

STRONG High Seas Project: Overview

27 November 2019
Cape Town, South Africa

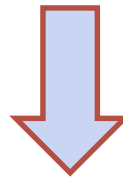


A platform at the science, policy, society interface, focusing on facilitating dialogue processes that foster greater regional cooperation and better integrated and coherent governance frameworks at regional and national levels.

STRONG High Seas:

Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas

- 5-year project (June 2017 – May 2022)
- Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI)
- Objective: To **strengthen regional ocean governance** for the **conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**



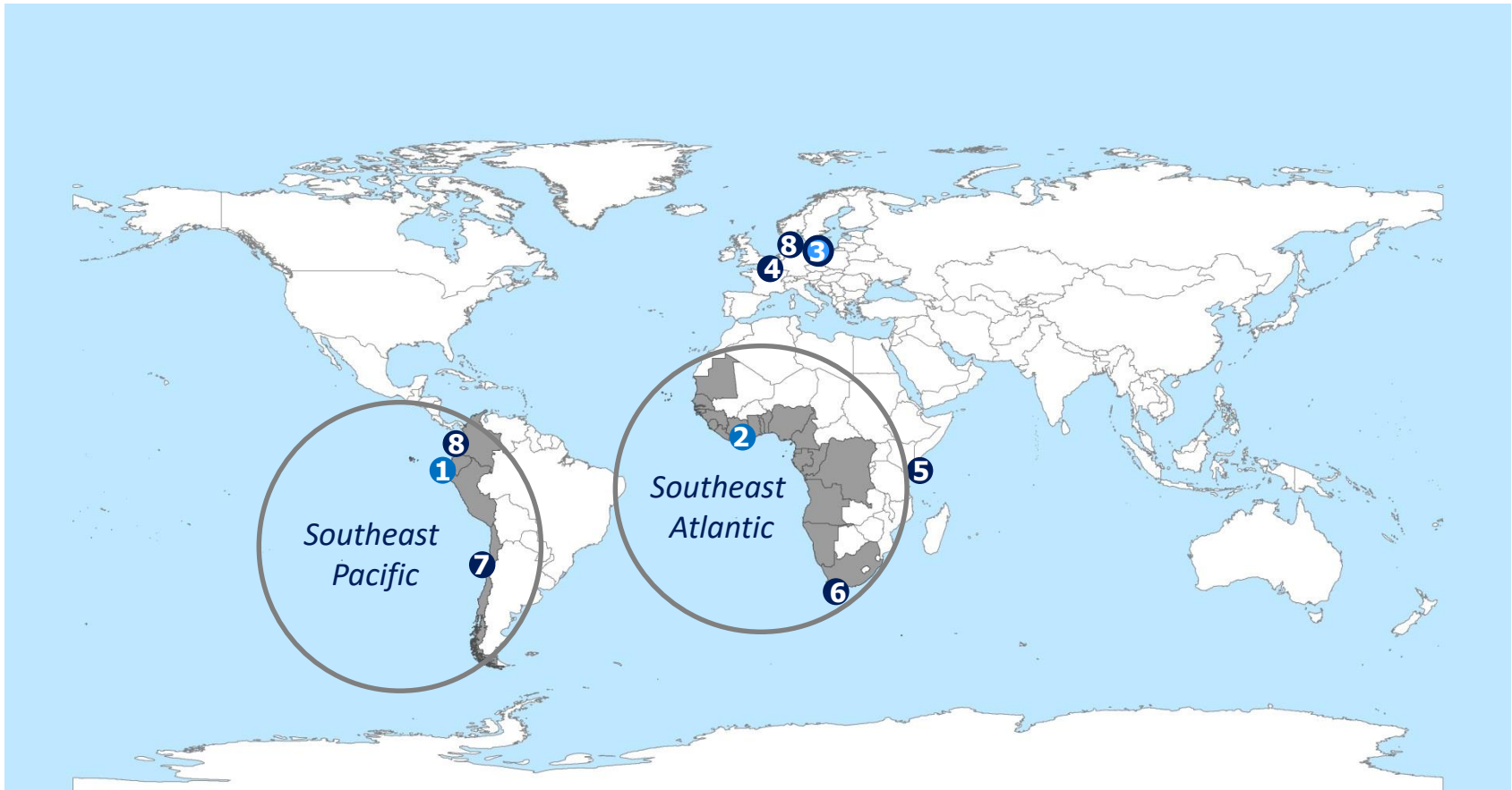
- To develop **integrated and ecosystem-based approaches**
 - within our two focal regions
 - between marine regions
 - between the regional and global level

Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Partners of the STRONG High Seas Project



Credit: ESRI (2008): World countries 2008. ESRI Data & Maps

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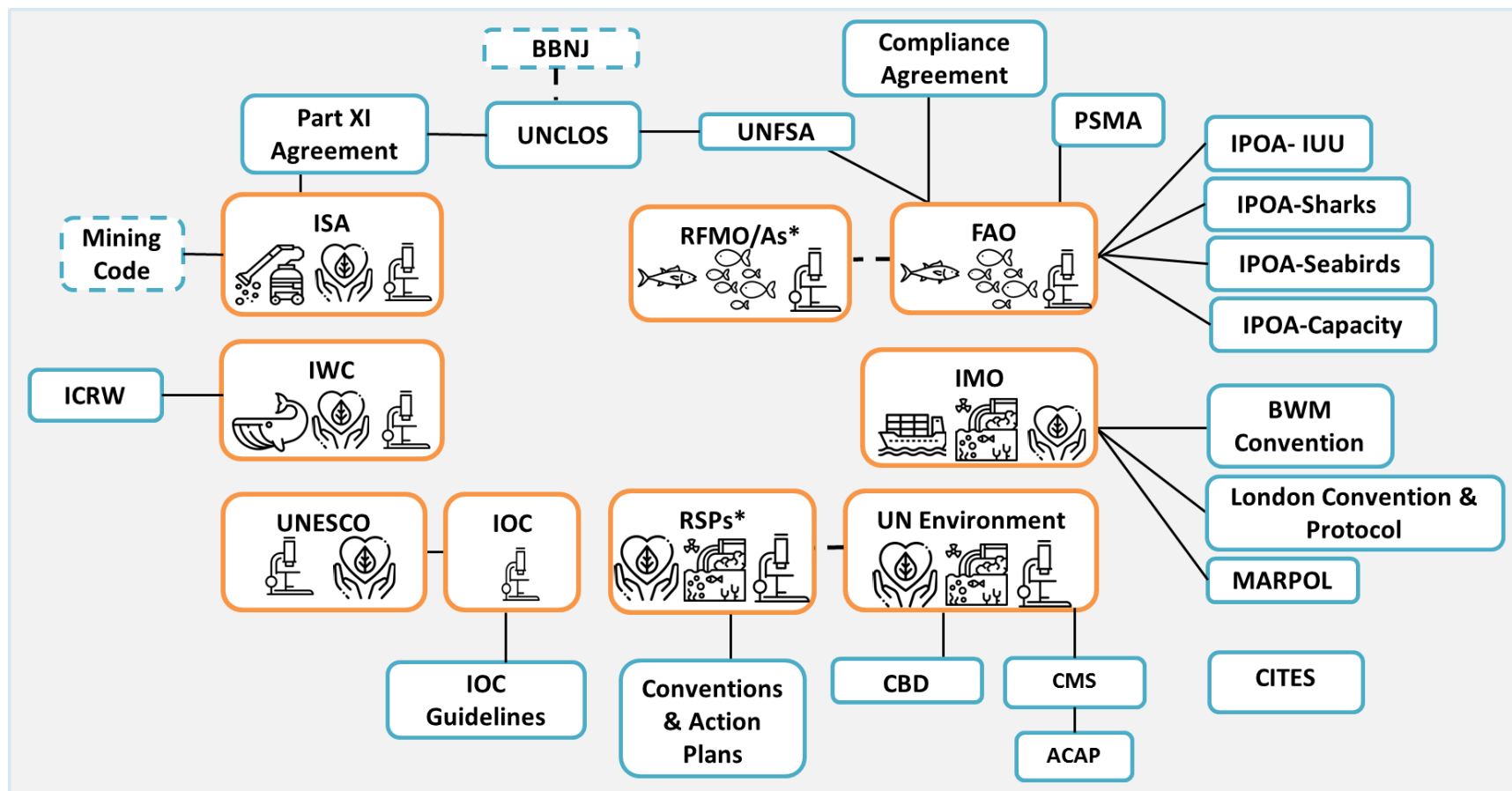


International Ocean Institute
African Region

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Global Governance Framework for BBNJ



Legend

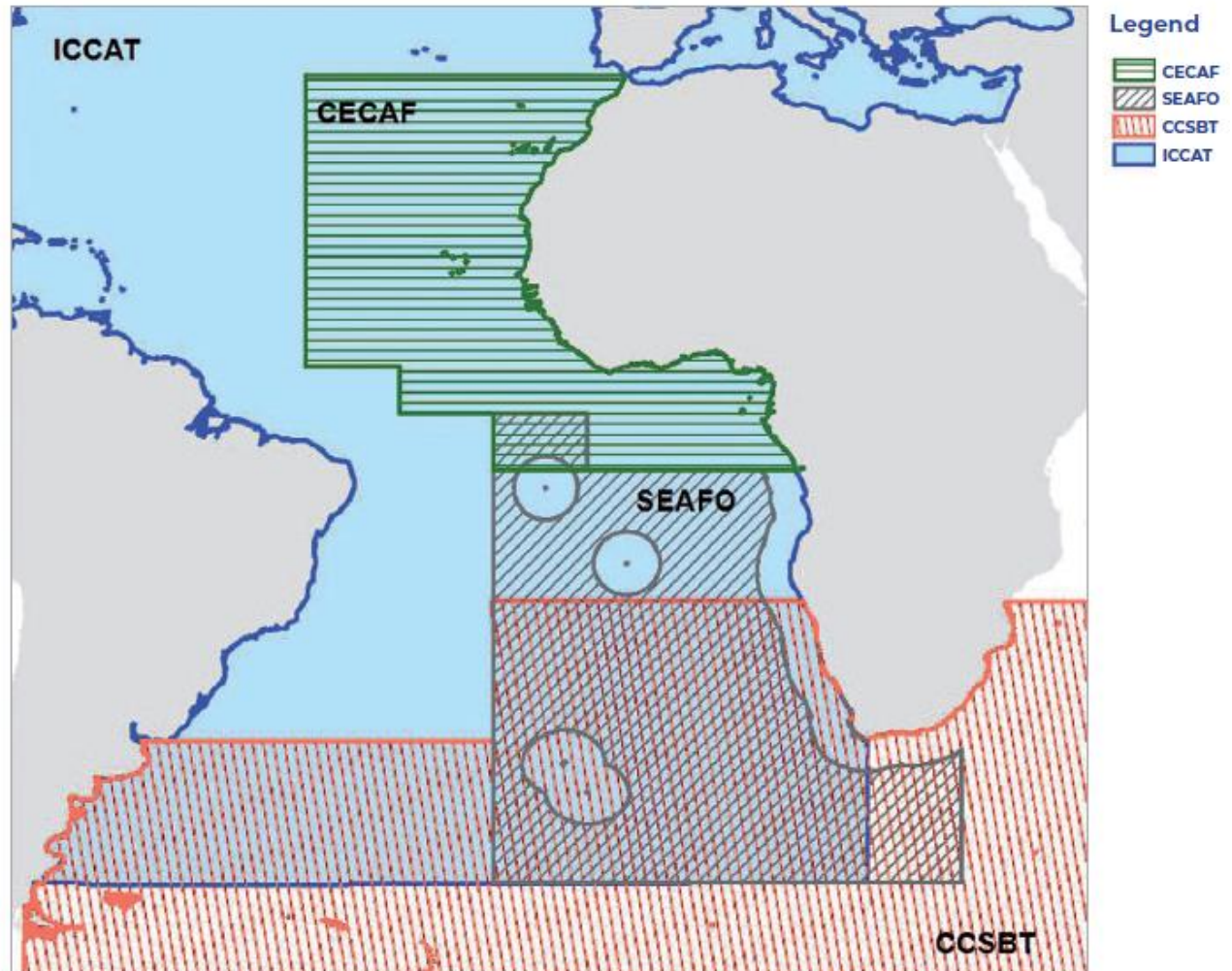


Depiction of main mandates/activities



Regional Governance Framework for BBNJ

Southeast Atlantic

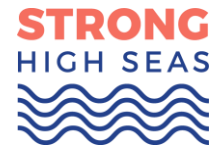


Challenges in the Regions



- Organisations have **varying and non-comprehensive or limited mandates** to address issues related to BBNJ;
- **Limited cross-sectoral cooperation**, with individual organisations adopting their own principles, resolutions and recommendations for addressing BBNJ challenges;
- **Varied and uneven participation in regional and global agreements**, making it difficult to fully address issues related to 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.

Project Components

Component I

Southeast Pacific

Southeast Atlantic

Focus on strengthening
ocean governance in the
focal regions

Component II

Southeast Pacific

Southeast Atlantic

Region

Region

Region

Focus on strengthening
dialogue between
marine regions

Component III

UN BBNJ Process

Southeast Pacific

Southeast Atlantic

Linking regional and
global governance

Project activities

**Engagement in
Policy**

**Communication and
Outreach**

Capacity Building

**Stakeholder
Platform**

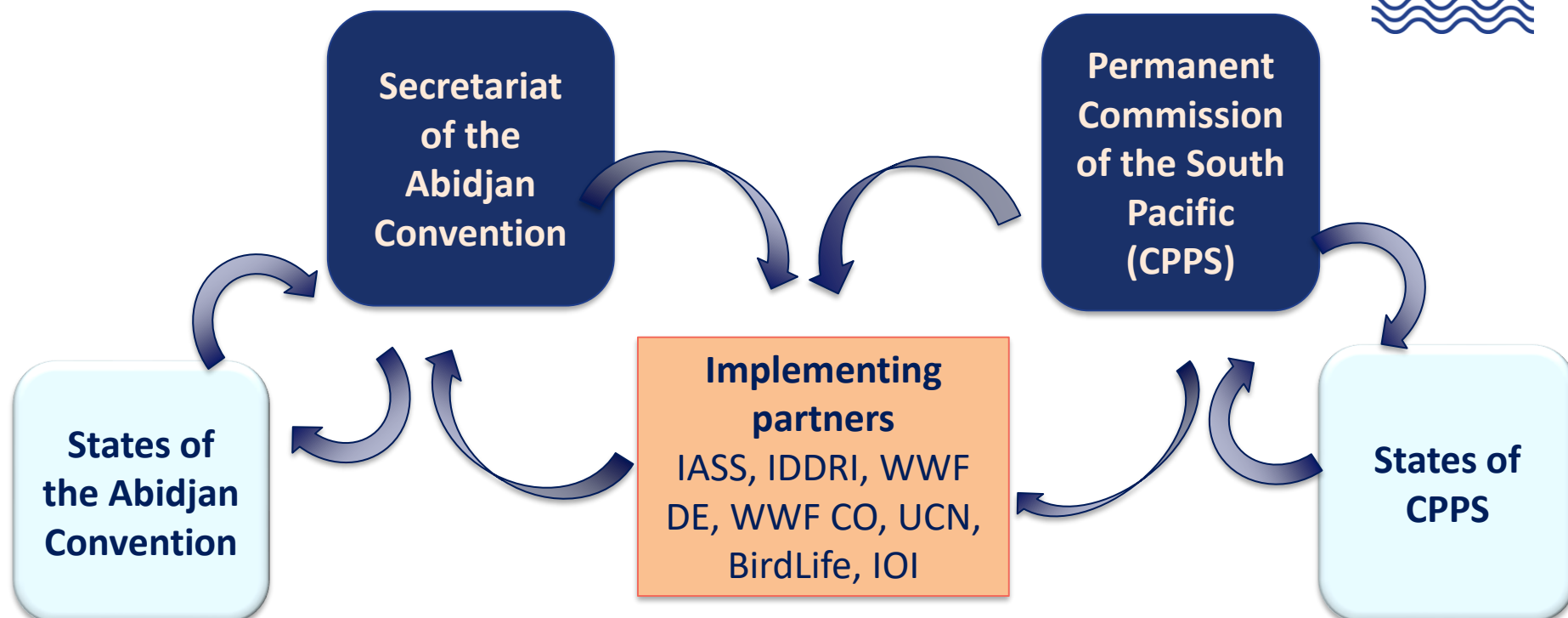
Dialogue Workshops

**Interregional
Workshops**

Technical Workshops

**Scientific
Assessments**

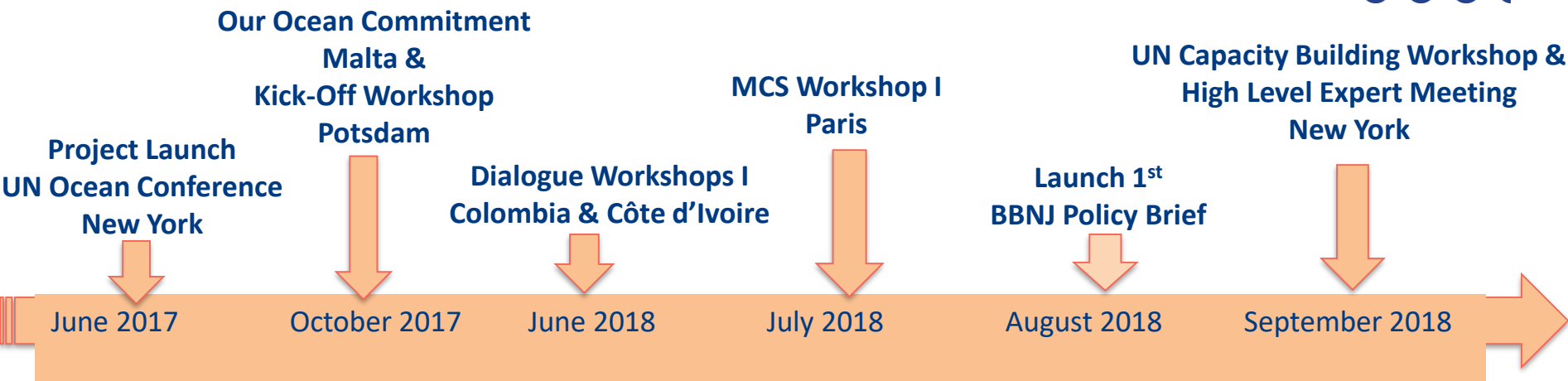
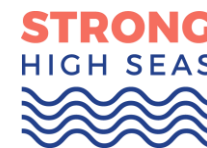
Collaborative approach



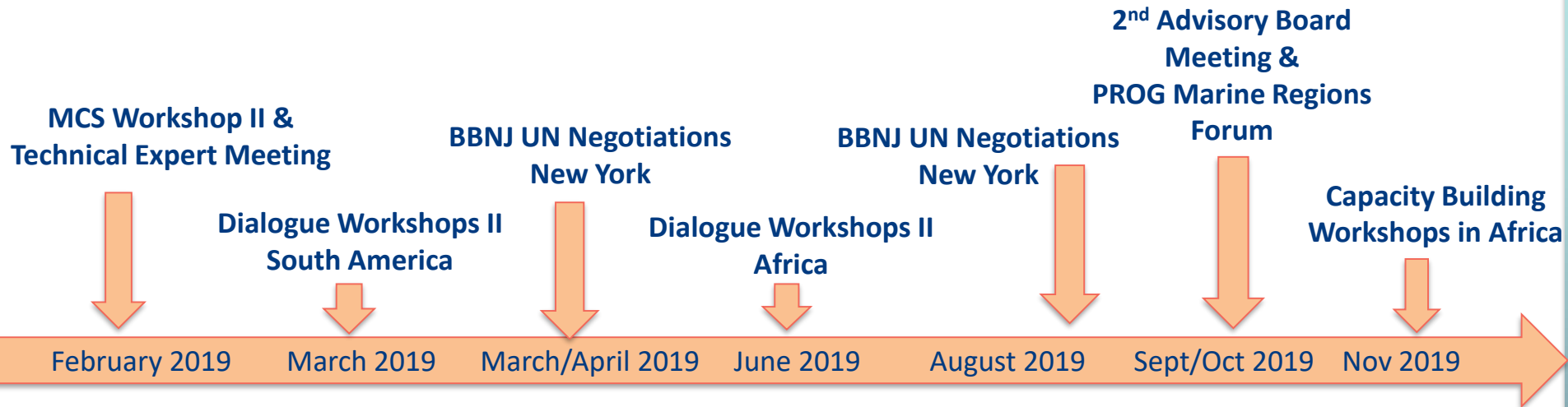
Collaboration with the regions

- Identification of topics for in-depth assessment
- Co-design of regional specific scientific assessments (project outputs)
- Data and information exchange
- Review and evaluation of project relevant outputs
- Co-development of joint workshops and trainings
- Ongoing exchange (stakeholder platform)

2017-2019 Project Update



2017-2019 Project Update



Scientific Assessments & publications

- Ecological baselines report
- Report on monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)
- 2nd BBNJ Policy Brief

Other ongoing processes for 2019

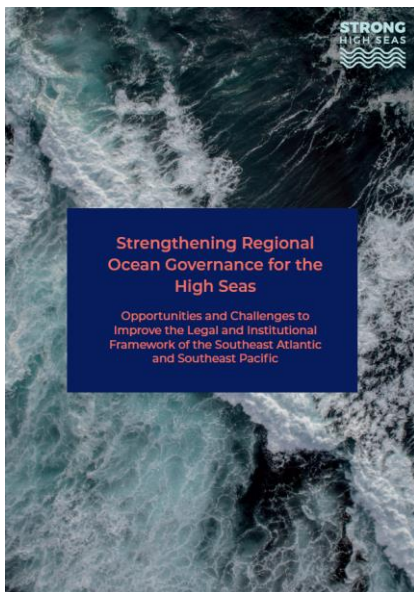
- **Capacity building** & development of a stakeholder platform
- Policy engagement and outreach
- Linking to the Noumea Convention & Nairobi Convention

Progress under Component I: *Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Pacific & Southeast Atlantic*



Scientific Assessments

- Assessment of the **legal & institutional framework**
- Assessment of the **ecological characteristics**
- Assessment of **technological tools** relevant for the **monitoring, control and surveillance** of human activities in ABNJ



Progress under Component I: *Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Pacific & Southeast Atlantic*

Stakeholder Engagement

- Assessment of **regional capacity needs**
- Set up of a **relevant stakeholder engagement platform** for the region
- Organisation of **Dialogue Workshops**



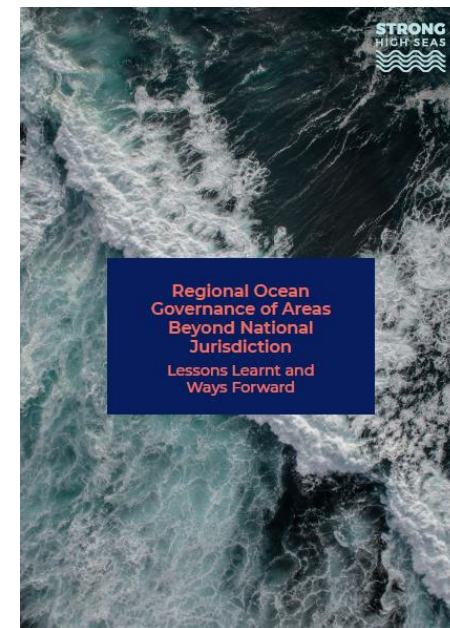
Progress under Component II: *Strengthening Dialogue between Marine Regions*

Scientific Assessment

- **Lessons learnt** from other regions in ocean governance

Stakeholder Engagement

- Strengthening dialogue with the **Southwest Pacific region**



Progress under Component III: *Linking Regional and Global Governance*



Policy Engagement

- **Policy Brief Options** to underpin global ocean governance **through regional and sectoral governance**

Stakeholder Engagement

- Assessment of **capacity needs** for BBNJ negotiations
- Organisation of **Capacity Building Workshop** at the BBNJ negotiations
- Organisation of **Expert Meetings** at the BBNJ negotiations



Thank you!



Carolina Hazin
Global Marine Policy Coordinator
BirdLife International

carolina.hazin@birdlife.org

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



**INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)**

PROG

Partnership for Regional
Ocean Governance



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