

# 18th SESSION IOCARIBE



**unesco**

Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

Sub-Commission for the Caribbean  
and Adjacent Regions

Subcomisión para el Caribe y  
Regiones Adyacentes

## **regional Coordination Mechanism to Support Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems**

Brasilia, Brazil  
April 23-25, 2025

# The politically endorsed 10-year CLME+ SAP (2015-25)

<b>STRATEGY 3</b> <b>Establish and operationalize</b> <b>a regional ocean coordination mechanism</b>			Time Frame	
			Short Term (0-5yrs)	Medium Term (6-10yrs)
A C T I O N S	3.1.	Establish and <b>Interim Coordination Mechanism</b>		
	3.2.	Evaluate all options and propose a <b>geographically inclusive, permanent mechanism, with clear mandate</b>		
	3.3.	<b>Adopt</b> and <b>operationalize</b> the mechanism		
	3.4	Strengthen <b>science-policy interfaces*</b>		

# regional 10-year STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME

## “CLME+ SAP”(2015-2025),

### STRATEGY 3: CROSS SECTORAL COORDINATION

Action 3.1	Action 3.2	Action 3.3	Action 3.3 (cont'd)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2017: Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) established</li> <li>• Membership: 9 IGO's (CARICOM, CCAD, CRFM, ECLAC, IOCARIBE, OECS, OSPESCA, UNEP CEP, WECAFC)</li> <li>• 12 meetings to date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015-17 evaluation of options for the “Ocean Coordination Mechanism” (OCM)</li> <li>• 2017-21 regional negotiations on format, mandate, functions</li> <li>• Proposed membership: countries (SG) + IGO's (EG)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020: agreement on key aspects of MOU</li> <li>• October 2021: <u>Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM) MOU text approved</u></li> <li>• GEF approved concept note for PROCARIBE+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023: MOU opened for signature, Aruba</li> <li>• 2024: <b>OCM activated on 19 December 2024</b></li> <li>• OCM supports development of new 10-year SAP; PROCARIBE+ \$ supports OCM 2025-2028</li> </ul>
CLME+ (2015-2021)			PROCARIBE+ (2023-2028)



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Enabling the Creation of a Coordination Mechanism  
to Support **Integrated Ocean Governance**  
in the *Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*\*



[click here for a copy of the MoU](#)

by **strengthening collaboration among countries  
and among organisations** in the MoU Area

as part of the efforts to achieve and safeguard  
**healthy marine and coastal ecosystems**

as a key driver for human wellbeing  
and thriving **sustainable ocean-based economies**\*

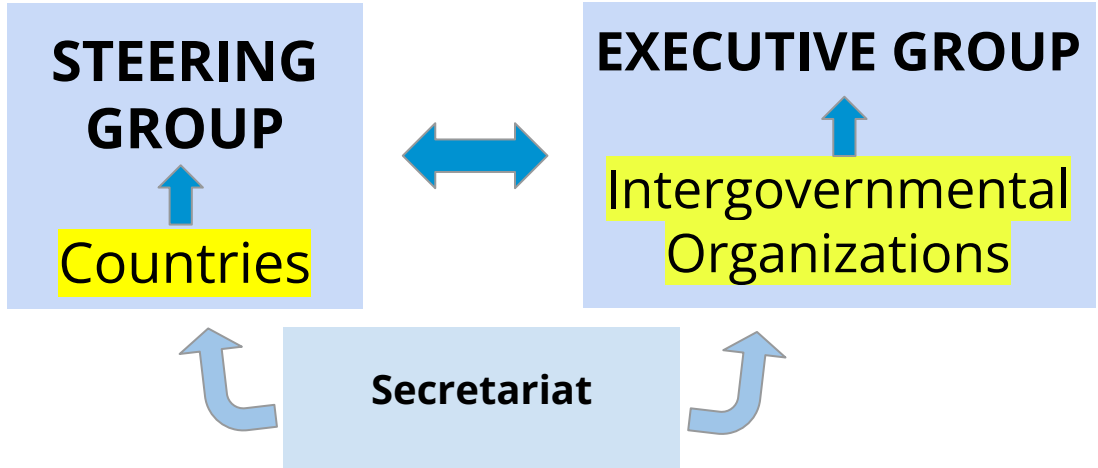
\* **"Blue Economy"**

3. The OCM **does not have legal personality**
4. The MOU is **not a legally binding instrument**; it **does not impose any legal obligations or commitments** on its Signatories (*Article I.3*)
5. Provisions under the OCM MOU **do not affect in any way the sovereign rights** of the (prospective) OCM Member States

The **OCM objectives** are (*Article 2*):

- a. to support and enhance regional and intersectoral communication, collaboration and coordination*
- b. to support interactive ocean governance*
- c. to promote actions towards (common) ocean-related goals and commitments*
- d. to promote wider-ranging partnerships*

# OCEAN COORDINATION MECHANISM (OCM)



Aruba, 6 de outubro de 2023

## Cerimônia de abertura do Memorando de Entendimento do MCO para assinatura

Os signatários do MCO são relacionados  
abaixo:

- **Aruba** (Vice-Primeiro-Ministro).
- **Curaçao** (Primeiro Ministro).
- **Países Baixos** (Ministra da Natureza e do Nitrogênio).
- **OECD** (comissão) (Diretor-Geral).
- **CRFM** (Diretor-Executivo).
- **OSPESCA** (Diretor Regional).
- + Declaração de Intenções do Secretário Executivo do **COI da UNESCO**, 6 de outubro de 2023.



**The OCM MOU is open to signature by 32 States & Territories (min. 17 needed to initiate the OCM)**

Antigua & Barbuda	Aruba	The Bahamas	Barbados	Belize	Brazil	Colombia	Costa Rica
Cuba	Curacao	Dominica	Dominican Republic	France on behalf of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Barth, Saint Martin	Grenada	Guatemala	Guyana
Haiti	Honduras	Jamaica	Mexico	Netherlands on behalf of Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius	Nicaragua	Panama	St. Kitts & Nevis
Saint Lucia	Sint Maarten	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Suriname	Trinidad & Tobago	USA	UK on behalf of Anguila*, BVI, Montserrat, Turks & Caicos*, Cayman Islands	Venezuela

Legend: **Green** = Country had signed the MOU by February 2025

**The OCM MOU is open to signature by 11 Intergovernmental Organizations (min. 6 needed to initiate the OCM)**

ACS	CARICOM Secretariat	CCAD	CRFM	FAO WECAFC	IOC of UNESCO (IOCARIBE)	OECS Commission	OSPESCA	UNDP	UN ECLAC	UNEP CEP
-----	---------------------	------	------	------------	--------------------------	-----------------	---------	------	----------	----------

Legend: **Green** = IGO had signed the MOU by January 2025

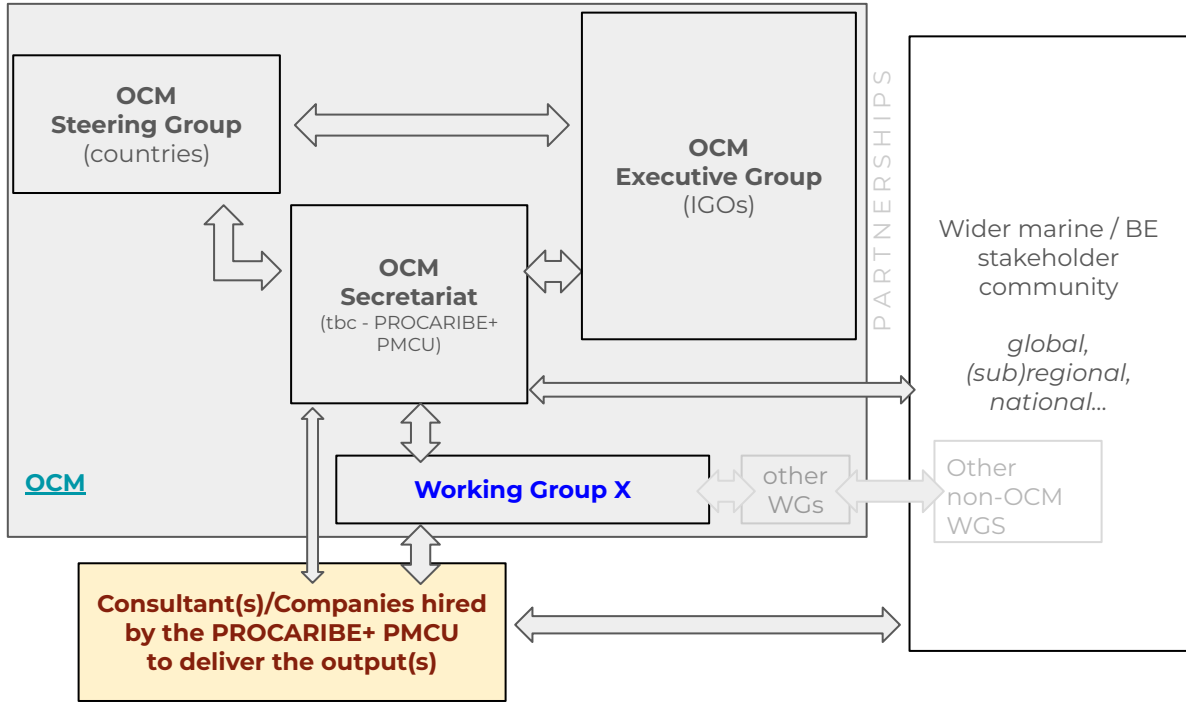
6. Through the OCM MOU, Signatories do not intend to modify their own specific mandates. The MOU acknowledges and respects the distinct mandates, functions and competences of the IGOs that are Signatories to the MOU. *(Article XIV.1c)*
7. The OCM does not compete with, but rather supports its Member IGOs. By providing a common platform, the OCM will empower each and any of its Signatories in the exercise of their mandate. The OCM will help avoid duplication, create or enhance synergies and enable greater efficiency and effectiveness in the work of the Signatories *(Article VI.2)*.

# INTERACTIVE OCEAN GOVERNANCE\*

## “Whole-of-Society approach”

The whole of interactions among  
**governments, civil society, private sector and  
academia**  
to **tackle challenges**  
affecting the ocean and their dependent societies  
and in the pursuit of  
ocean protection & conservation  
and  
ocean-based, resilient  
sustainable development **opportunities**





# MoU ARTICLE VI. FUNCTIONS

The Coordination Mechanism is to function to **avoid duplication**, create or enhance **synergies** and enable **greater efficiency** and **effectiveness** in the work of the **Signatories**.

## CORE FUNCTIONS

- see Article VII

## COMPLEMENTARY FUNCTIONS

- see Article VIII

## CORE AND COMPLEMENTARY FUNCTIONS OF THE OCM

among the **CORE** OCM FUNCTIONS listed in the OCM MOU:

a. Facilitate  
**programmatic  
coordination**  
of ocean governance  
and support the  
**monitoring of  
progress** with  
**ocean sustainability  
instruments, goals  
and commitments**

i. Providing a **platform for cyclical Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis/Strategic Action Programme ("TDA/SAP") processes**, including the coordination of the **periodic assessment of and reporting on the State of the Marine Environment and associated socio-Economics in the MoU Area** and the **monitoring, periodic evaluation and revision of MoU Area Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs)**

ii. Facilitating efficient communication for **coordination and collaboration in the development and implementation of regional programmes and SAPs** by countries, IGOs and other partners

iv. **Identifying gaps and overlaps** and **assessing the complementarity of programmes** to strengthen existing regional and national efforts

# CORE AND COMPLEMENTARY FUNCTIONS OF THE OCM

## among the **COMPLEMENTARY** OCM FUNCTIONS listed in the OCM MOU:

a. <b>Coordinate knowledge management and facilitate data and information sharing</b>	i. Providing countries, IGOs and the wider stakeholder community <b>access to data, information, knowledge and technology</b> on voluntary and mutually acceptable terms
	ii. Facilitating the identification and <b>sharing of data and information</b> among IGOs, countries, research institutions and other partners, and supporting the <b>harmonization of monitoring approaches</b>
c. <b>Strengthen science-policy interfaces</b>	i. Identifying research institutions, universities and other scientific organisations that carry out research with relevance to ocean sustainability in the MoU Area
	ii. <b>Establishing partnerships</b> with research institutions <b>to share scientific data and information</b> , to coordinate activities and to <b>identify opportunities for collaborative research</b> in the natural and social sciences and technology, and <b>review, report on and update the research agenda</b>

Note:

- **MOU Article XI.3.c:** "The EG is to recommend that the status of the functions of the OCM be changed from complementary to core or vice versa
- **MOU Article X.3.c:** "The SG is to approve changes to the status of the functions of the OCM, from complementary to core, or vice versa

12. The **PROCARIBE+ Project** (May 2023-May 2028) will financially support the operations of the OCM and its Secretariat throughout the project lifespan
13. All Signatory activities under the MOU are subject to the availability of staff and funding (i.e.: **no financial obligations for the Signatories**) (*Article XIV.1b*)

# OCM Work Programme - key elements for 2025-2028

National Ocean Committees / NICs

national SOMEE(s)

*national-level  
ocean governance processes*

**OCM + OCM Working Groups  
+ wide-ranging Partnership(s)**

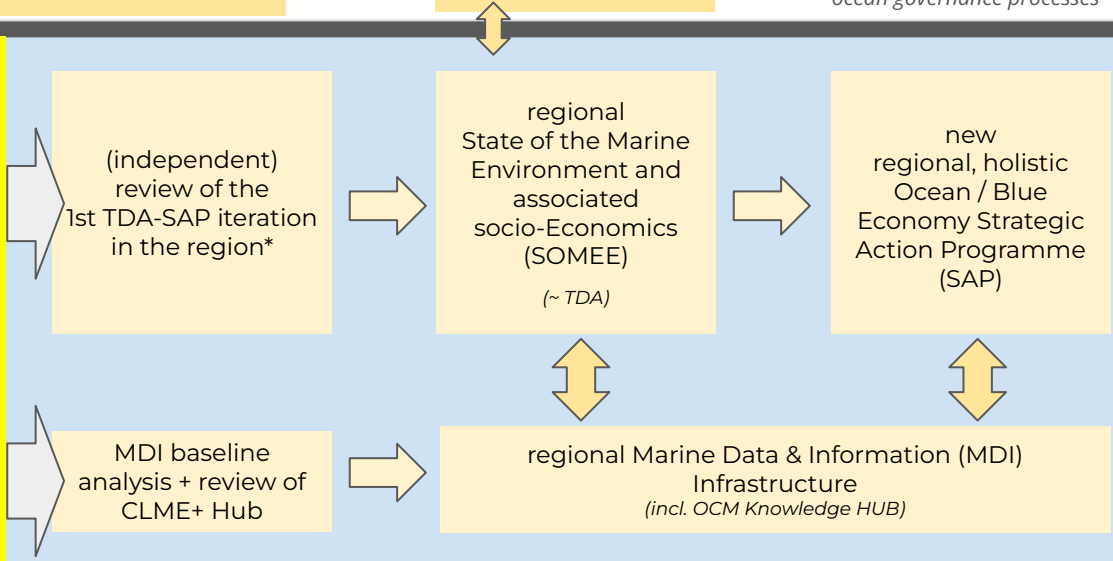
(independent)  
review of the  
1st TDA-SAP iteration  
in the region\*

regional  
State of the Marine  
Environment and  
associated  
socio-Economics  
(SOMEE)  
(~ TDA)

new  
regional, holistic  
Ocean / Blue  
Economy Strategic  
Action Programme  
(SAP)

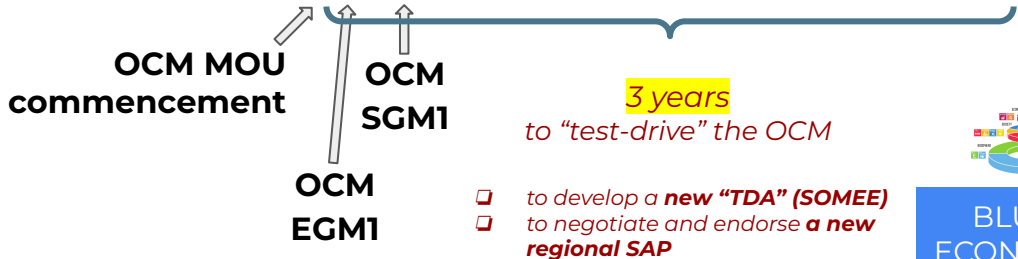
MDI baseline  
analysis + review of  
CLME+ Hub

regional Marine Data & Information (MDI)  
Infrastructure  
(incl. OCM Knowledge HUB)



# PROCARIBE+ = 5 YEARS\* of financial support for the OCM

PROCARIBE+ TIMELINE																	
Project Year 1			Project Year 2				Project Year 3				Project Year 4				Project Year 5		
2023			2024				2025				2026				2027		



BLUE  
ECONOMY

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## → **First Meeting of the Steering Group (*i.e. member countries*) of the Ocean Coordination Mechanism (SGM1)**

May 13-14, 2025 in St George's, Grenada

- Objective: Way forward for the OCM: facilitate a collective discussion, leading to the provision of general direction to the furtherance of the OCM Mandate, Objectives and Functions, and of high-level guidance for the OCM Executive Group, Secretariat and Working Groups
- 

## → **Partnership Forum on MDI in alliance with GCFI, IOCARIBE, CAF**

October 27-31, 2025

- Tentative Title: *Collaborating towards a Wider Caribbean Marine Data & Information Management Landscape*



# SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Sub-Commission:

**Encourages** IOCARIBE Member States to:

- i. Give due consideration to signing the OCM MoU and become an OCM Member at their earliest convenience, if they have not yet joined, with the support of the IOCARIBE Secretariat and the PROCARIBE+ Project Unit.
- ii. Participate in the First Meeting of the OCM Steering Group, either as OCM Members or as Observers.
- iii. Consider, in the context of the UN Decade and through their national representatives to the OCM, supporting a possible SGM1 Decision to upscale the OCM Functions of "Coordinate knowledge management and facilitate data and information sharing" and "Strengthen science-policy interfaces" from the category of "Complementary Function" to the category of "Core Function".
- iv. make good use of the opportunity provided through the PROCARIBE+ funding to demonstrate, to the best possible extent, the added value of the OCM during the 2025-2028 period

# 18th SESSION IOCARIBE



**unesco**

Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

Sub-Commission for the Caribbean  
and Adjacent Regions

Subcomisión para el Caribe y  
Regiones Adyacentes



**THANK YOU  
MUCHAS GRACIAS  
MERCI BEAUCOUP**

PATRICK DEBELS - *PATRICKD@UNOPS.ORG*