

Regional Snapshot

Abidjan Convention Contracting Parties and the BBNJ Agreement



Key messages

- Regional momentum is growing, while national treaty processes follow different legal and institutional pathways.
- The Bureau can strengthen an enabling environment centred on collaboration, practical support and shared regional benefits.
- BBNJ progress is sufficiently advanced to provide a meaningful regional overview.
- Country-level information on the Additional Protocols is not available and should be among our priorities going forward to have a clear implementation picture.



BBNJ regional momentum


20

Contracting Parties


17

have signed the
BBNJ Agreement


10

are Parties to the
BBNJ Agreement



As of 16 July 2026.



Forward-looking opportunities

- GEF-9
- Detailed Protocol information should be validated with Secretariat records and, where appropriate, national focal points before circulation.



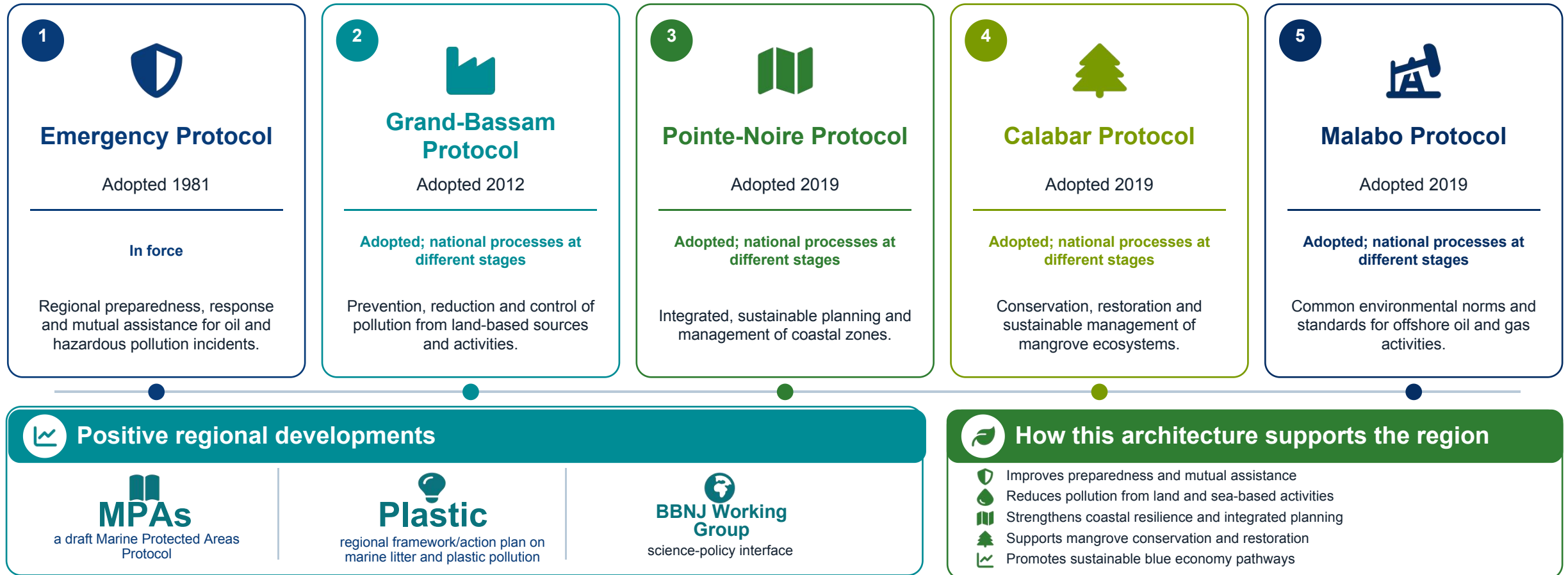
How the Convention can support national processes

-  Voluntary peer exchange and practical experience-sharing
-  Targeted legal, technical and institutional assistance
-  Support for national coordination and procedural follow-up
-  Country-driven access to GEF-9 and partner opportunities
-  Constructive regional visibility and high-level outreach

Five Protocols — One Shared Regional Framework

Overview of the Convention's legal architecture

The Convention's Protocols address complementary pressures on the marine and coastal environment. Together, they provide a coherent platform for preparedness, pollution prevention, integrated planning, ecosystem restoration and responsible offshore activity.



From Regional Momentum to Practical Support

A positive pathway from verified progress to country-driven follow-up

Regional progress and enabling next steps

Area	Current regional signal	Near-term next step	Possible Secretariat / Bureau follow-up
BBNJ Agreement	17 Contracting Parties have signed and 10 are Parties; the Agreement entered into force globally on 17 January 2026.	Maintain country-driven readiness and implementation planning; update status immediately before issuance.	Coordinate regional messaging, knowledge exchange and implementation partnerships, including GEF-9 opportunities.
Additional Protocols	A five-Protocol legal architecture covers emergency response, land-based pollution, ICZM, mangroves and offshore standards.	Validate country-level records and clarify the latest formal step and next procedural step with countries.	Offer tailored legal/technical assistance and voluntary peer exchange; avoid public country comparison until data are validated.
GEF readiness support	The Secretariat working table records 18 Contracting Parties as accessed/accessing GEF-8 early-action support and two as eligible.	Capture lessons from early action and identify priority implementation needs.	Translate country priorities into coordinated GEF-9 and partner support concepts, subject to eligibility and programming decisions.
Emerging priorities	MPA and plastic-pollution workstreams provide opportunities to connect legal development with 30×30, resilience and pollution action.	Clarify mandates and next steps following COP14 and identify interested countries and partners.	Convene technical exchange, develop evidence and mobilize support in line with Contracting Party guidance.