

“For A Better Understanding Of The Role Of Fishing And Marine Protected Areas In The BBNJ Agreement And Its Implementation In The COMHAFAT Region”

Case Study: Ghana

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KEY MILESTONES

GHANA'S RATIFICATION: SIGNIFICANCE

Ghana has been a proactive participant throughout the BBNJ process. It signed the agreement in September 2023 and ratified it on 14 January 2026, just three days before the treaty entered into force globally, placing Ghana among the last cohort of ratifying states.



Political Signal

Ghana's early ratification signals West Africa's readiness to lead on high seas governance.



Legal Obligation

Obliges Ghana to develop national implementing legislation and participate in BBNJ governance bodies.



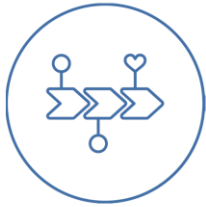
Fishing Interests

Ensures Ghanaian fishers and fleets have voice in rules governing distant-water fishing zones.



MPA Engagement

Enables Ghana to nominate and co-manage High Seas MPAs relevant to its migratory fish stocks.



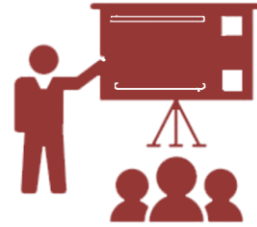
NATIONAL BBNJ BASELINE

Inventory existing EEZ and high seas fishing data. Build national capacity for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for activities in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).



MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION

Establish an inter-ministerial BBNJ taskforce (Fisheries, Environment, Foreign Affairs, Navy) to coordinate national positions and reporting obligations.



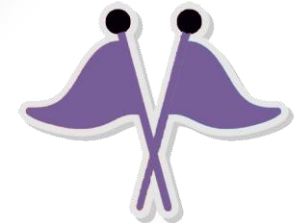
TRAIN NATIONAL NEGOTIATORS

Invest in training diplomats, fisheries officers, and scientists on BBNJ treaty provisions — particularly on MPAs, MGR benefit-sharing, EIAs, and COP procedures.



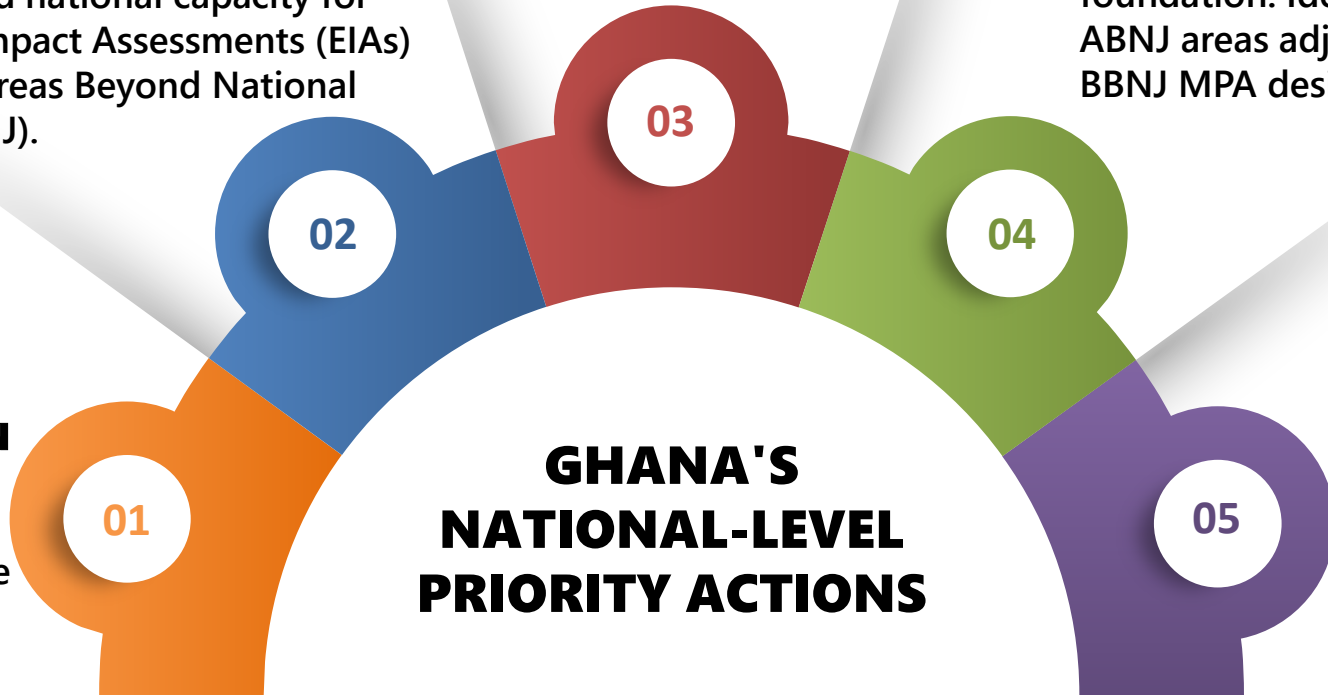
DOMESTIC MPA FRAMEWORK

Strengthen national MPA governance as a foundation. Identify ecologically significant ABNJ areas adjacent to the EEZ that merit BBNJ MPA designation through COP



FLAG STATE OBLIGATIONS

Strengthen vessel monitoring (VMS), port state measures, and observer coverage for national fleets operating in ABNJ, in line with BBNJ flag state duties.



GHANA'S NATIONAL-LEVEL PRIORITY ACTIONS



CHALLENGES

IUU Fishing

Displacement Risk

Capacity Gaps

Governance Overlap



OPPORTUNITIES

Stock Recovery

Blue Economy

Regional Voice

Capacity Building

WAY FORWARD-STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES FOR GHANA

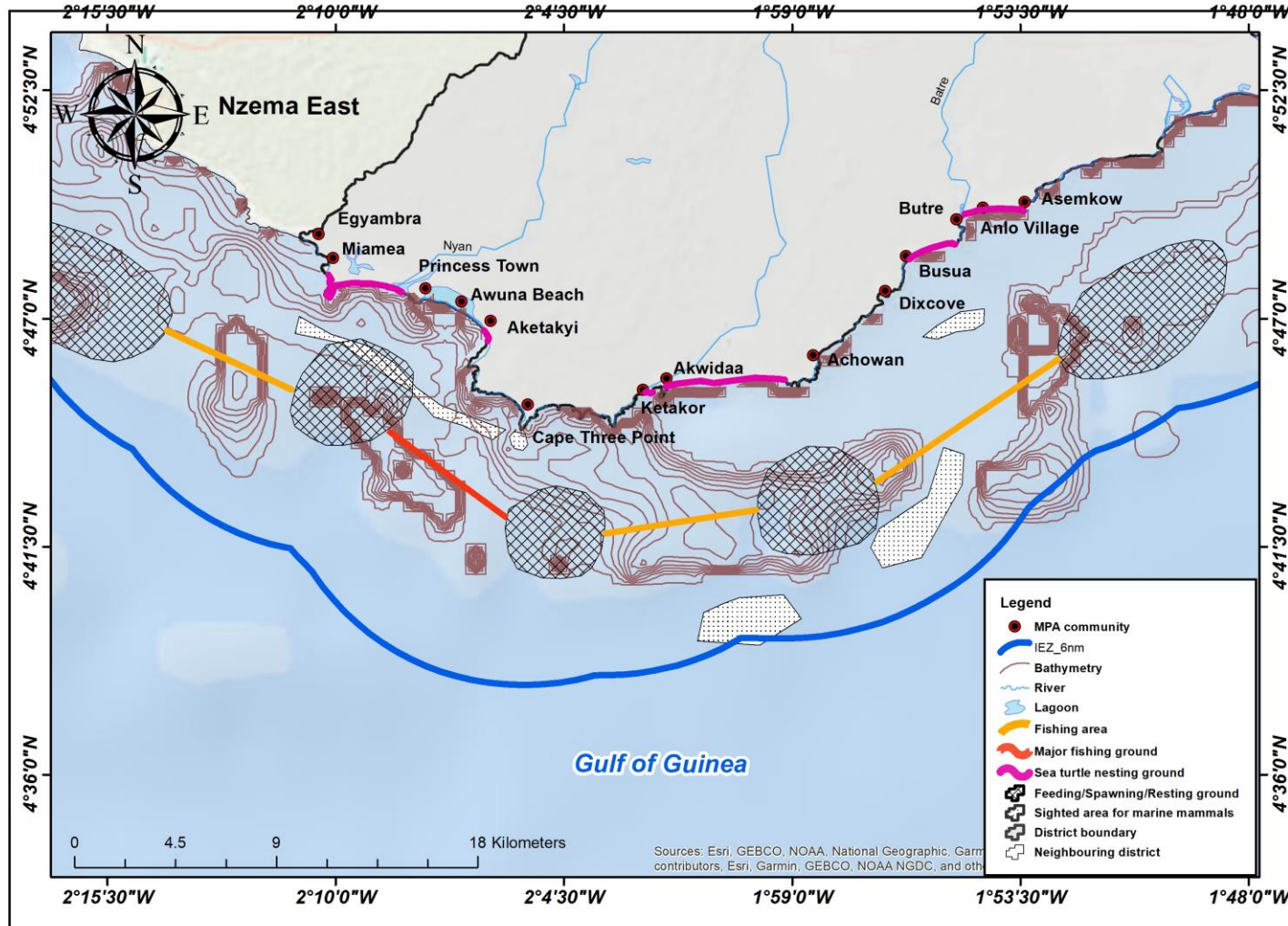


BBNJ IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP FOR COMHAFAT





Proposed MPA Location & Scope



**Greater Cape Three Points
(Western Region)**

**Approximately 700 km² of
marine area.**

**Covers 21 coastal
communities from
Ampatano to Domunli.**



POLICIES

POLICY & INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENT

01 Aligned with Ghana's Fisheries and Aquaculture Act and Marine Fisheries Management Plan.



02 Supports the Blue Economy Strategy and National Biodiversity Strategy.



03 Contributes to SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).



04 Supports the Convention on Biological Diversity and the global 30x30 conservation target.



05 Enhances regional marine governance through ECOWAS and FAO collaboration.

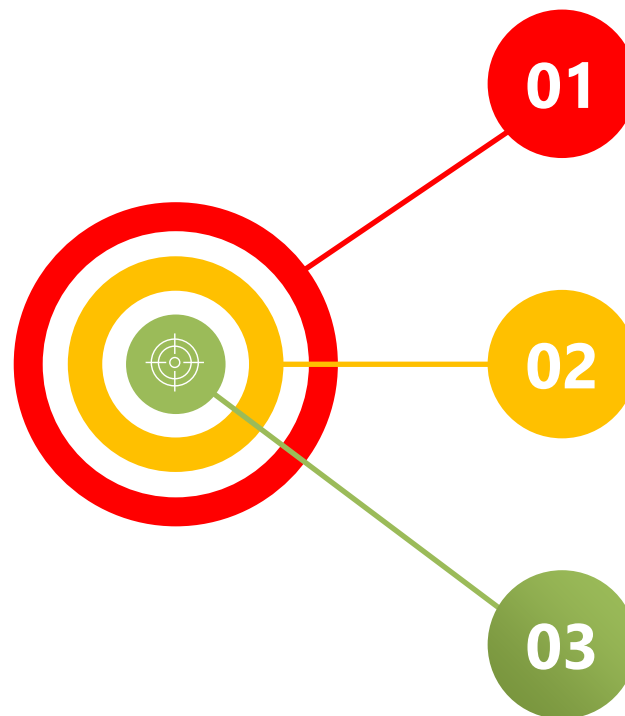


06 Promotes climate resilience through protection of mangroves and blue carbon ecosystems.





ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE



Key breeding and nursery grounds for sardinellas

Important migratory corridor for whales and dolphins.

High biodiversity and fisheries productivity.

KEY MILESTONES

APRIL 2024
Intra-ministerial
engagement held in Accra

**NOVEMBER
2025**
Inter-sectorial meeting
convened

AUGUST 2025
Community and
Outreal Strategy
validated

APRIL 2026
Declaration of Ghana's
first MPA in Greater
Cape Three Points Area





Hen Mpoano

Official Declaration **Of** Marine Protected Area (MPA)

In the
Greater Cape Three Points Area

9:00 am, Tuesday, 14 April 2026.

Busua Beach Resort, Western Region.



H.E. Prof. Naana Jane Opoku Agyemang
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
GUEST OF HONOR



Hon. Emelia Arthur (MP)
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Host



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THANK YOU!

