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# Realising the Potential of the Overseas Countries and Territories for Sustainable Blue Growth - an OCTA Study

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# What is OCTA?



# OCTA

Overseas Countries  
and Territories Association



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# Overseas Countries & Territories Association of the European Union



# What is OCTA?

- OCTA was registered in Belgium in March 2003 by the governments of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the EU (OCTs).
- Up to 2020, 22 out of the 25 OCTs were members of OCTA, i.e. all the permanently inhabited territories (21) as well as the French Southern Antarctic Lands (TAAF). As a consequence of the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union, the process is ongoing for the departure of UK OTs before summer.
- After summer, the 13 members of OCTA will be: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic lands (TAAF), Greenland, New-Caledonia, Saba, Saint-Barthelemy, Sint-Eustatius, Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon, Sint-Maarten and Wallis and Futuna.



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# What does OCTA do?

- OCTA serves as a platform through which the OCTs realise their common goals by working collectively through cooperation, policy dialogue, promotion of common positions and partnerships for the sustainable development of OCTs.
- OCTA provides a forum to develop effective working relationships with the EU and support the collective interests of the OCTs in several cooperation areas of the EU-OCT association.



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# What is the Blue Economy Study?



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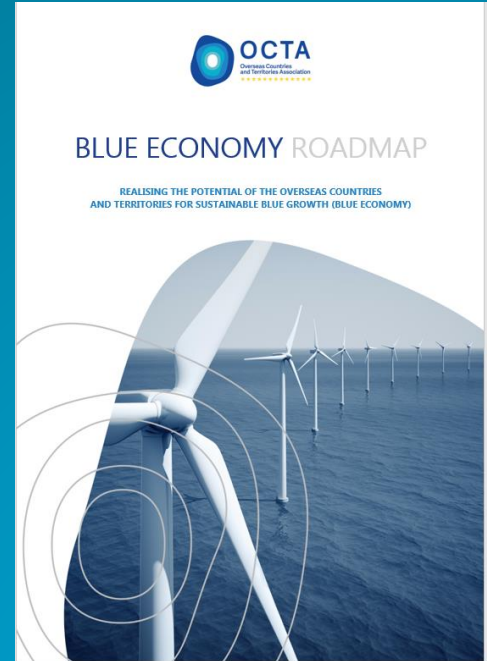
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# The aim of the Blue Economy Study

- The project was launched in December 2020 with the aim of establishing the broad direction for future investment in and development of a sustainable ocean-based economy in the different OCTs.
- What OCTA was particularly looking for:
  - the current state of play,
  - potential new maritime activities
  - a gap analysis
  - new growth potential
  - recommendations with regards the future programming period



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# What the Study Will Deliver

- The research methodology applied:
  - Extensive policy datamining;
  - Online surveys & interviews.
  - In-depth analysis of the maritime, tourism, energy and food security sectors
- Stay tuned for the launch of the Study - <https://www.overseas-association.eu/>
- Preliminary results:
  - Four strategic priorities for OCTs;
  - Firm suggestions of Flagship projects;
  - Profiles of each OCT, including a SWOT analysis of the current state-of-play
  - Recommendations for the OCTs going forth.



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# Why is this important?

- It is a good time to create a Blue Economy Roadmap for the future development at Island level;
- It gives an honest image of the current state of play;
- It leads to an integrated development approach – essential for ensuring the transition to blue economy;
- It encourages cooperation at regional level;



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**MUCHAS GRACIAS**



**THANK YOU**



**MERCI BEAUCOUP**



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