the Commonwealth - as a compelling force for good and as an effective network for co-operation and for promoting development'

Commonwealth Blue Charter genesis

Commonwealth Charter:

- *Affirms Commonwealth as a recognised intergovernmental champion of Small States*
- *Advocating for their special needs;*
- *Providing policy advice on political, economic and social development issues;*
- *Delivering technical assistance,*
- *Affirms the validity of and our commitment to the values and principles of the Commonwealth as defined and strengthened over the years:*
 - *the Langkawi Declaration on the Environment 1989,*
 - *Harare Declaration 1991*
 - *Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment Nairobi 2012* - agreed to intensify efforts to create greater understanding of the true value of ocean resources in national development, and new ways of working that bring different ministries and institutions, businesses and local resource users together to agree common objectives and goals for ocean management...'
 - *Malta Communiqué 2015*
 - importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 - integrated approaches to ocean management, in accordance with international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, offer the prospect of better ocean governance, and the conservation and management of marine resources, habitats and biodiversity
 - development of a sustainably-managed 'blue economy' offers significant opportunities for economic growth and general development for many Commonwealth member states
 - prospect of capacity building partnership activities in support of these aims

Blue Charter: *is in fulfilment of the Malta Mandate*

Commonwealth Blue Charter

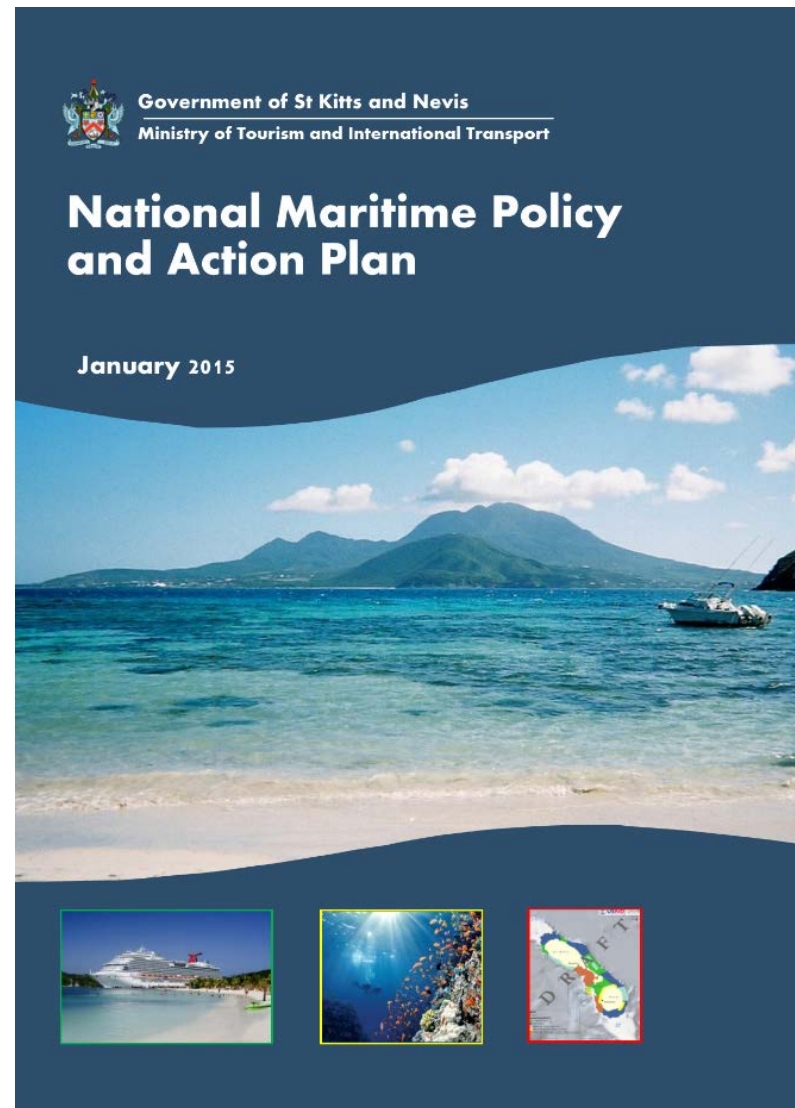
- Agree to cooperate with one another in meeting our ocean commitments, including through the sharing of knowledge, information (including scientific information), expertise, and good practices;
- Invite all interested Commonwealth member countries to come forward as Commonwealth Blue Charter Champions, to lead or engage with Action Groups, in alignment with their national priorities, with technical support from the Secretariat and partners;
- Commit to taking a principled, science-based approach consistent with the Charter of the Commonwealth to meeting our ocean commitments, including in ocean planning, sustainable economic development, and environmental conservation;
- Mandate a Commonwealth Blue Charter plan of action focussed around Action Groups, led by Commonwealth member countries, which will collaborate with partners at national, regional and international levels, in addressing identified priority ocean issues of member countries.



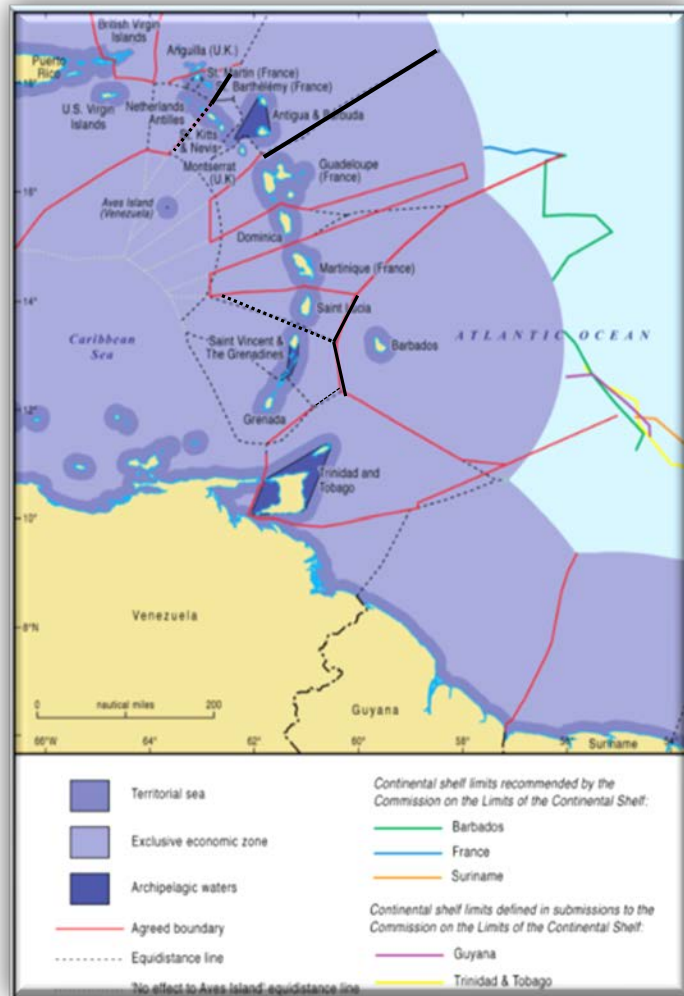
No action group on trade in ocean services yet - Scope for formulation of one with like-minded states, once the who, where, what, how is identified.

Potential Outcomes

- Harmonisation of regional work: building on work underway with neighbouring countries: Commenced work with OECS member countries in 2011
- Three draft national policy frameworks developed to date
 - Antigua and Barbuda
 - St Kitts and Nevis
 - St Vincent and the Grenadines
 - Work has commenced in Saint Lucia (Latter 3 now subsumed under World Bank CROP programme)
- Commenced work with UK Overseas Territories Anguilla and BVI in 2016, implemented Bahamas National Maritime Policy in 2016
- Barbados: Issue Identification: Articulation of challenges and sector priorities
- Opportunity to devise innovative solutions: blue-green ocean policy? Harmonised policy coordination and coherence across sectors? More viable targeted sector e.g. fisheries?
- Identification of data gaps: platform for attracting financing support
- Increased buy-in and articulation of a model sector plan for Maritime and Blue Economy Department
- Knowledge sharing and learning



Caribbean Maritime Boundary Delimitation 2012 - 2016



- Clear results in African, Asian, Caribbean and Pacific regions. 13 boundaries settled by Treaty over the past 3 years.
- Caribbean maritime space comprises mix of independent, non-contiguous and non-Commonwealth States
- Commonwealth involved in resolving 4 boundaries since 2014, 3 in process, more remain to be settled throughout the Caribbean

OECS land area = 3,500 km²

OECS regional waters = 350,000 km²

The Ocean Governance Context - Getting it done

Security and certainty provided by settled maritime boundaries enables a more focused approach to ocean governance

Commonwealth support is being provided for national ocean policies in 3 of the CROP participating States, where maritime boundaries are/have been resolved

Gaps remain in ascertaining the value and maximizing the resource potential of newly acquired marine space



Next steps for the Commonwealth

- Continuation of legislative, policy and institutional support within a coordinated framework
- Identify our role in coordinating the different activities of partners in this space
- Identify priorities for the delivery of integrated ocean governance in the Caribbean



Thank You