



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OCEANSCAPE PROJECT

The Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) is a project of the OECS, funded by the Global Environment Facility through the World Bank. The CROP is being implemented in Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It seeks to strengthen Ocean Governance as well as Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning in these five Member States and develop a Regional Marine Spatial Planning Framework for the wider OECS region. The CROP commenced in October 2017 and concludes on December 31, 2021.

What is ECROP?

The Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) and its Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was endorsed by OECS Heads of Government in 2013. The ECROP guides the future use of the region's marine waters and provides a basis for enhanced coordination and management of ocean resources within the Eastern Caribbean. In 2019 the ECROP was revised to align with the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development - SDG 2030.

What is the correlation between ECROP and CROP?

The CROP is designed to contribute to the implementation of the ECROP and its associated Strategic Action Plan, by strengthening capacity for ocean governance, as well as coastal and marine spatial planning in the participating countries, to facilitate their transition to a Blue Economy.

What milestones have been achieved under the CROP thus far?

Under the CROP, National Ocean Policies have been developed for Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Lucia. Preexisting draft National Ocean Policies of St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have also been enhanced. All national ocean policies are aligned with the ECROP.

What is Ocean Governance?

Ocean governance is about how we manage our Oceans; that is, the systems that we put in place to allocate marine space for different uses, reduce conflict among users, protect important resources such as coral reefs, and use our oceans in a sustainable manner for the benefit of current and future generations.



significantly larger than their landmass and clearly a substantial asset, transitioning to a Blue Economy is critical to ensuring the continued economic growth of our islands. Our coastal and marine assets offer unprecedented opportunity for strengthening of OECS economies and closing the gap on poverty and unemployment. The Caribbean ocean 'blue' economy generates approximately US\$5 billion in seafood, US\$39.9 billion in oil and gas, and US\$57 billion in tourism annually.

Why is Good Ocean Governance important?

Good ocean governance provides a balanced and coordinated way to manage competing demands for marine resources through an approach that achieves the goals of economic development while ensuring that ocean ecosystems are sustained. It determines equity and efficiency in resource and services allocation and distribution. It determines who gets what, when and how, and who has the right to ocean resources and services, at any particular time.



What happens when the CROP ends in December 2021?

Under the CROP, coastal master plans and marine spatial plans that extend to the outer limits of member states' EEZs are being prepared. The integrated coastal and marine spatial plans offer a 15-year timeframe to support the transition to a Blue Economy through sustainable development, sustainable and equitable use of coastal and marine space/resources, protecting coastal and marine ecosystem services, and managing land-water interactions. To ensure continuity and sustainability, with support from the OECS Commission, CROP beneficiary countries will need to implement their National Ocean Policies and Strategies and incrementally update their respective Coastal and Marine Spatial Plans to adapt to changing circumstances, and detail plans further as more data becomes available. Monitoring and Compliance are critical to good ocean governance. Beyond CROP's life cycle, replication of similar projects are envisaged for other OECS Member States, as the region continues to transition to a Blue Economy.

What is a Blue Economy?

A Blue Economy is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ocean ecosystem health. It offers a way for us to capitalize and benefit from our shared ocean wealth while improving ocean health through smart planning and improved governance of ocean resources.



What are the potential benefits of developing a Blue Economy in the OECS?

On average, the actual area of the marine space of most of the island states of the OECS is more than 70 times greater than their landmass. Given that the marine space of OECS Member States is

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