

Enabling a diversity approach - General overview of OCTA's research priority lines, networks, challenges & innovation examples in ORs and OCTs

OCTA – Overseas Countries and Territories Association



OCTAssociation

Who we are

* OCTA is a **non-profit organization**

registered in Belgium in 2003 and has **22 members with a trans regional scope**– all inhabited OCTs mainly from **Caribbean** and **Pacific** regions, as well as the TAAF (French Southern and Atlantic Lands) in the **Indian ocean** and the **isolated OCTs** (SPM, Greenland, St Helena and Tristan da Cuna, Falklands)



<http://www.octassociation.org/>

Mission and priority areas

Mission

Work collectively to develop common interests set out in the **strategic plan**, the **roadmap** and the **political resolution** of OCTA which target **priority areas of:**

PILLAR I – COOPERATION

- * **Sustainable economic development**
competitiveness through innovation policies
- * **Environmental resilience, valorization of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change**- framework for engaging EC and OCTs, Networking
- * **Regional Cooperation and Integration** – dev' network coop among OCTs OR ACP – foster regional integration

PILLAR II - CAPACITY BUILDING

- * **Centre of knowledge, Research and Innovation** – e-training
- * **Human and Social Development** – NCPs, Info Days , EU programme participation

PILLAR III – COMMUNICATION

- * **Internal and external communication** - Network and exchange information with the OCTs counterparts, PF7/H2020 projects and HEI initiatives
- * **External relations - EU-OCT** - partnership to a wider public

OCTA's Networking role

EU -ORs/OCTs

- * Partnership aimed at **building strategic relationships** with other EU regions and partners, including the Outermost Regions and ACP – Engage ORs; and the ACP Secretariat, to cooperate regionally across EU financial instruments eg funding regional organizations such SPREP accompanying ACP countries to support joint ACP-OCTs strategies
- * Building **support for OCTs** within relevant EU institutions in key priority areas for OCTs
- * **Unlocking value of the OCTs.'** – Reflecting on OCTs consensus on sustainable development through innovation, competitiveness and green growth
- * **Governance**- status of biodiversity in the EU overseas vis-à-vis the MEA (multilateral env agreements) consultation between Min. of the MS
- * **Capacity building** - Develop regional and international networks and synergies in research, education and environment (technical & policy level)

OCTs Environmental Priority lines

New Overseas Association Decision OAD 2014- 2020

- **Art 15: Sustainable management & conservation of biodiversity & ecosystems services** - Economic added value of the biodiversity assets and ecosystem services. Network of MPAs regional strategies IAS
- **Art 16: Sustainable forest management** - Reduce forest fragmentation, mining sites. Replantation to control erosion, improve water harnessing, CC resilience
- **Art 17: Integrated coastal zone management** – INTEGREG prog 2013-17. Regional strategy to maintain/protect, map and cooperate. Watershed management
- **Art 18: Maritime Affairs** - Deep-sea mining possibilities and Biosecurity. Policy devt/marine transport to increase commercial exchanges / structure and regulation framework for monitoring and control. Regional collaboration
- **Art 19: Sustainable management of fish stock – Smart sustainable growth** – Deep-sea fishing species EEZ/Fisheries Regulations. Fish stock assessment data (+ processing industry) local aquaculture initiatives

OCTs Environmental Priority lines

- **Art 20 - Sustainable water management** - Sectorial water policy. Study water resources Sewage system development or extension preventing lagoons pollution
- **Art 21: Waste management** – Sectorial water policy Regional cooperation on the waste management Rehabilitation old dump sites / new landfill sites. Develop of sorting, collecting, storage, recycling & valorization units like waste to energy units. marine discharge of sewerage-Leisure Boating and Yachting Initiative. Caribbean LBS protocol
- **Art 22: Energy** – Sectorial energy policy. Develop research activity related to energy and biotechnology
- **Art 23: Climate change** - REDD +, CDM initiatives by involving businesses. CC mitigation and adaptation strategy/measures. Studies on the CC impacts (monitoring of regional or island indicators)
- **Art 24 Disaster Risk Reduction** - Prevention & management. Regional risks mapping and modelling. Response capacities

Art 15,17,18, 21, 22, 24

Challenge Area II - Sustainable agriculture and forestry

Art 16, 20, 22, 24

Challenge Area I - Spatial planning :
Integrate nature capital and services

- ✓ RESEARCH
- ✓ KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ GOVERNANCE AND COOP.
- ✓ IMPROV. OF POLICY LANDSCAPE
- ✓ FINANCIAL

- ✓ RESEARCH
- ✓ KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ IMPROVEMENT OF POLICY LANDSCAPE
- ✓ FINANCIAL LEVERAGE
- ✓ INNOVATION/BIOECONOMY

Challenge Area III - Improved conservation and management status of species and habitat

- ✓ RESEARCH
- ✓ KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ GOVERNANCE AND COOP.
- ✓ IMPROV. OF POLICY LANDSCAPE

Art 15,16, 18, 19, 21, 23

Cross-cutting issues

- Climate change
- Going beyond the scientific community
- Improved Research environment

Art 22, 23, 24

- ✓ RESEARCH
- ✓ KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ GOVERNANCE AND COOP.
- ✓ IMPROV. OF POLICY LANDSCAPE
- ✓ FINANCIAL
- ✓ INNO/BIOECCO.

Challenge Area IV - Invasive species & Biosecurity

Art 15,19

Art 15,18, 19, 20, 21

- ✓ RESEARCH
- ✓ IMPROV. OF POLICY LANDSCAPE
- ✓ INNO/BIOECCO.

Challenge Area VI - Anthropogenic impacts mitigation

Art 15, 18

- ✓ RESEARCH
- ✓ KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ IMPROV. OF POLICY LANDSCAPE
- ✓ INNO/BIOECCO.

Challenge Area V - Bio-resource :
economic and legal aspects

Challenges and solutions applied in ORs and OCTs

- * Need for a regional collaboration (ACP-OCTs-ORs) **optimize collaborative monitoring & control** capacities for protection/management (illegal fishing, wild oil extraction, immigration issues, etc.)
- * Need to develop **data set** and **collect data** relevant to **CC research**.
Eg. Work with Regional Meteorological Offices and other intl org to strengthen climate change predictions
- * Consider existing tools, **GIS modelling** to highlight risk quantitatively to enable targeted **cost effective control and eradication**
- * **Management and monitoring tools** used to measure the soil, water and air quality of the different kind of ecosystems & include marine management in the spatial planning

Innovation & research in OCTs-

Some examples

- * Development of sustainable agriculture to supply hotel chains and local markets **St Barth**
- * Eco-certification of fisheries and aquaculture **FP**
- * Eco-labeling of the cultured pearl of Tahiti (IGP) Eco-labeling of products from the sea (including traceability) **FP**
- * Development of tourism products by converting **BVI's** glass waste (take into account energetic impact and issue of glass waste management)
- * Promote sustainable tourism Greening the Yachting and Hotel Industry **BVI**
- * RE +SMART Community **Aruba** (State of the art of sustainable living for 20 private homes)
- * Development of an innovative waste management plan involving communities (collection in removed areas > electric-electronic equipments) **NC**
- * Development of ecotourism (Spas and wellness centers) using volcanic & geothermal energy & resources **MNT**
- * Networking among MPAs inter alia through the Knowledge Centre Integrated approach – both in-country and regional cooperation – eg **Pacific region** « parc naturel de la Mer de Corail

Conclusions:

- * OCTs are innovators of green growth in their regions
- * Increased focus on individual cultural heritage
- * Green initiatives in the service center
- * Niche-based SME's in respect of the environment
- * **OCT's are generating capital on their individual culture in a sustainable manner** - focussing revenue from tourism back into building natural and cultural capital, closing the loop on supply chains to maximise local economic impact of economic development activity

Initial Recommendations:

- * Biodiversity loss and management - promote the **win-win perspective** essential for **mainstreaming biodiversity** protection into economic development strategies
- * **Better coordination** between different **research institutions** (Regional and/or sub regional research programmes)
- * Strengthen **community based management** and implementation of communities in action plan design

What else is possible?

OCTA's Ongoing and forthcoming activities

* **PILLAR I – COOPERATION**

- * Create thematic networks to share experience on Marine Protected Area
- * Support green competitiveness
- * Raise awareness and share knowledge on adapted techniques of waste water management in OCTs
- * Member of SC BEST –OCT awareness raising & ownership
- * Participation to COP CBD
- * Develop working relationship with GLISPA

* **PILLAR II - CAPACITY BUILDING**

- * Develop ExCo commitments in networks as OCTs representatives
- * Emergence of OCTs research and areas of cooperation-ongoing study
- * Reinforce the synergies of ORs networks and European WG
- * Traineeship pgm

* **PILLAR III – COMMUNICATION**

- * Develop regional and international networks and synergies based on the updated environmental profiles – collaboration in **Guadeloupe conference oct 2014**
- * Findings of the 2013 Study on Renewable Energies & Environmental profiles. EDF-TCF funded. Available as of June 2014. Validation pending

Guadeloupe conference

When	October 2014
What	<p>International conference focusing on Biodiversity and climate change in the EU overseas</p> <p>OCTs consultations identified 5 main topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Blue & Green Growth2. Water & Water waste management3. Integrated costal management to increase ecosystems protection and resilience to natural disasters4. Climate Change mitigation & adaptation5. Invasive Alien Species
Who	Ongoing identification of experts/key note speakers in the domains
Expected output	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Longer term funding and support to address biodiversity and climate change• Validated regional strategies to support biodiversity in the long term• Provide commitments -BEST & other existing funding tools

Thank you - Gracias



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