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Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Oceans and Coasts

The Role of Regional Ocean Governance

Starting point



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- Ocean sustainability represents a unique challenge that States cannot tackle individually
 - Regional organisations, mechanisms and instruments already play a crucial role in delivering ocean sustainability
 - Cooperation and coordination through existing regional frameworks is recognized in the 2030 Agenda
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Scope & Objectives



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- Provide an overview of different regional approaches and frameworks for ocean sustainability
 - Assess how different types of regional ocean governance efforts already contribute to SDG14 targets
 - Showcase regional ocean governance approaches from different marine regions
 - Provide options to advance regional oceans governance as key element for the implementation of SDG14.
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Case studies: SDG14 targets



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| Target | Title | Showcase |
|--------|---------------------------|--|
| 14.1 | WIO-LAB | Advance cooperation, legal base, awareness, innovation to tackle land-based pollution |
| 14.2 | Baltic MSP Roadmap | Develop transboundary coherent MSP based on EBM |
| 14.3 | Coral Triangle Initiative | Advance cooperation, capacities, awareness, research on ocean acidification for informed decisions |
| 14.4 | Fish-I Africa | Promote cooperation and exchange to strengthen control and enforcement on IUU |
| 14.6 | Xiamen Declaration | Promote transparency & elimination of harmful subsidies |
| 14.a | PIMPAC | Develop capacity surrounding the Micronesia Challenge |
| 14.b | RFLP | Promotion of fisheries co-management, knowledge base, management plans, job diversification |

Case studies: ROG in practice



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| Region | Title | Showcase |
|------------|--|--|
| Baltic Sea | EUSBSR | Integrated framework to complement and improve alignment, coordination and cooperation of existing policies and institutions |
| NEA | OSPAR-NEAFC collective arrangement | RFMO-RSC cooperation for dialogue and coordination of conservation and management measures |
| Pacific | Micronesia Challenge | Leader-driven initiative to achieve CBD targets through co-creation, joint management and capacity building |
| WIO | Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems | Stakeholder Partnership to support synergy in work programs and share information amongst stakeholders |



Regional ocean governance helps States to:

- Tackle ocean sustainability challenges based on EBM
- Coordinate, cooperate and exchange across “silos”
- Develop a shared understanding of challenges to ocean sustainability
- Trigger new initiatives to strengthen or complement existing policies and measures
- Ensure transparent and inclusive decision-making
- Promote capacity development

=> Matters for the delivery of SDG14 targets and the SDG14 goal



Regional ocean governance “secret of success”:

- Strong political will and ownership of national actors
 - Shared perception of a common challenge
 - Legal framework requiring/supporting regional action
 - Competent and well-equipped regional secretariats
 - Stakeholder involvement via national coordination points
 - Tailor-made support and capacity building to ensure level playing field among actors
 - Targeted and aligned measures across all scales
 - Flexible approach adaptable to national diversity
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Regional ocean governance is continuously evolving with competent organizations and mechanisms facing many challenges:

- Diverse range of national dynamics, interests and capacities
 - Room for manoeuvre confined by other supranational regimes with overlapping or superordinate mandates
 - Results more labour-intensive and time-consuming discouraging leadership and active engagement
 - Limited human and financial resources
 - Unclear or weak legal frameworks
 - Lack of a comprehensive knowledge base
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Regional ocean governance should be further strengthened to unfold their full potential to support States in 2030 Agenda delivery

- Support and expand steps already taken by States and Regional Ocean Governance Organizations
 - Develop tailor-made and context-specific regional partnerships for sustainable oceans
 - Establish a forum for “inter-regional” and “region-to-global” cooperation
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Thank you !



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Contacts:

stefanie.schmidt@iass-potsdam.de

julien.rochette@iddri.org

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