

STRONG High Seas

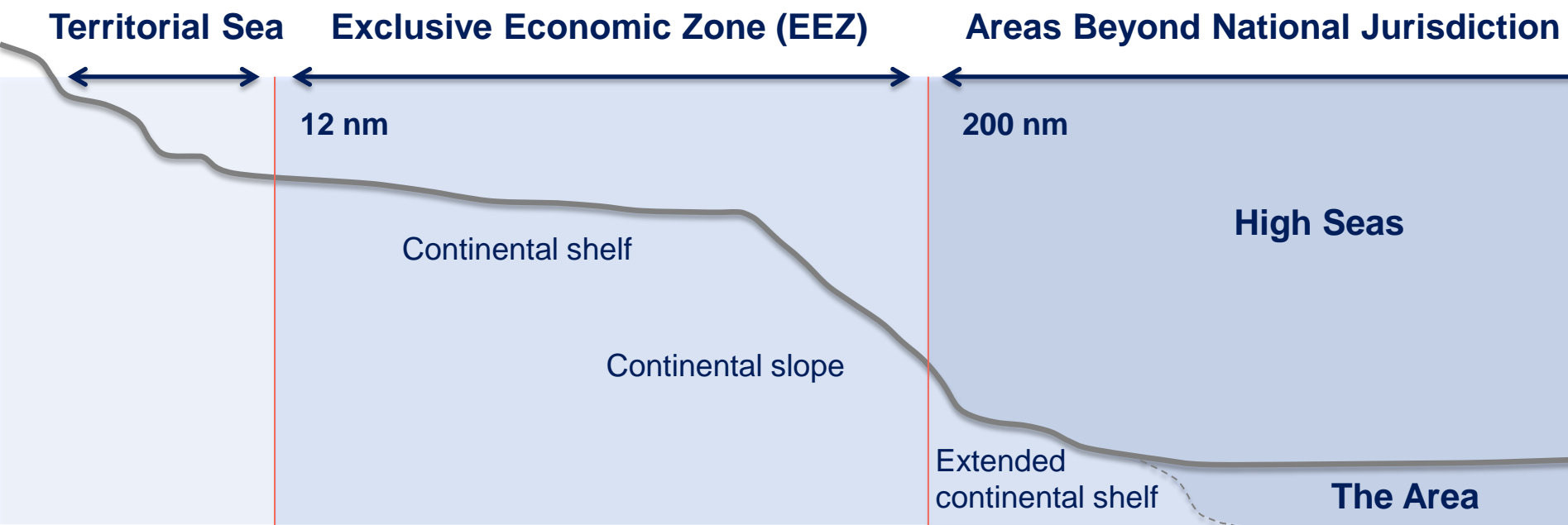
**Strengthening Regional Ocean
Governance for the High Seas**

Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

71% of the planet
are covered by
oceans



~ 60% of the
oceans are high
seas

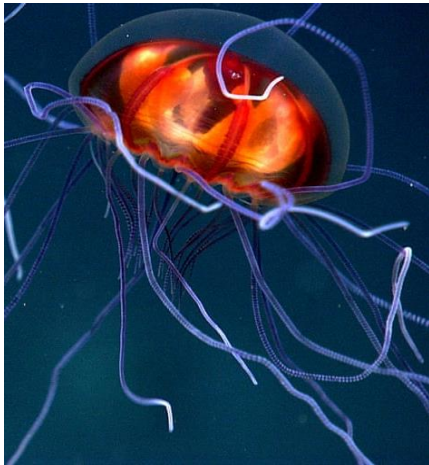


The High Seas in View



The High Seas are Full of Life

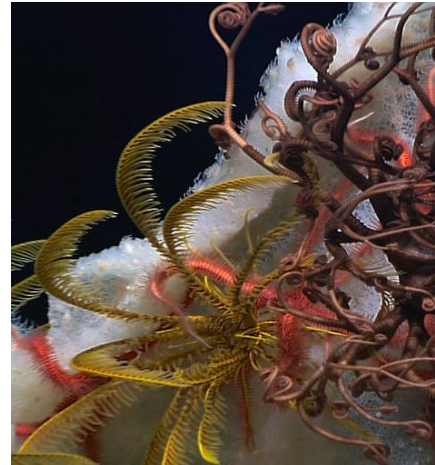
- Deep-sea species often show **longevity**, **high endemism**, **low growth rates**, **late maturity** and **high sensitivity to disturbances**
- **Unique oceanographic and biological features**, e.g. seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold seeps
- **Highly productive ecosystems**
- Largely **unexplored** and **understudied**



Hydromedusa



*Hydrothermal vents
in the Lau Basin*



*Deep sea sponge
covered with
anemones*



*Unidentified
swimming organism*

The High Seas are providing Important Services

Seafood, raw materials,
genetic and medicinal
resources

Provisioning services

Climate regulation,
carbon sequestration, air
purification, habitat

Regulating services

Supporting services

Nutrient recycling,
primary production

Cultural services

Recreation, spirituality,
history, science and
education

The High Seas are Under Pressure

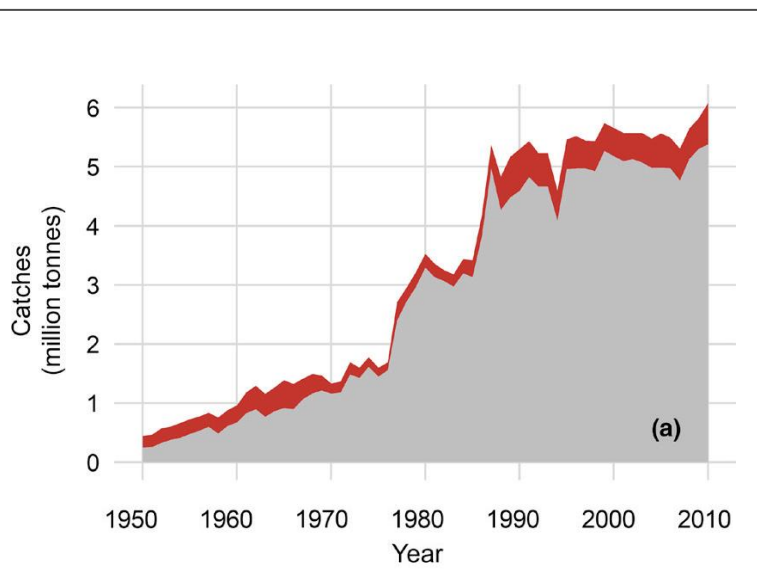
Shipping

Fishing

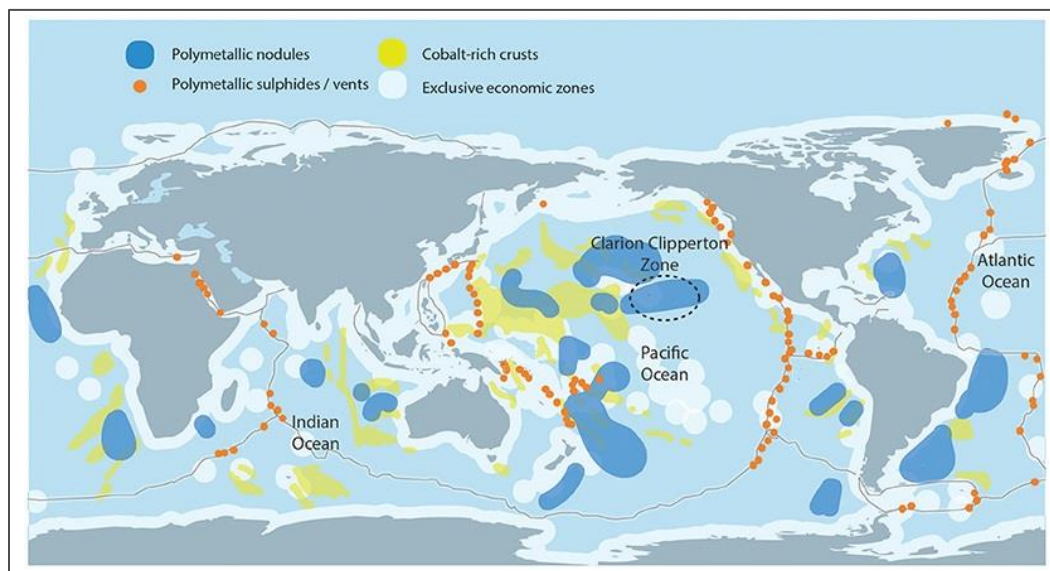
Pollution

Seabed mining

Climate change



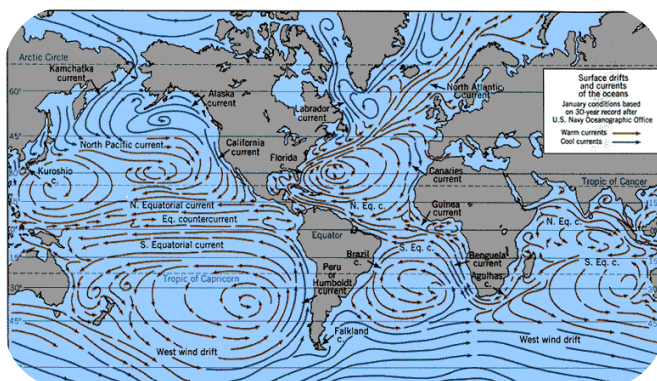
Rising high seas catches



Location of deep-sea minerals

The High Seas are Connected to National Waters

- Clear-cut **jurisdictional and geopolitical distinction** between ABNJ and national waters, but tight **ecological connectivity**
- Connectivity is **essential for the functioning of ecosystem** (restocking of marine resources)

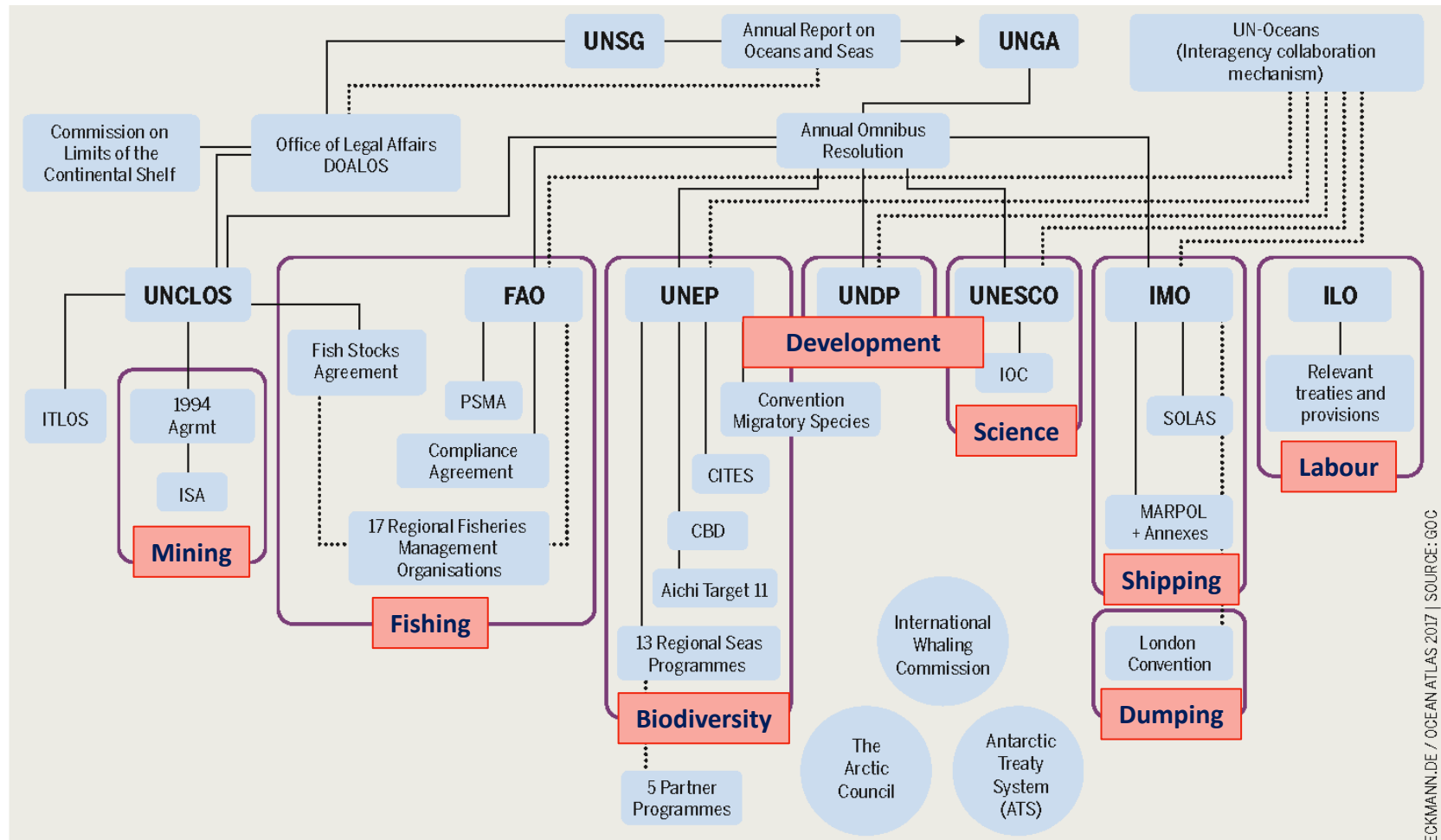


Circulatory (passive) connectivity
transports plankton and larvae



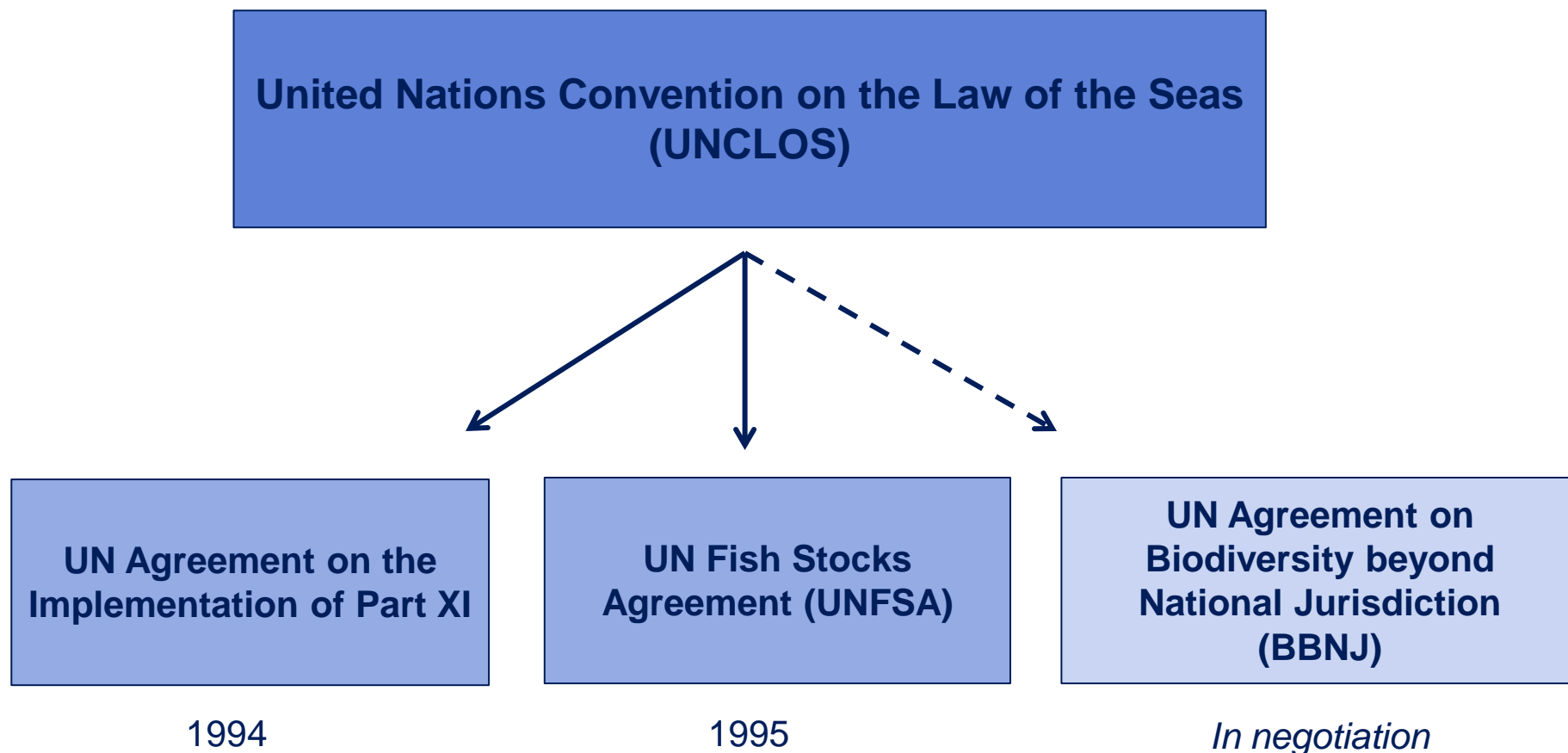
Migratory (active) connectivity
through tuna, whales, turtles, etc.

Complex, Fragmented Governance Framework

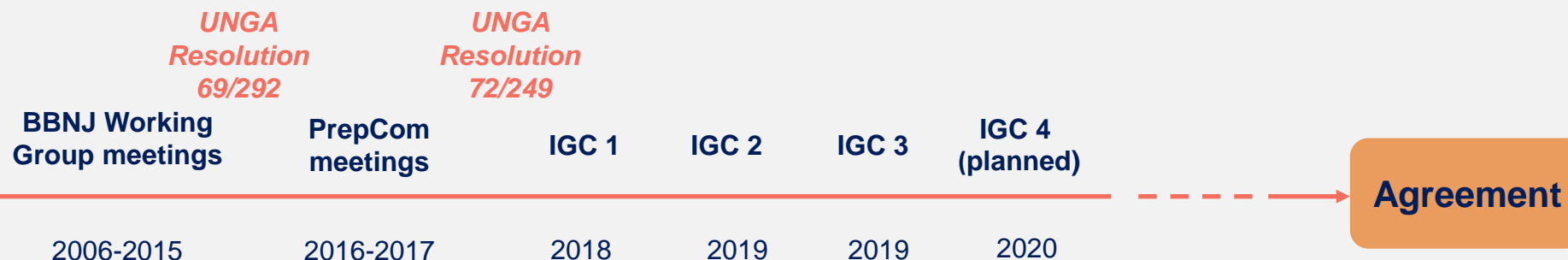


CBD Convention on Biological Diversity; **CITES** The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; **DOALOS** Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea; **FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization [of the United Nations]; **ILO** International Labour Organization; **IMO** International Maritime Organization; **IOC** Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; **ISA** International Seabed Authority; **ITLOS** International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; **MARPOL** International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; **PSMA** Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; **RFMOs** Regional Fisheries Management Organisations; **SOLAS** International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea; **UNDP** United Nations Development Programme; **UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme; **UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; **UNGA** United Nations General Assembly; **UNSG** United Nations Secretary-General

The Future BBNJ Agreement



The BBNJ Negotiations: Timeline



The BBNJ Negotiations: Elements

Marine genetic resources

... or how genetic resources from marine species **can be accessed, used, and their benefits shared** in an equitable and transparent manner

Area-based management tools

... or how to regulate human activities in ABNJ in and around ecologically important or vulnerable marine areas in a more integrated manner **using spatial management tools**

Environmental impact assessments

... or how to evaluate the impact of current and future human activities on the marine environment and, when activities are deemed to have an impact, **to either cease them or establish strict regulations on how they should be carried out** to reduce and limit the environmental impacts

Capacity building and technology transfer

... or how **to ensure the ability of developing and geographically disadvantaged states to participate** in ABNJ research, commercial use, and management

The **STRONG** High Seas Project

**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)

Coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

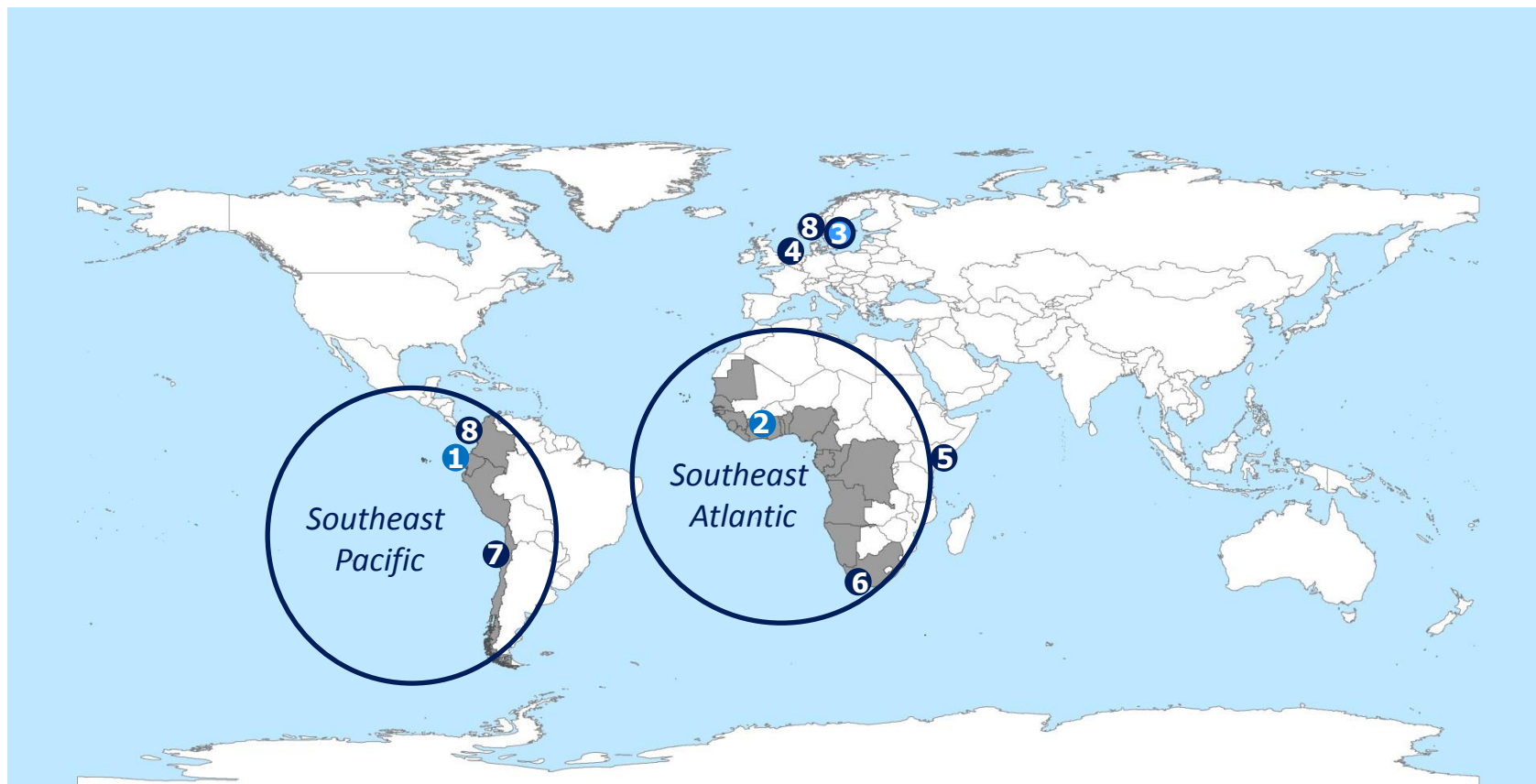
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Partners of the STRONG Project



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International Ocean Institute
African Region

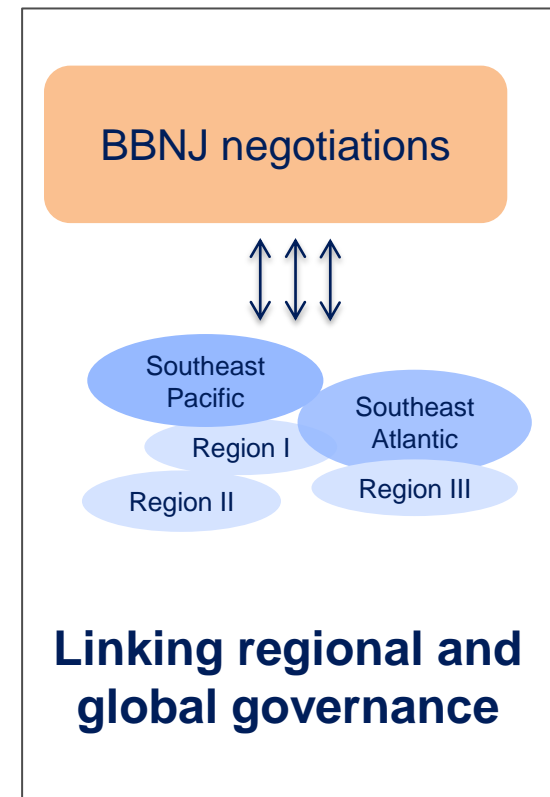
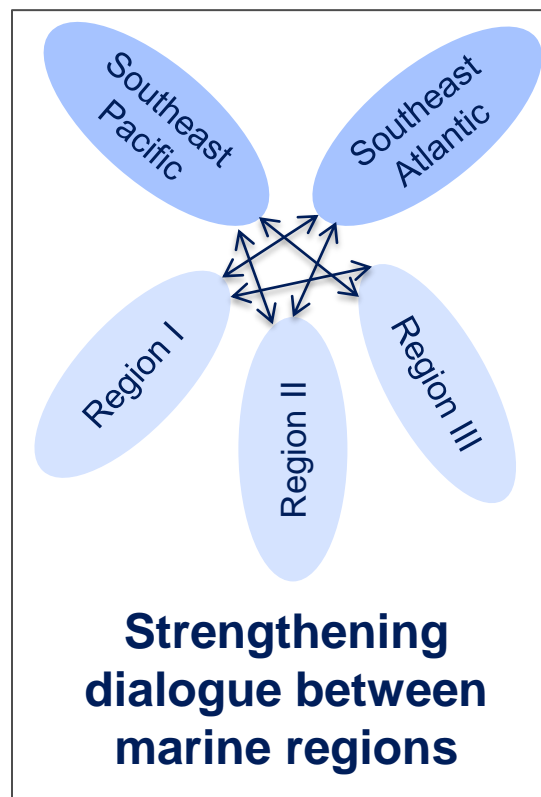
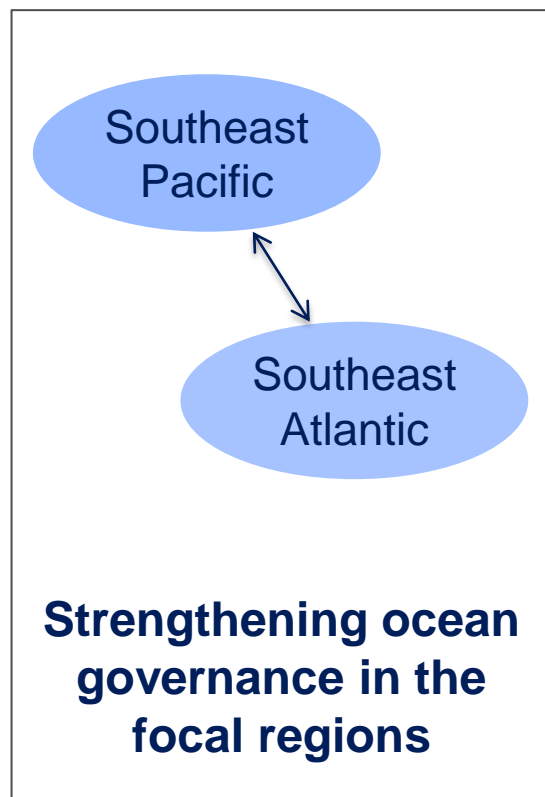
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Project Objectives

- ◆ **Facilitate the development of comprehensive, cross-sectoral approaches** to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ in the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific;
- ◆ **Identify best practices** and **provide support** to regional institutions and national authorities in the implementation of existing regional instruments and the development of new approaches;
- ◆ **Develop possible options for regional governance** in a future international instrument under UNCLOS and **transfer regional lessons learned to the global level** to promote ocean governance at different scales.

Project Focus



Support **integrated and ecosystem-based governance approaches** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ at the regional level.

The Regional Approach

- Sensitive to the environmental specificity and uniqueness of the region – essential for an ecosystem-based approach
- Higher buy-in by regional stakeholders
- More stringent measures and higher legal commitment
- Policy convergence between regional states

Complementary to the global process!

Increase Coherence between the Regional and Global Levels

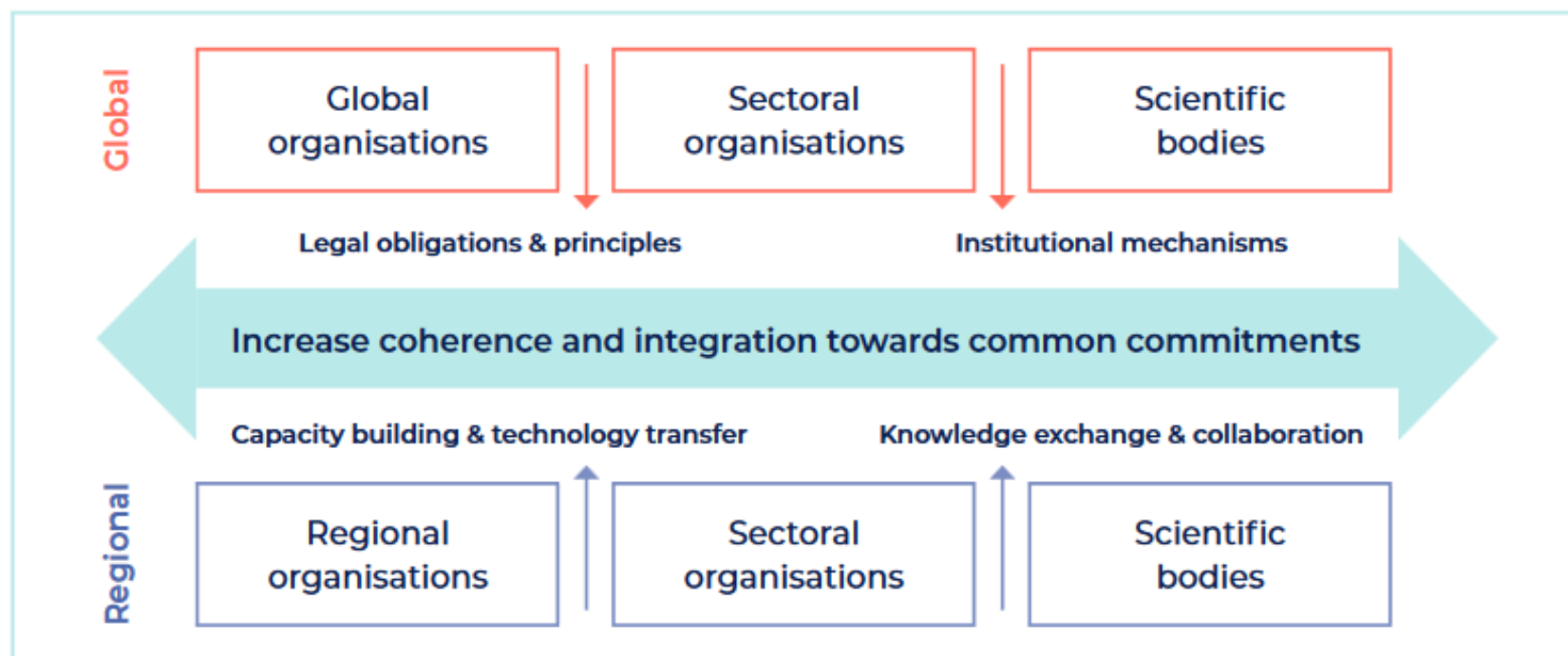
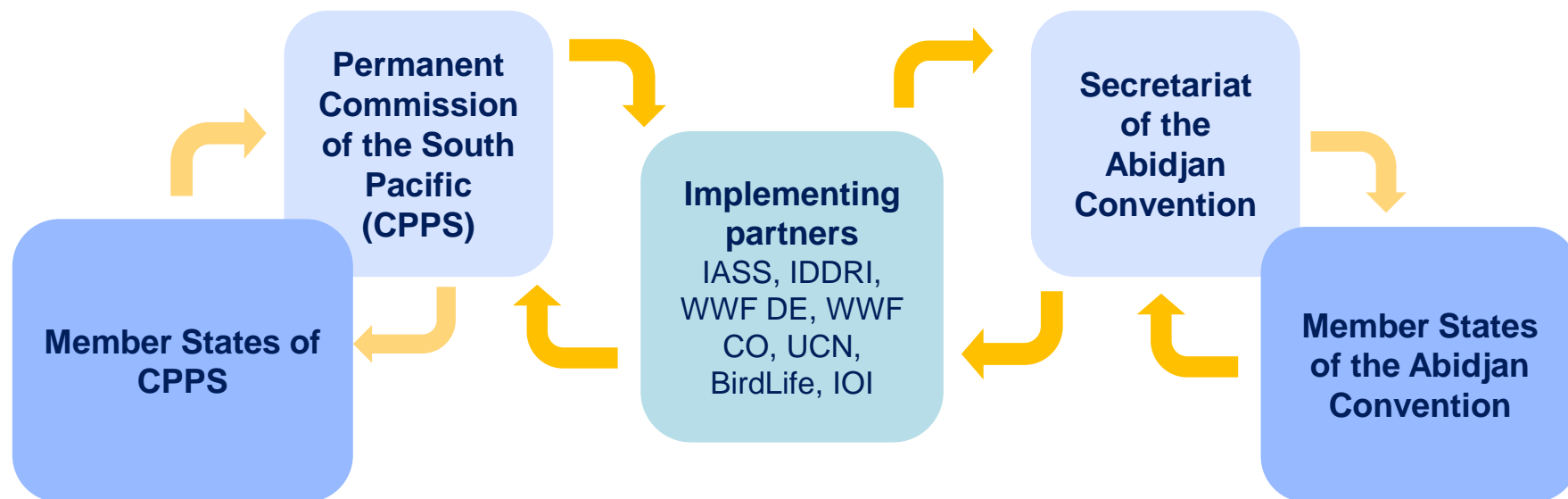


Figure 2: A new agreement will need to increase coherence and integration between and across regional and global institutions, both vertically and horizontally, to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ.

Project Activities: Collaborative Approach

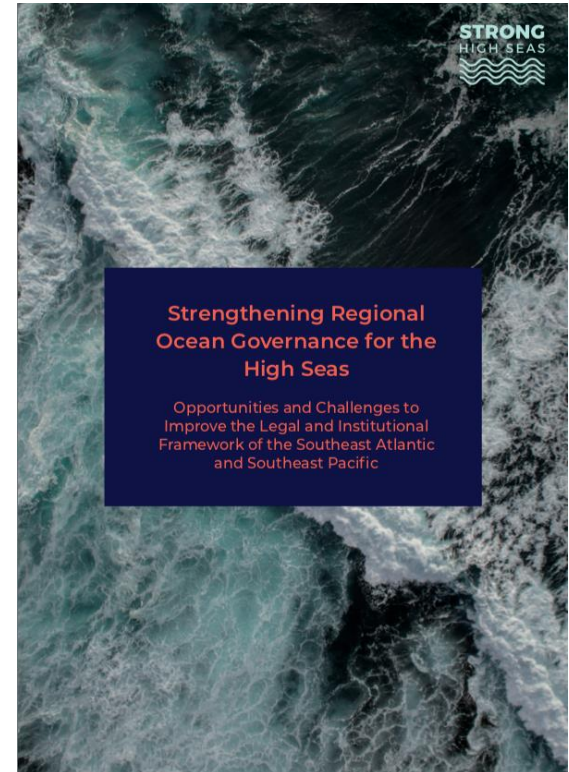


Collaboration with the regions

- 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)

Project Activities: Scientific Work

- Co-development of **scientific assessments of the two focal regions** with partners:
 - Legal and institutional assessment (2018)
 - State of the high seas: ecological baselines and human pressures (*exp. 2019*)
 - Socioeconomic importance of the high seas (*exp. 2020*)
 - Conservation and management measures (*exp. 2021*)
- Scientific work on **monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)** of human activities in ABNJ
 - Two expert workshops (2018 and 2019)
 - Report on the role of MCS in a new high seas treaty (*exp. 2019*)
 - Expert workshops in the regions (2019 and 2020)
 - Global MCS conference (2021)



Project Activities: Dialogue Workshops

- **Bring together stakeholders** from governments, the private sector, the scientific community and civil society for workshops in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic regions
- Discuss ocean governance, **foster exchange and build networks**
- **Co-create ecosystem-based, cross-sectoral approaches** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ

Dialogue Workshops 2018

Dialogue Workshops 2019

*Further Dialogue Workshops
planned in 2020, 2021 & 2022*

13-14 June
Cali,
Colombia

27-28 June
Abidjan,
Côte d'Ivoire

13-15 March
Guayaquil,
Ecuador

10-12 June
Cape Town,
South Africa

Project Activities: Dialogue Workshops



Project Activities: Capacity Building

Regional capacity building workshops

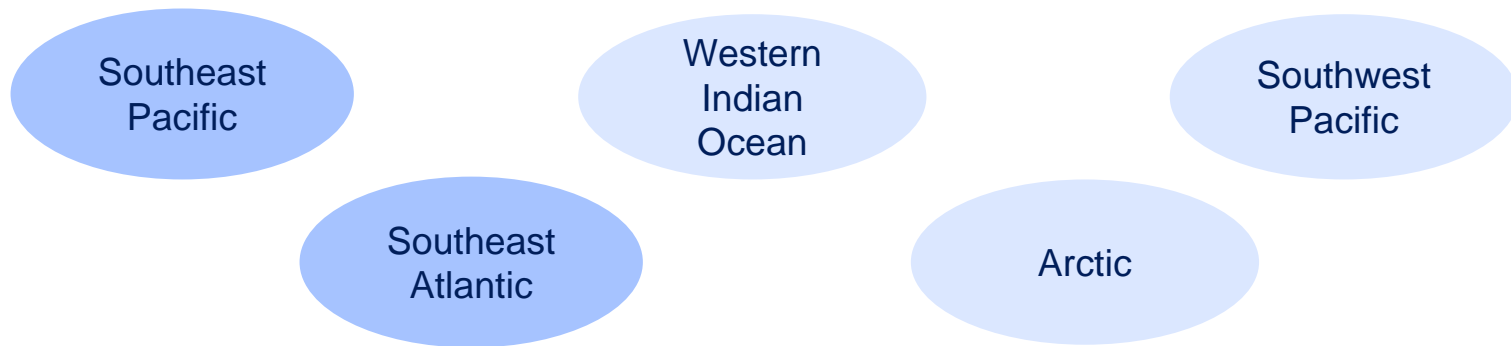
- From 2020 onwards in the Southeast Pacific & Southeast Atlantic regions

Capacity Building Workshops held during the BBNJ negotiations

- September 2018 & August 2019 in New York



Project Activities: Facilitate dialogue between regions



To foster **interregional exchange and collaboration**, we facilitate dialogue among the two focal as well as other marine regions:

- Identify best practices
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and joint learning
- Develop common approaches and a community of practice
- *Organisation of the PROG Marine Regions Forum in Berlin in 2019*

Project Activities: Support the Ongoing BBNJ Negotiations

- Undertake **scientific work to develop possible options** to increase coherence and integration between and across regional and global institutions, both vertically and horizontally, in a future international instrument under UNCLOS
- Organisation of **side events and high-level expert meetings** to present and discuss possible options in a future international instrument under UNCLOS



High-Level Expert Meeting, New York, March 2019

Thank you!



Supported by:



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Delivered under the framework of the
Partnership for Regional Ocean
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