

PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE TO MEET THE STRATEGIC CAPACITY NEEDS OF DEVELOPING STATES IN THE FIELD OF OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

STRENGTHENING OCEAN GOVERNANCE THROUGH MEANINGFUL CAPACITY-BUILDING IN OCEAN AFFAIRS

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) launched a four-year capacity-building project for developing countries with the aim to build sustainable blue economies through strengthened ocean governance -based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The ocean provides billions of people with food security, jobs, ecosystem services, and supports a multi-trillion-dollar global economy. However, the long-term benefits of further developing the blue economy will depend on the sustainability of activities in the ocean and, in unison, ensuring a healthy and resilient ocean.

Through this project, DOALOS draws on its long-standing experience in delivering responsive programmes of assistance in ocean affairs and law of the sea to assist developing States in tackling critical capacity barriers at the regional and national levels.

The project involves four main project activities, which are tailored to the needs of developing States participating in the project, pursuing strengthened ocean governance frameworks as well as sustainable and inclusive ocean-based economies, thereby not only reinforcing the implementation of UNCLOS and related instruments, but also supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

*More information is available on the project's website

(<https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/Norway>)

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Four comprehensive capacity-building activities are delivered:

- **Regional Consultations.** Understanding the current landscape in ocean affairs and the law of the sea through consultations with ocean-related Regional Intergovernmental Organizations (RIGOs) assist the identification of specific capacity-building activities, priorities and needs at the regional level, and reinforce national and regional ocean governance programmes of work.
 - Specific outputs of this activity include an inventory of the ocean-related capacity-building needs within regions, and the identification of existing programmes which can be complemented or reinforced through the Project's activities.
- **National Ocean Governance Analyses.** A high-level overview of beneficiary States' legal and institutional frameworks supports the consistent and uniform implementation of UNCLOS and related instruments and reinforces the overall efficiency of national ocean governance frameworks. The analysis includes a component focusing on specific ocean sectors of strategic relevance to the State. Additionally, it helps identify and prioritize further capacity-building needs to be addressed through the project and beyond.
 - Specific outputs of this activity include a study of the national legal and institutional frameworks for oceans and a prioritized inventory of capacity-building needs.
- **Customized Training Courses.** Needs-based foundation and specialized courses on ocean affairs and the law of the sea are delivered to assist in reinforcing the capacity of government officials and relevant stakeholders. The specific content of each course is informed in part by the Regional Consultations and guided by regional and sub-regional requirements.
 - Specific outputs for this activity include regional customized courses for the wider Caribbean region, the Pacific region, focusing on small island developing States (SIDS); ASEAN region, focusing on archipelagic States; and for African States.
- **OGS Technical Assistance.** Short-term specialized support in ocean affairs to implement specific findings of the Ocean Governance Studies is facilitated for a limited number of beneficiary States. The technical assistance is provided by consultants, preferably experts from the region, in thematic areas identified by the beneficiary State in consultation with DOALOS.
 - Specific outputs of this activity include support to strengthen the legal and policy framework in specific areas of ocean governance

INFORMATION REGARDING PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- **With respect to Regional Consultations**

Consultations were held with regional intergovernmental organizations in the early stage of execution of the Project and continued throughout the duration of the Project. Please feel free to contact DOALOS if your organization would wish to participate.

- **With respect to the National Ocean Governance Studies**

The Ocean Governance studies benefit from the expertise of regional or national consultants, and, where possible, with the engagement of PhD students or Post-Doctoral professionals from the region. States seeking further information should contact DOALOS.

Beneficiary States are required to confirm their commitment to:

- Identify at least one National Focal Point responsible for the timely coordination of project activities on behalf of the beneficiary State;
- Engage in consultations with the Project team to identify priority areas for analysis;
- Arrange for and participate in consultations between the Project team and relevant officials and stakeholders of the beneficiary State;
- Provide relevant information and documentation in a timely manner, including through the completion of a survey(s) and similar instruments; and
- Engage in consultations with the Project Team and other relevant entities to identify further capacity-building needs and priorities.

- **With respect to the Training Courses**

Regional Training Courses are informed, in part, by the Regional Consultations and by the requirements expressed by regional and sub-regional stakeholders. Several of the courses were delivered in collaboration with partners within the regions and in conjunction with other ocean governance processes. The nomination of female candidates is strongly encouraged, as the Project activities aims to ensure a gender balance and foster the meaningful participation of women in training opportunities on ocean affairs and law of the sea.

- **With respect to the OGS Technical Assistance**

The technical assistance benefit from the expertise of regional or national consultants to implement findings of the Ocean Governance Study. States seeking further information should contact DOALOS.

Beneficiary States are required to confirm their commitment to:

- Identify at least one National Focal Point responsible for the timely coordination of project activities on behalf of the beneficiary State;
- Engage in consultations with the Project team to identify the scope of the assistance;
- Engage in consultations with the consultant, the Project Team and other relevant stakeholders of the beneficiary State; and
- Provide relevant information and documentation in a timely manner, including through the completion of a survey(s) and similar instruments.