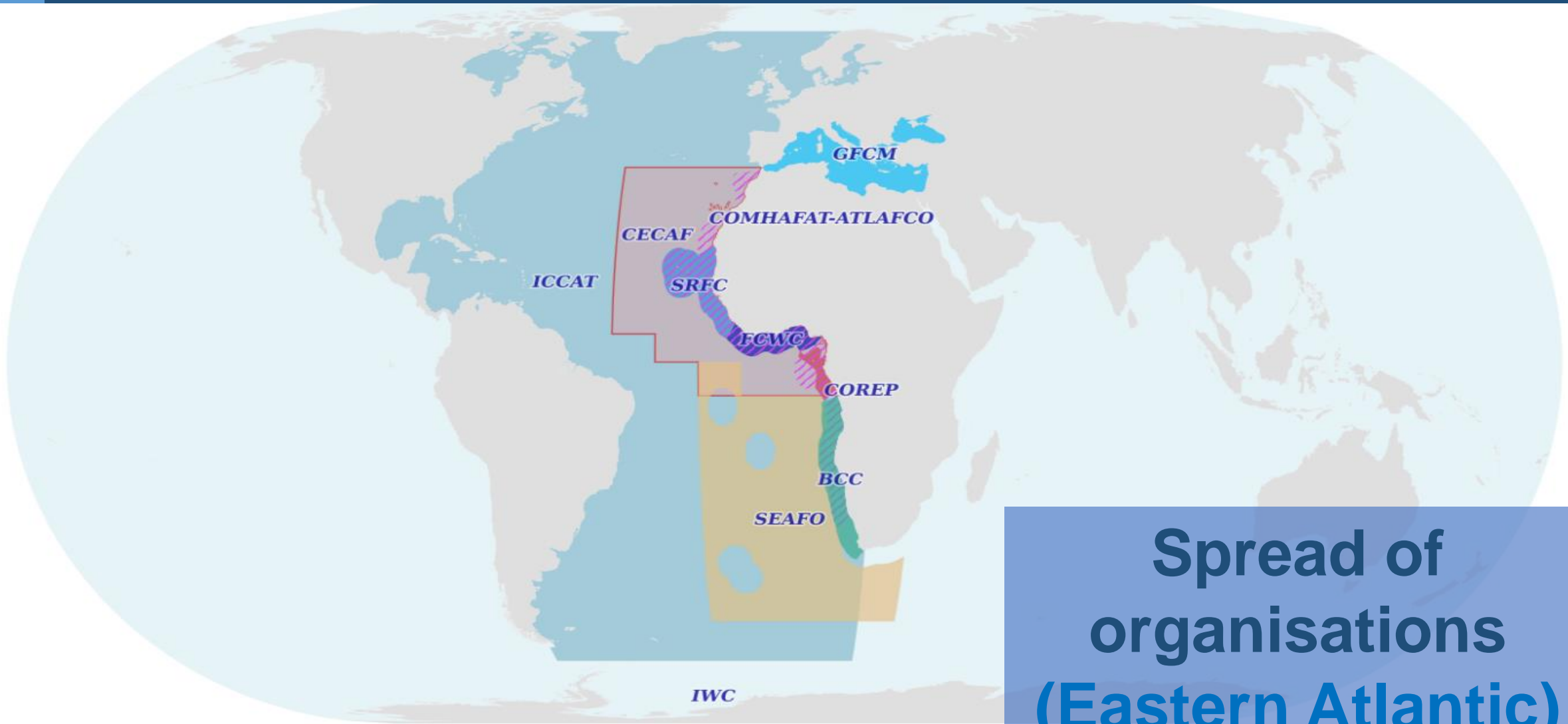


**SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE (SOI) - GLOBAL DIALOGUE
WITH REGIONAL SEAS ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES**

**Cross-sectoral regional cooperation
in the East Atlantic Africa Region**

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

28 October 2024



**Spread of organisations
(Eastern Atlantic)**
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- ICCAT ■ FCWC ■ COMHAFAT-ATLAFCO ■ IWC (Global Coverage)
- CECAF ■ GFCM ■ BCC
- SRFC ■ COREP ■ SEAFO

Introduction

- Africa's Atlantic seaboard is rich with living/non-living (LRs) that support the livelihoods of millions.
- However, these LR are **under threat** from overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, climate change and other unsustainable practices.

Objective

*Considering the Seoul Outcomes of the 4th Meeting of SOI-Global Dialogue **June 2024:**
Group 5: East Atlantic African region.*

An overview of the shared experiences, lessons-learned and opportunities to improve collaboration (BCC, CECAF, COMHAFAT, FCWC, SEAFO, SRFC)

Regional Organizations (Atlantic Side of Africa)



- BCC - Benguela Current Convention
- FCWC - Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
- ATLAFCO - Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among States Bordering the Atlantic
- IWC - International Whaling Commission
- COREP - Commission Régionale des Pêches du Golfe de Guinée
- SRFC - Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
- CECAF - Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (FAO)
- ICCAT - International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
- SEAFO - The South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation

Strengthen GBF: Monitoring, Reporting and Assessment

How can ongoing efforts and other processes inform GBF reporting?

- Ensure ocean sectors and other processes are aligned with the GBF, **e.g.**, blue economy plans and strategies,
- Linkage with the climate change process including the updating of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025,
- Emphasize the importance of biodiversity in driving sustainable ocean-based socio-economic development,
- Alignment of reporting mechanism by using specified indicators.

How can regional and global organizations support national reporting?

- Support updating national action plans and reporting,
- Adopt projects to achieve GBF targets,
- Establish regional hubs of GBF to provide technical support to regions on issues, like policy alignment, capacity building and reporting indicators,
- Establish working groups at regional level, **e.g.** expert group on MSP.

Strengthen GBF: Monitoring, Reporting and Assessment (cont.)

What categories of regional assessments may be important for GBF reporting?

Status Reports:

- State of Marine ecosystem reports,
- Transboundary assessment of shared resources,
- MPA outlooks – report on status of MPA's indicating target levels.
- Quality Status Reports
- Research Surveys and technology transfer

What aspects of the monitoring framework are most relevant for reporting?

- Different types of flexibility indicators to provide for national circumstances while enabling global aggregation: such as **headline** indicators, **binary** (yes/no) responses in national reports, **component** and **complementary** indicators.

Improving collaboration

Areas of collaboration opportunities



Concrete on-ground implementation of Programmes/projects:

- Implement projects targeting specific areas and cross-cutting projects to support overall strategies. (CCLME, EAF-Nansen, CECAF-PESCAO, others)
- Develop/plan projects focused on science and technology transfer, marine spatial planning, and habitat mapping.



Enhancing capacity building for knowledge:

- Integrate capacity building into all projects and activities.
- Facilitate the exchange of information and experiences within and between regions, focusing on pressing issues such as IUU fishing and critical habitat identification.



Utilizing Existing Networks:

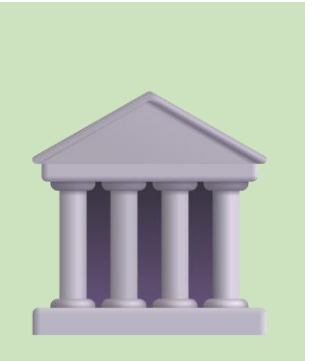
- Strengthen existing networks and platforms for information sharing and stakeholder participation.
- Organize periodic meetings on thematic issues to ensure ongoing collaboration and communication.

Areas of collaboration opportunities (cont.)



Improve knowledge-based collaborations

- Coordinate and centralize sources of scientific data through partnerships with institutions/networks (e.g., National institutions, RFBs, IUCN, WWF, FAO CECAF, Other).
- Align regional science policies with local and national needs through workshops, webinars, and collaborative research platforms/tools.



Building Political Commitment (based on knowledge outcomes):

- Foster political will through regional cooperation and advocacy, facilitated by Secretariats (e.g., ATLAFCO, CECAF, BCC, Abidjan Convention).
- Share national experiences and make political commitments on thematic issues at regional levels.

Plan to strengthen regional collaboration on SOI

- In line with proposed Group 5 regional approaches presented in Seoul, June 2024:
- A SOI regional workshop is planned in Dakar, Senegal for **early 2025** (February)
- The objective is to strengthen collaboration in SOI and develop a work program for the EAAR region.

Thank you
Merci