



# Partnering for a Sustainable Ocean:

## The Role of Regional Ocean Governance in Implementing SDG14

**International Oceans Institute**

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**Glen Wright**  
glen.wright@iddri.org

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**PROG**

Partnership for Regional  
Ocean Governance

**IDDDRI**

IASS  
POTSDAM



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

**giz**

Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

## Key messages

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- 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

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- 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)

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- 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)

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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

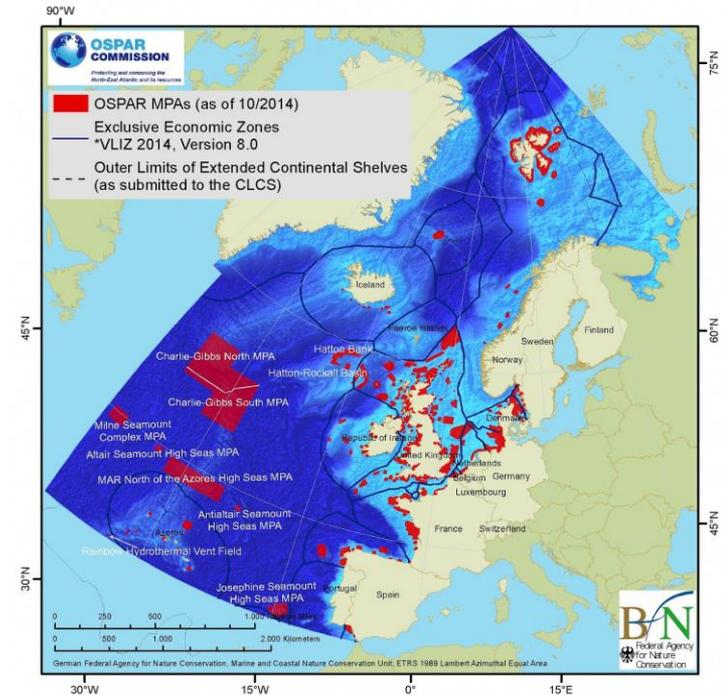
# Tackling SDG14 targets at the regional level

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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



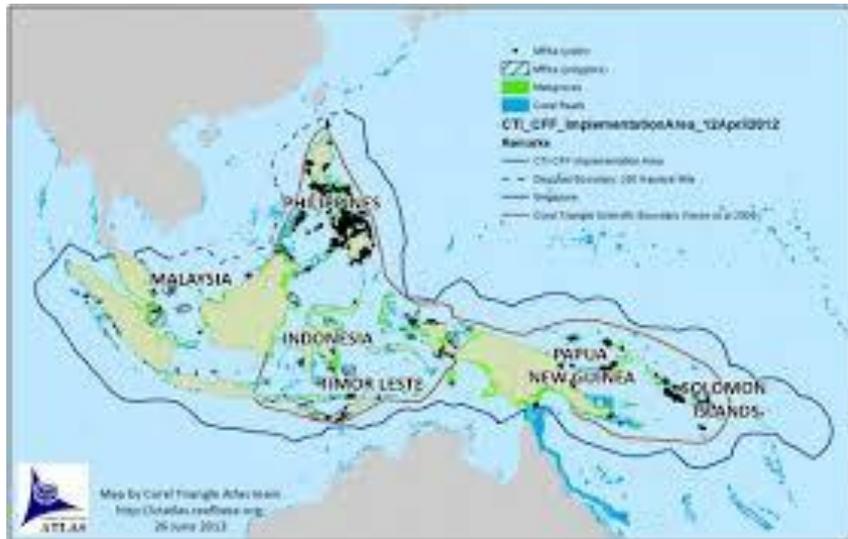
- The “Collective Arrangement”

# Example: The Coral Triangle



## CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY



# Example: East African Coast

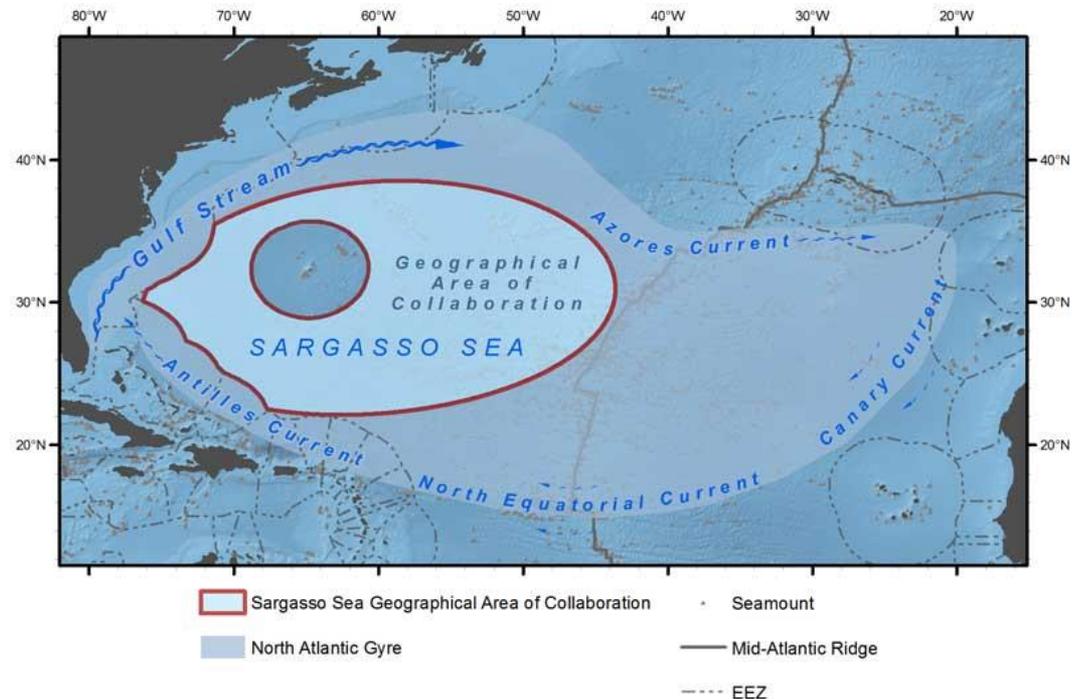
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# Example: Sargasso Sea



SARGASSO SEA  
COMMISSION



# Enabling conditions

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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

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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?

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- 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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**IDDRI**

**Glen Wright**

Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

[glen.wright@iddri.org](mailto:glen.wright@iddri.org)

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