



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OCEANSCAPE PROJECT

CROP Q & A

1. What is CROP?

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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. What is the structure of the CROP?

At the ministerial level, the Council of Ministers of Environmental Sustainability of the OECS sets the policy framework for the CROP under the ECROP. The work of the CROP is guided by an OECS Ocean Governance Team (OGT) which serves in an advisory capacity. The OGT comprises a representative from each of the OECS member states and is chaired by the OECS General Counsel. At the national level, each OECS Member State has a National Ocean Governance Committee comprising representatives of the public and private sector, as well as other key stakeholders with a vested interest in marine resources. The CROP is led by the Ocean Governance and Fisheries Unit of the OECS Commission and supported by a wider Project Implementation Unit. The CROP is being implemented through a number of consultancy services and partnerships.

5. 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; and preexisting draft National Ocean Policies of St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been enhanced. All national ocean policies are aligned with the ECROP.

6. 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.

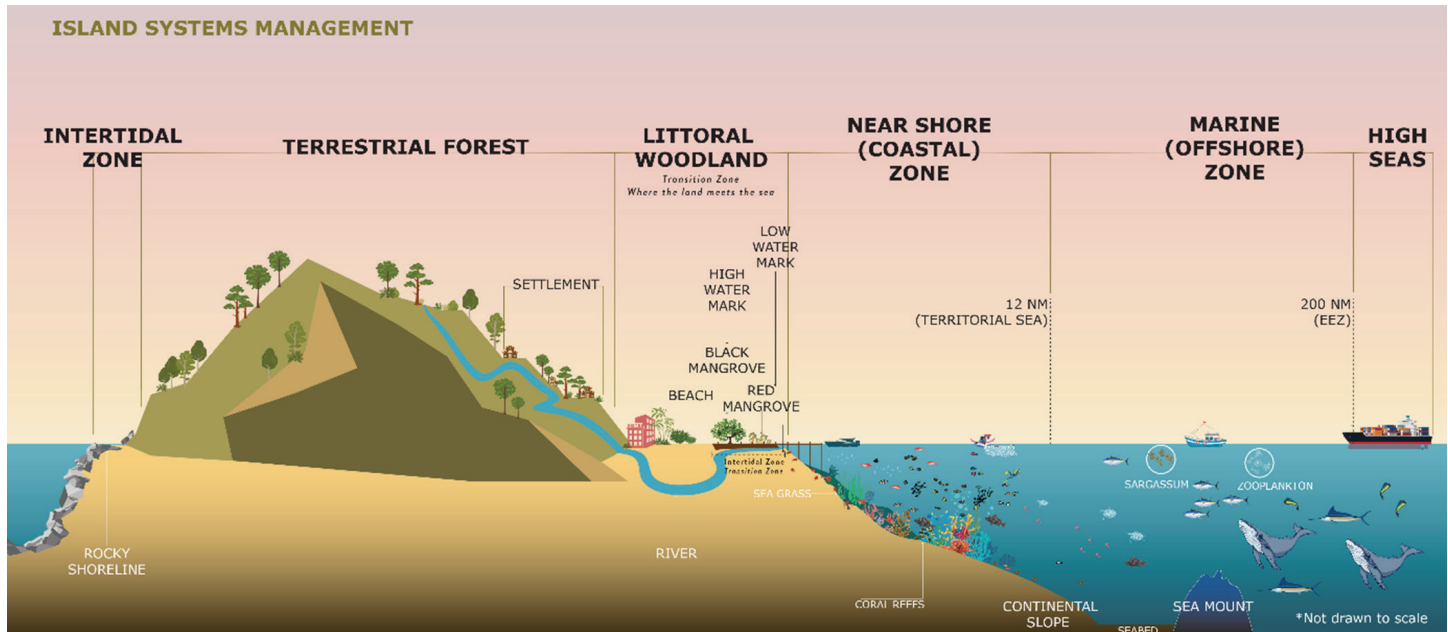
7. Why is Good Ocean Governance important?

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.

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8. What is the Coastal Zone?

The Coastal Zone extends seaward from the land/sea fringe to where the continental shelf transitions from a flat and shallow area to a steep and deep continental shelf. This area can extend as far seaward as the established 200 meter depth contour or 3 nautical miles, whichever is greater. The Coastal Zone can comprise sea grass, beaches, coral reefs, and fishing zones. Integrated Coastal Planning helps manage the use of these resources.



9. What is the High Seas?

High Seas is the outer limits of the EEZ mark, which is the start of international waters. This term applies to the water column beyond the EEZ and not the seabed.

10. What is the Continental Shelf?

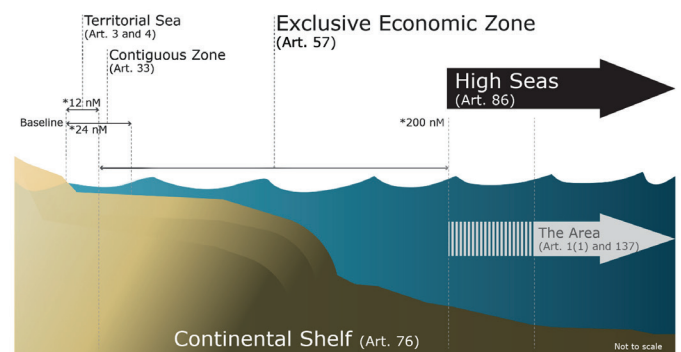
The Continental shelf represents the natural prolongation of a nation's land territory in the form of the seabed and subsoil of sub-marine areas up to 200 nautical miles from the territorial seas.

11. What is the Territorial Sea?

The Territorial Sea is the area that extends up to 12 nautical miles from the baseline of a country's coastal state, which is under the jurisdiction of that particular country.

12. What is the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)?

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is the area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea over which a state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind.



n.b., An asterisk (*) means "up to"

The Area starts at 200 nM from the baseline when the legal Continental Shelf (as defined in Art. 76) does not extend beyond that limit

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13. What is a Coastal Master Plan?

The Coastal Master Plans being prepared under the CROP are dynamic long-term planning documents that will guide future growth and development, and present a suite of priority interventions and investments in coastal and marine spaces that reflect both the risk associated with human ecosystem interactions and the economic opportunities present in the coastal and marine environments.

14. What is Marine Spatial Planning?

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a practical way to map out and plan for the balanced use of ocean and coastal resources so that marine ecosystems are protected, while social and economic goals are achieved. MSP is particularly important in guiding decision-making to reduce conflicts over multiple uses such as marine tourism, recreation, conservation of biodiversity, fisheries, oil and gas, mining, and shipping. MSP also brings a spatial dimension to the regulation of marine activities by helping to establish more effective geographical patterns of sea uses within a given area. Marine spatial planning can occur at a local, national or regional level. National Marine Spatial Plans are being prepared under the CROP and will encompass the entire Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the respective CROP participating country, while a **Regional Marine Spatial Planning Framework is being prepared for the wider OECS region**. Examples of Marine Spatial Planning at the local level in the OECS are:

- **Soufriere Marine Management Area** – Saint Lucia
- **Scotts Head Marine Reserve** – Dominica
- **St. Kitts and Nevis Marine Management Area**
- **Marine Multi-Use Zone for the Grenadine Islands** – Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Simply put, local marine spatial plans can be viewed as parts of a national marine spatial plan, and national marine spatial plans as parts of a regional marine spatial planning framework.



FIGURE 6. Draft marine zoning design based on steering committee review

15. 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.



16. 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 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.

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17. What potential new investment opportunities are there in the Blue Economy in the OECS?

OECS Nationals (resident in their home country or abroad) who possess the necessary expertise, competence and resources are being encouraged to invest in a range of Blue Growth ventures. Investment opportunities in the Blue Economy in the OECS include renewable energy, fisheries, research in the marine environment, marine biotechnology, transport and trade, tourism and recreation, carbon sequestration, mariculture and aquaculture, among others.

18. What policies and legislation are in place to protect investments in the Blue Economy?

The Revised Treaty of Basseterre (2010) establishing the OECS Economic Union, incorporates the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). Article 32 of the CSME deals with the Right of Establishment. Article 32 of the CSME provides for the establishment of businesses by natural persons or legal persons. Article 32 stipulates that business establishments must be at least 51 percent owned by Nationals of CARICOM and/or OECS Member States. Both the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the Revised Treaty of Basseterre are incorporated into law in the Independent Member States of the OECS (Protocol Member States) as well as Montserrat. In addition, the draft National Ocean Policies and Strategies developed for the five OECS Member States where the CROP is being implemented seek to create the enabling environment for 'Blue Growth' investments.

19. 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 is envisaged for other OECS Member States, as the region continues to transition to a Blue Economy.

20. How does transitioning to a Blue Economy fit into OECS SGD 2040?

The OECS St. George's Declaration (SGD) 2040 is an agenda that calls for collective action for sound environmental management in the Eastern Caribbean. It recognizes that building economic, social and environmental resilience is indispensable to pursuing sustainable development, given the threats and challenges to ecosystems and biological resources in the region as a result of climate change, coastal degradation, habitat loss, pollution, waste, and high dependence on imported fuel. Ocean ecosystems are under increasing pressure from many uses, such as fisheries, shipping, offshore petroleum activities, tourism, and recreation. SGD 2040 calls for the coastal and marine resources of the Eastern Caribbean to be sustainably managed to optimize the potential for a Blue Economy and its associated long-term benefits.



For More Information Contact:

Ocean Governance and Fisheries Programme
Environmental Sustainability Division
OECS Commission

1 (758) 455-6327 | escluster@oecs.org | <https://oecs.org/crop>