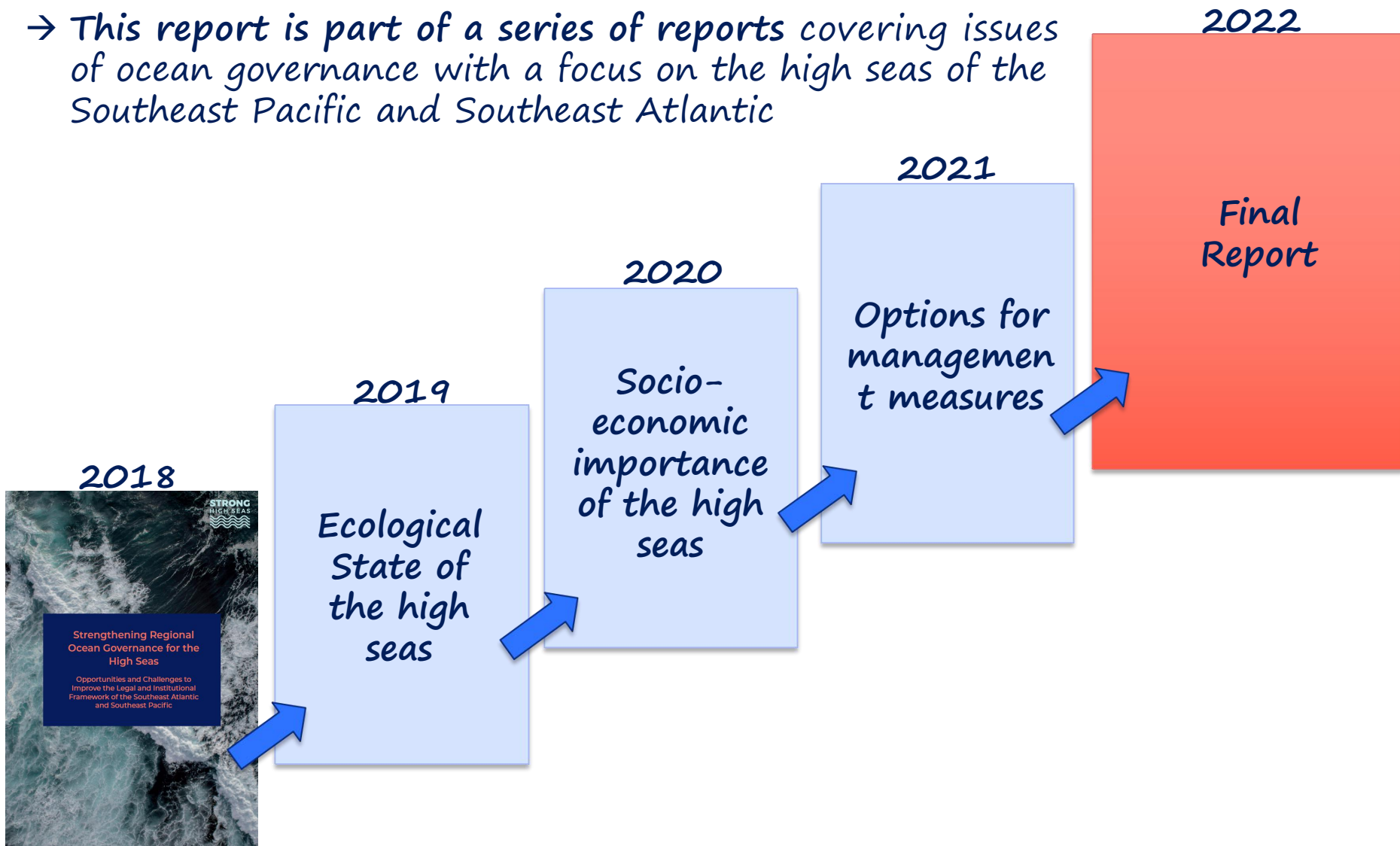


*Strengthening Regional Ocean  
Governance for the High Seas:  
Opportunities and Challenges in the  
Southeast Atlantic and Southeast  
Pacific*

*Dr. Carole Durussel  
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)*

# STRONG High Seas Reports

→ This report is part of a series of reports covering issues of ocean governance with a focus on the high seas of the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic



# Objectives of the Report

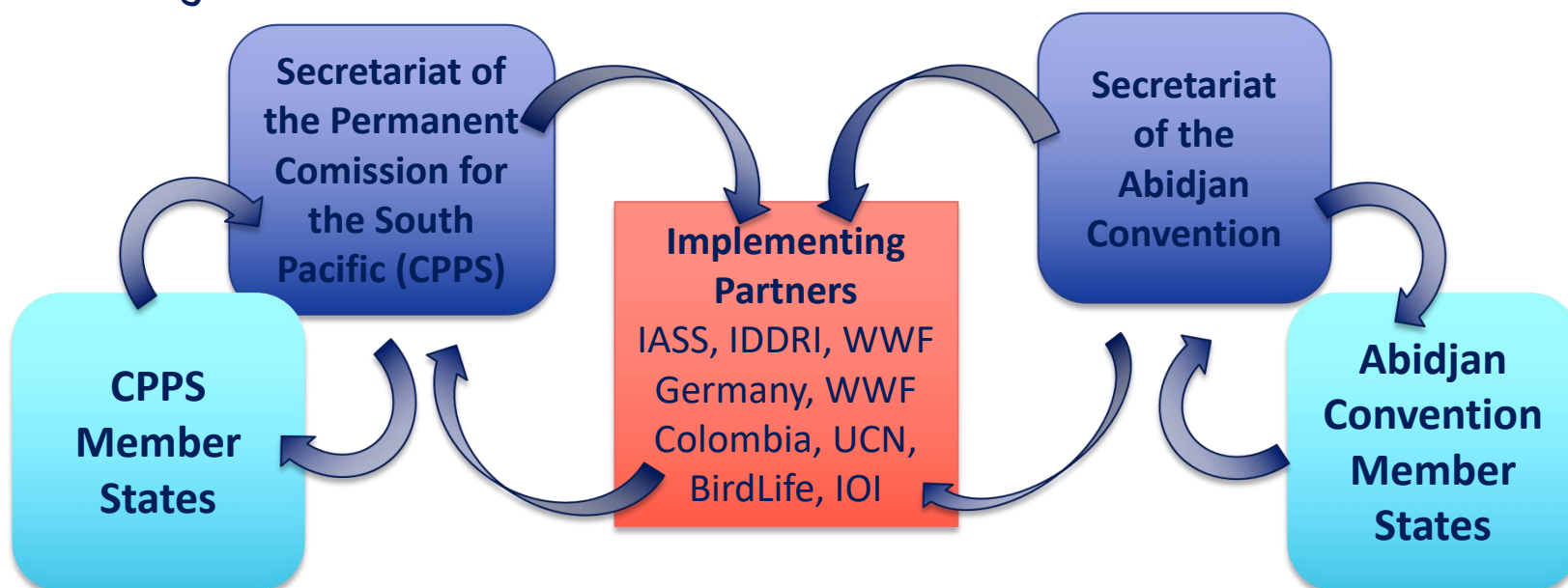
- Assess the relevant governance frameworks currently in place for the management of high seas biodiversity in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic
- Identify the challenges and opportunities for advancing conservation and sustainable use of high seas biodiversity around two important ongoing international processes: the BBNJ process and Sustainable Development Goal 14
- Identify possible options for strengthening governance



Focal regions of the STRONG High Seas project

# Methodology

- *Co-design of scientific assessments with Secretariats in both regions and involvement of stakeholders through regional workshops and expert opinion*
- *Extensive literature review and detailed analysis of legal and policy documents (based on previous studies)*
- *Review by ocean governance experts and STRONG High Seas project advisory board members*



# BBNJ Elements and Sustainable Development Goal 14



The discussion in this report is structured around two important ongoing international processes:

- The ongoing negotiations within the United Nations for an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ); and
- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

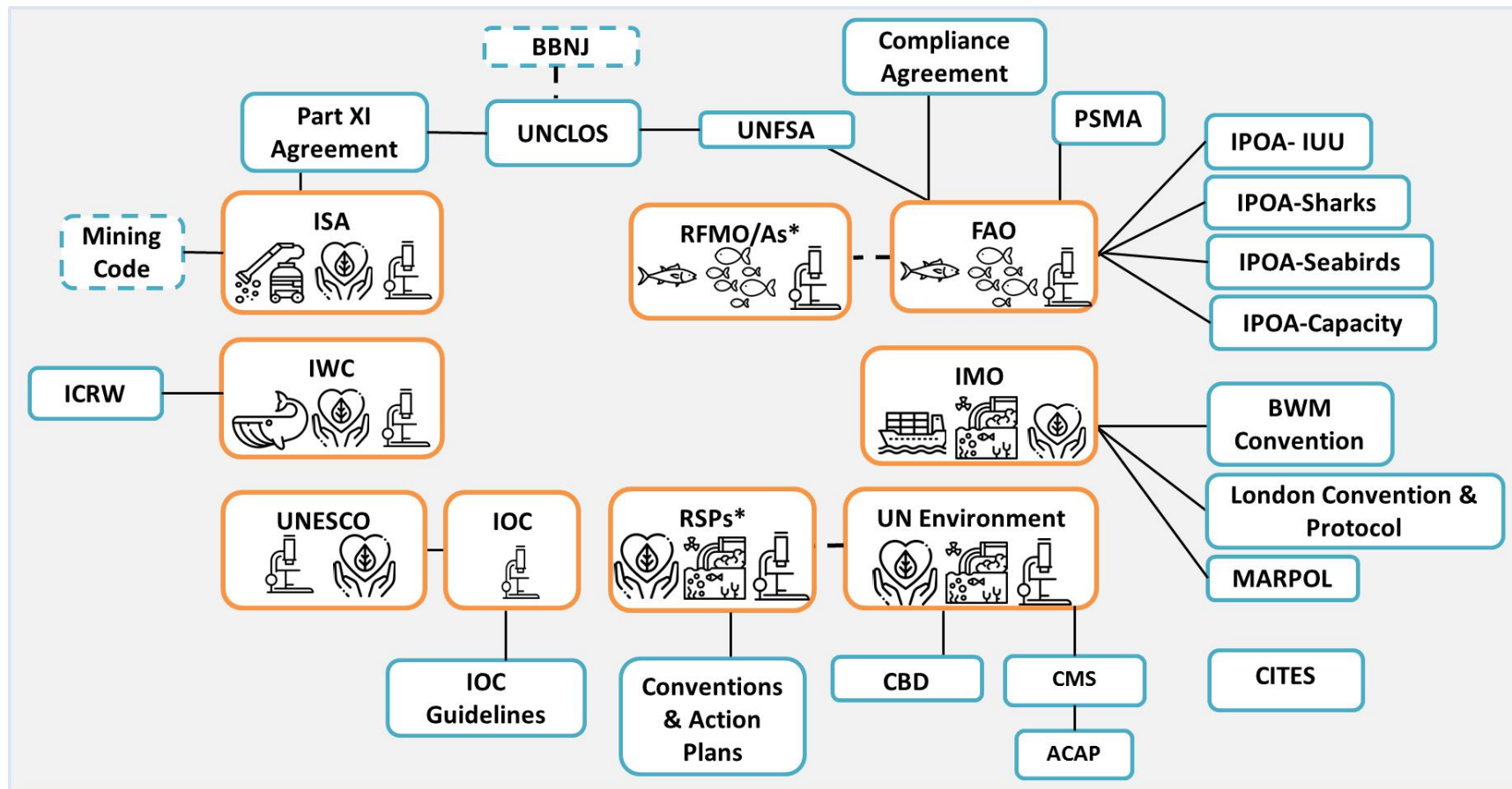
## BBNJ Elements:

- Area-based Management Tools (ABMTs)
- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)
- Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs)
- Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology

## SDG 14:

- 14.1 – Marine Pollution
- 14.2 y 14.5 – Management and Protection of Marine Ecosystems in ABNJ
- 14.4 – Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

# Global Governance Framework for BBNJ



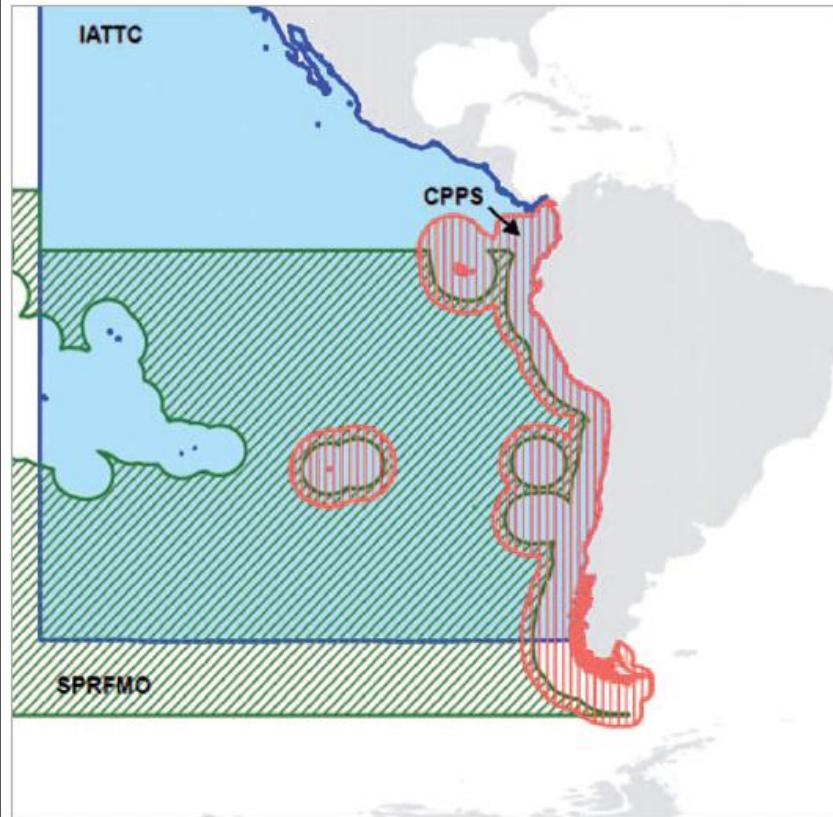
## Legend

-  Organisations
-  Agreements
-  Agreements under negotiation

Depiction of main mandates/activities



# Regional Governance Framework for BBNJ

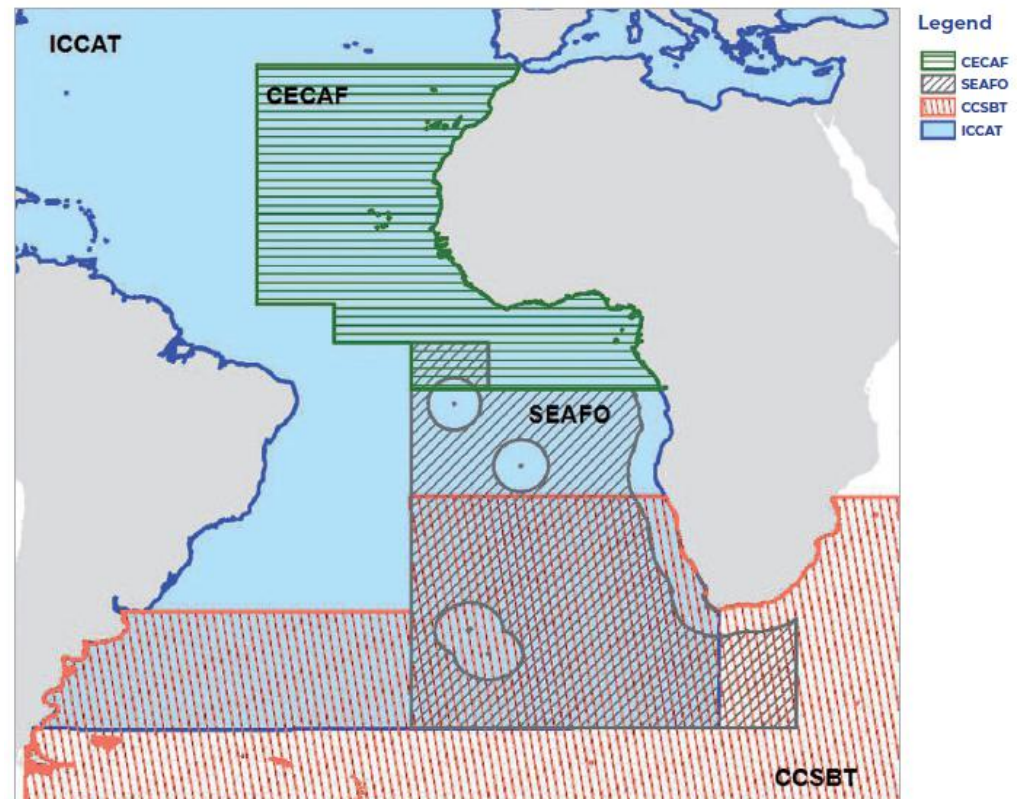


*Southeast Pacific*

## Legend

- CPPS
- SPRFMO
- IATTC

## *Southeast Atlantic*



## Legend

- CECAF
- SEAFO
- CCSBT
- ICCAT

# Challenges in the Regions

- Organisations within the regions have varying and non-comprehensive or limited mandates to address issues related to BBNJ – in the Southeast Pacific, organisations have a complementary mandate;
- There is limited cross-sectoral cooperation within the regions, with individual organisations adopting their own principles, resolutions and recommendations for addressing BBNJ challenges;
- There exists varied and uneven participation in regional and global agreements within both regions, making it difficult to fully address issues related to biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (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.

# Possible Options to Strengthen Regional Ocean Governance in the Regions

- States may also consider the negotiation of a BBNJ agreement as an opportunity to give coherence to a fragmented governance regime, provide additional support to enhance intersectoral cooperation and allow for the establishment or strengthening regional integration mechanisms;
- The negotiation of a new agreement therefore offers a way to support and achieve many of the above-mentioned options for strengthening regional governance of the oceans.

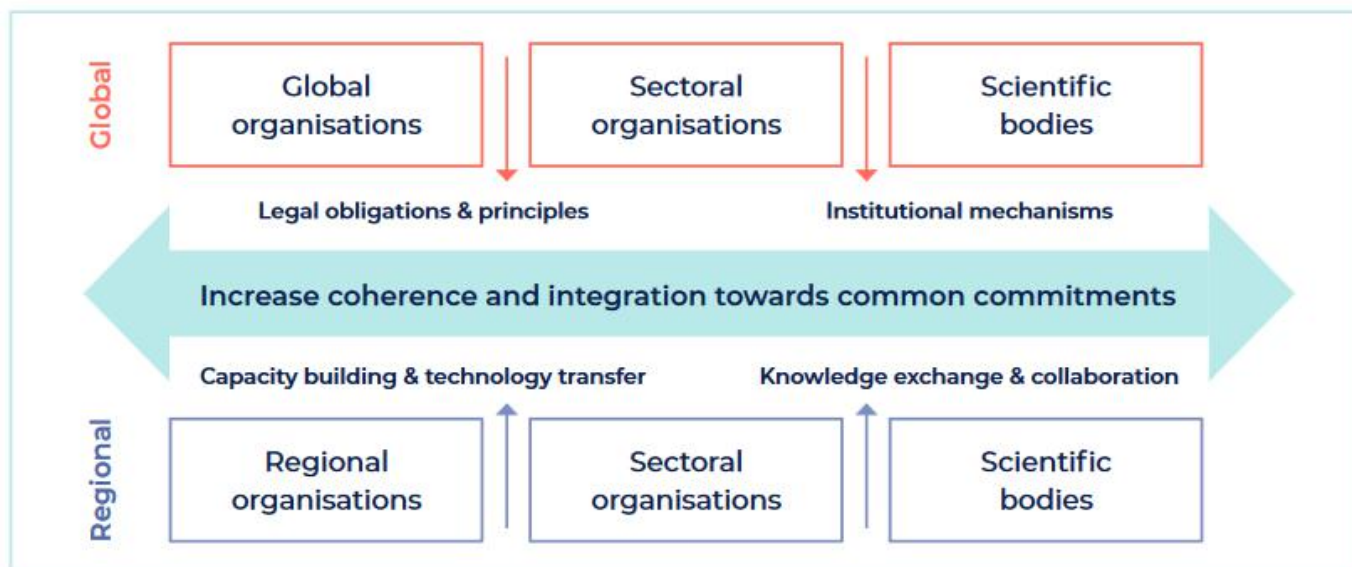
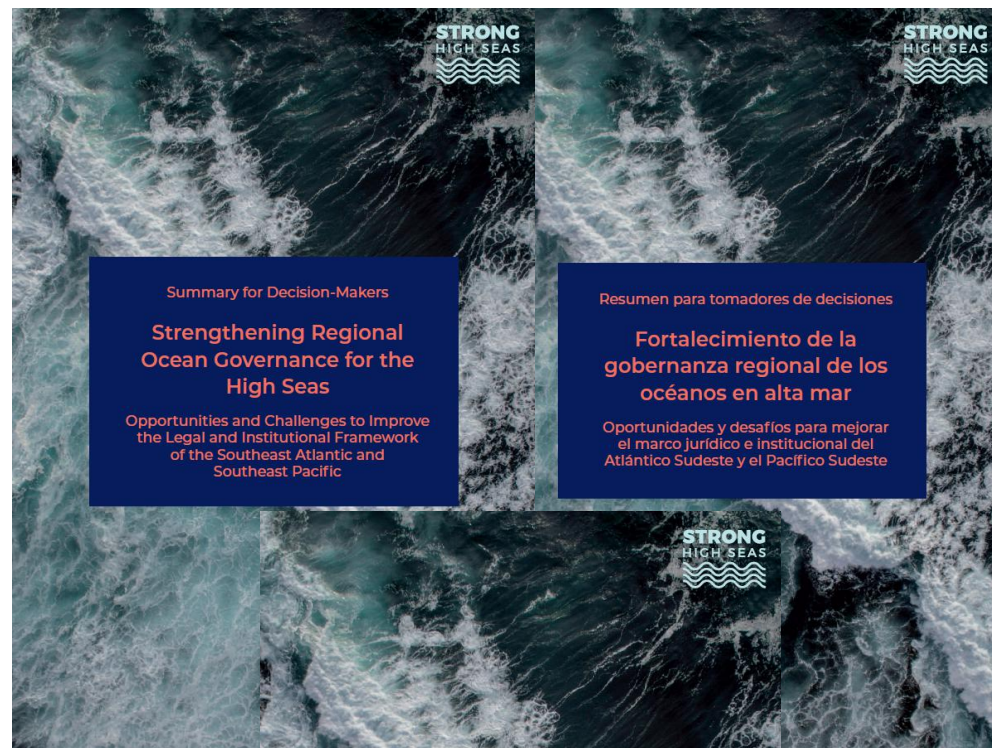
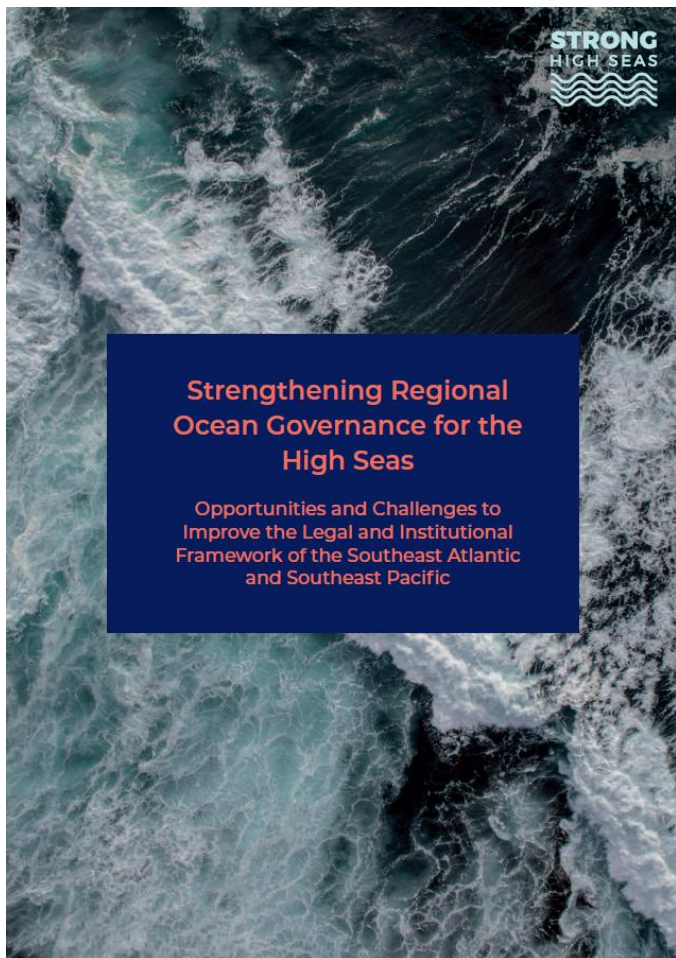


Figura: Un nuevo acuerdo deberá aumentar la coherencia y la integración entre las instituciones regionales y globales, tanto verticalmente como horizontalmente, para mejorar la conservación y el uso sostenible de la

# You can download the reports here:

<https://www.prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas/strong-high-seas-resources/>



# Thank you!



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