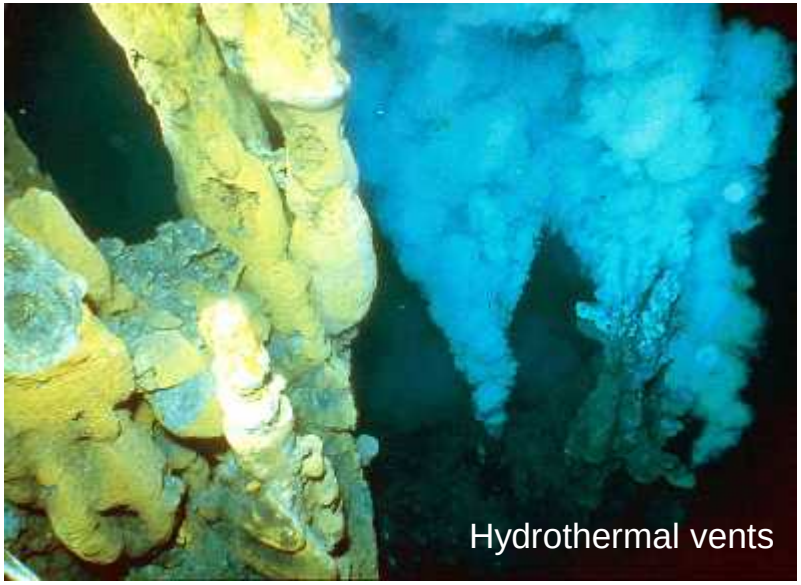
ABNJ Deep Seas Project:

Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in ABNJ

Area-based planning in ABNJ

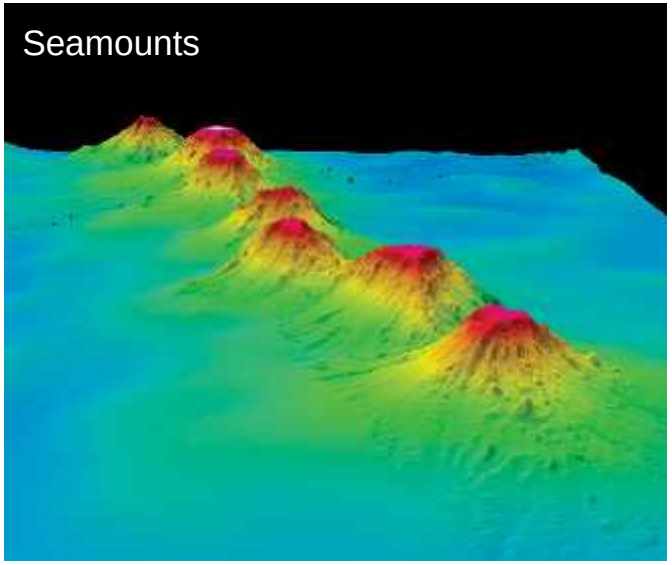
Hannah Thomas
Project Manager, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)


Hydrothermal vents

Deep sea sponges

Cold water corals

Cold seeps

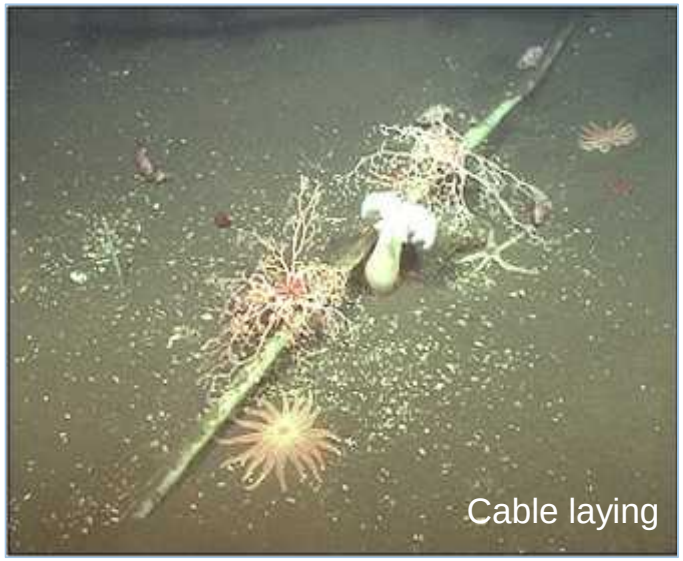

Seamounts

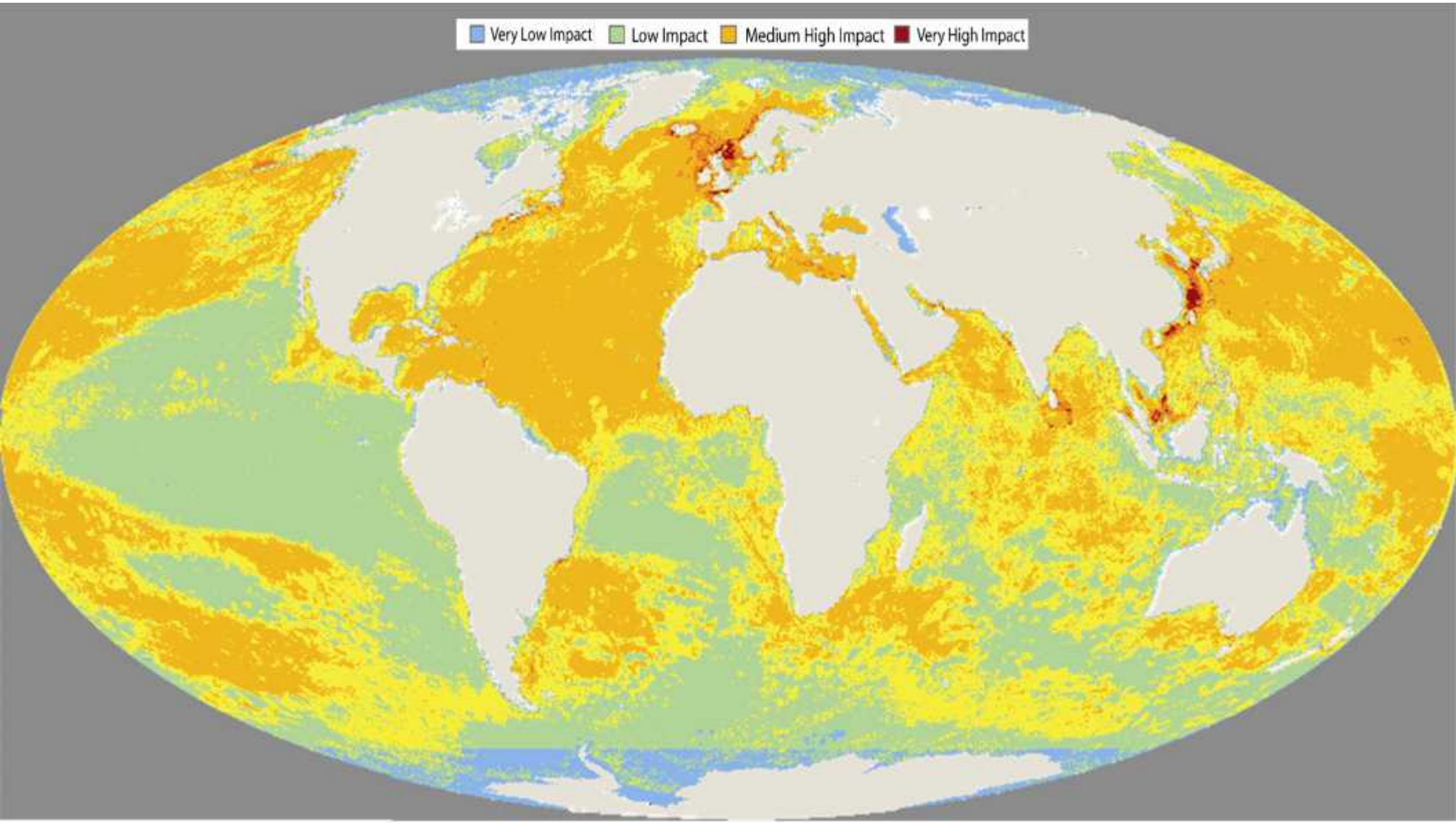
Rich seamount biodiversity

Deep sea fishing

Deep sea mining

Shipping

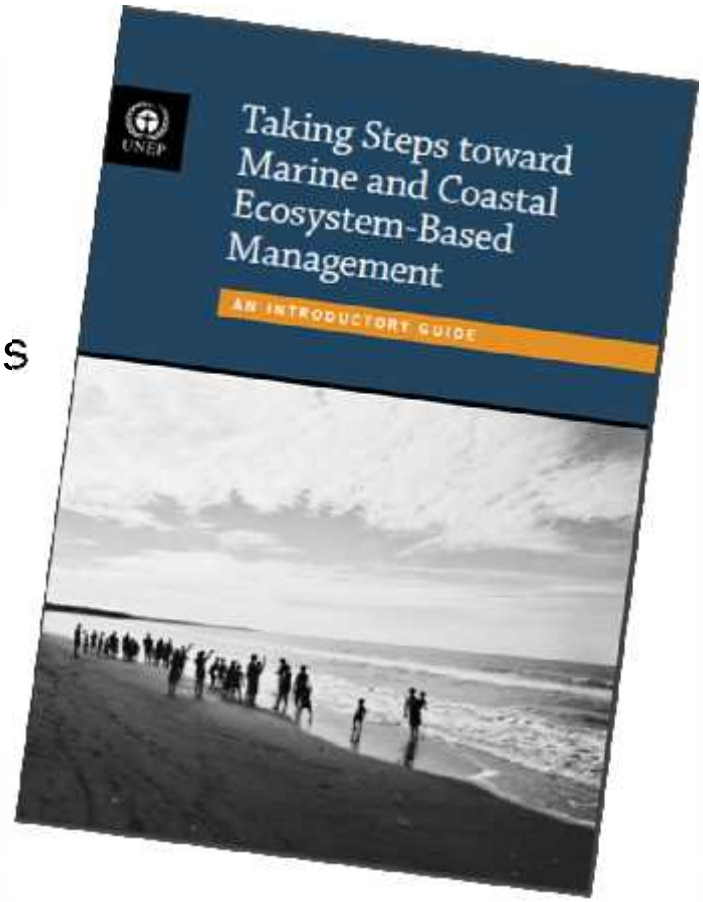

Cable laying


Very Low Impact
Low Impact
Medium High Impact
Very High Impact

Ecosystem-based management

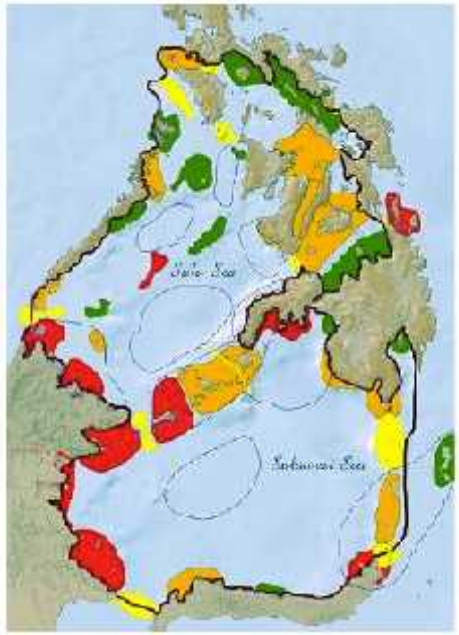
Core Principles

1) Maintain **connectivity** within and across ecosystems
2) Support **ecosystem services**
3) Understand and address **cumulative impacts**
4) Manage for multiple objectives (**multi-sectoral**)
5) **Learn** and adapt

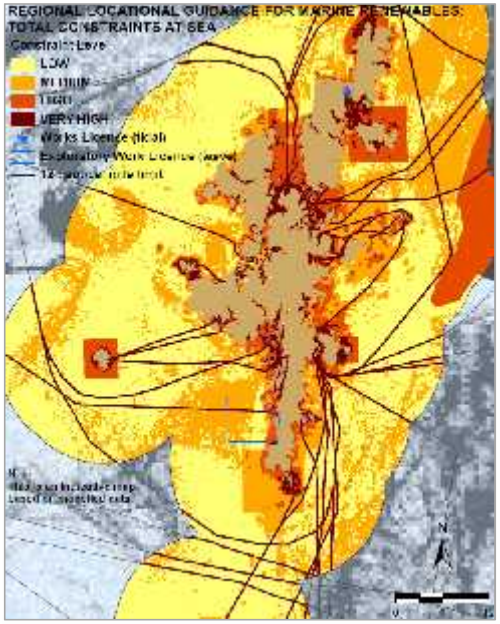


Area-based planning for ecosystem-based management

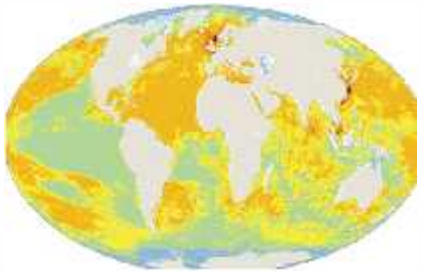
MPA network planning



Marine Spatial Planning



Trade-off analyses



Cumulative impacts

Ecosystem service assessments

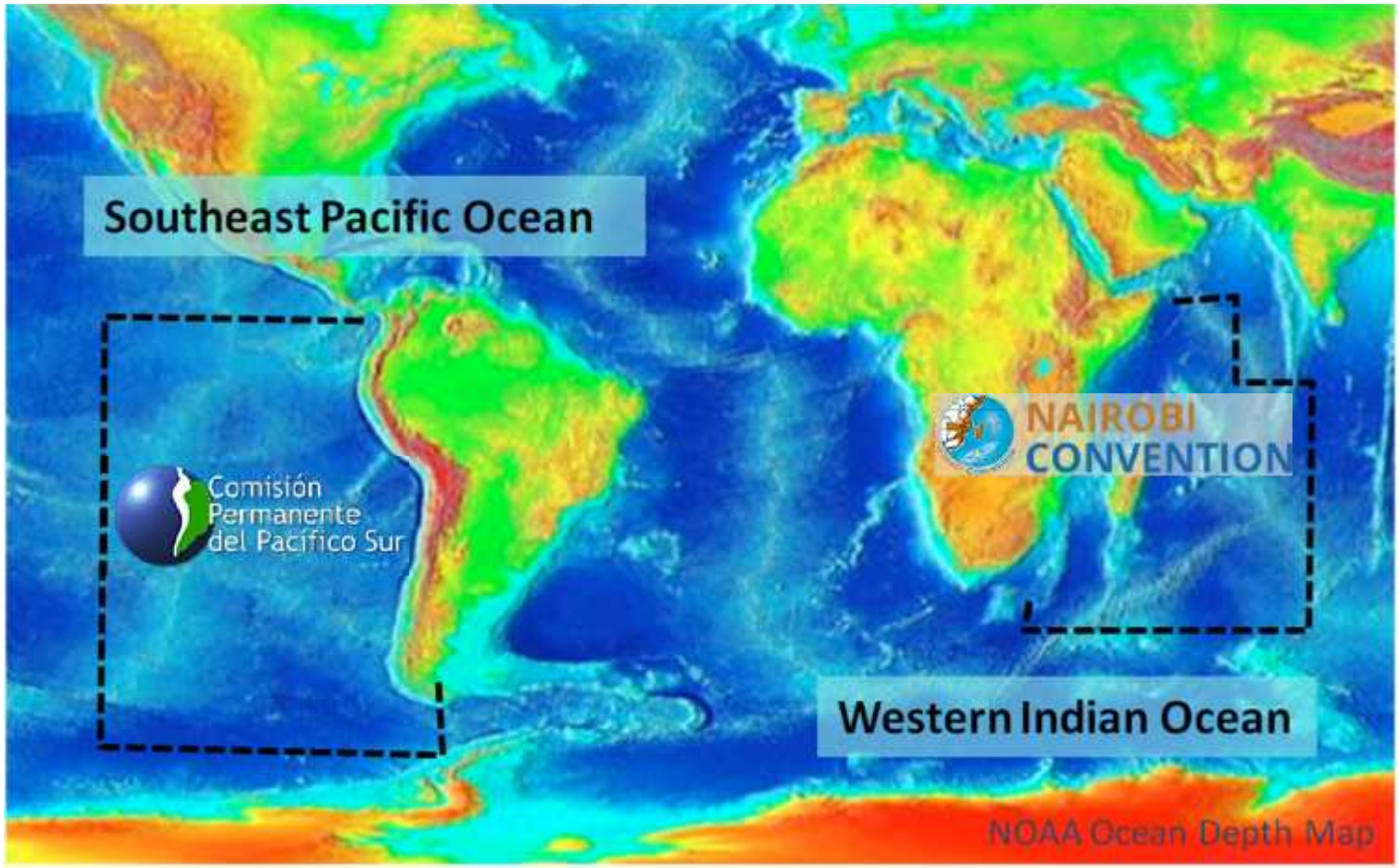
Developing and testing a methodology for area-based planning in ABNJ

Objectives

- Apply the ecosystem-based management methodology to ABNJ
- Adapt and further develop suitable area-based planning tools
  - Review applicability of area-based planning tools to ABNJ
  - Gather experiences and good practices from other regions
  - Understand the relevant governance frameworks
- Build capacity in the pilot regions for area-based planning in ABNJ
  - Support a planning process that incorporates ABNJ
  - Test area-based planning approaches and tools
  - Provide policy-relevant advice

Developing and testing a methodology for area-based planning in ABNJ

Pilot regions



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ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

Phase 1: Information gathering

- **Regional case studies**
- **Review of suitable area-based planning tools**
- **Study on governance and legal frameworks**
- **Inventory of ABNJ datasets**
- **Connectivity study**
- **Capacity assessment**

METHODOLOGY

- Build knowledge base
- Take stock of existing management practices
- Develop a common understanding of the ecosystem
- Recognize connections within and across ecosystems
- Assess existing capacity

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Reviews & studies | *Data & tools* | *Capacity development* | *Stakeholder engagement*

METHODOLOGY

ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

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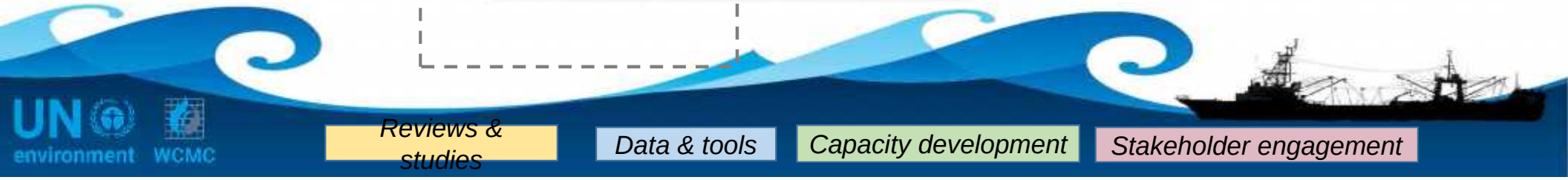
ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

Phase 2: Analysis & synthesis



Reviews & studies

Data & tools

Capacity development

Stakeholder engagement

ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

Phase 1: Information gathering

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ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

Phase 2: Analysis & synthesis

- Synthesis: area-based planning options and recommendations
- Cumulative impacts assessment
- Ecosystem service assessment
- Knowledge sharing workshops
- Sectoral engagement

METHODOLOGY

- Choose area-based planning strategy
- Adapt and further develop suitable area-based planning tools to ABNJ and connected EEZs
- Build capacity for area-based planning
- Develop opportunities for sectors to come together

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Reviews & studies | *Data & tools* | *Capacity development* | *Stakeholder engagement*

ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

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ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

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ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

Phase 3: Testing

METHODOLOGY

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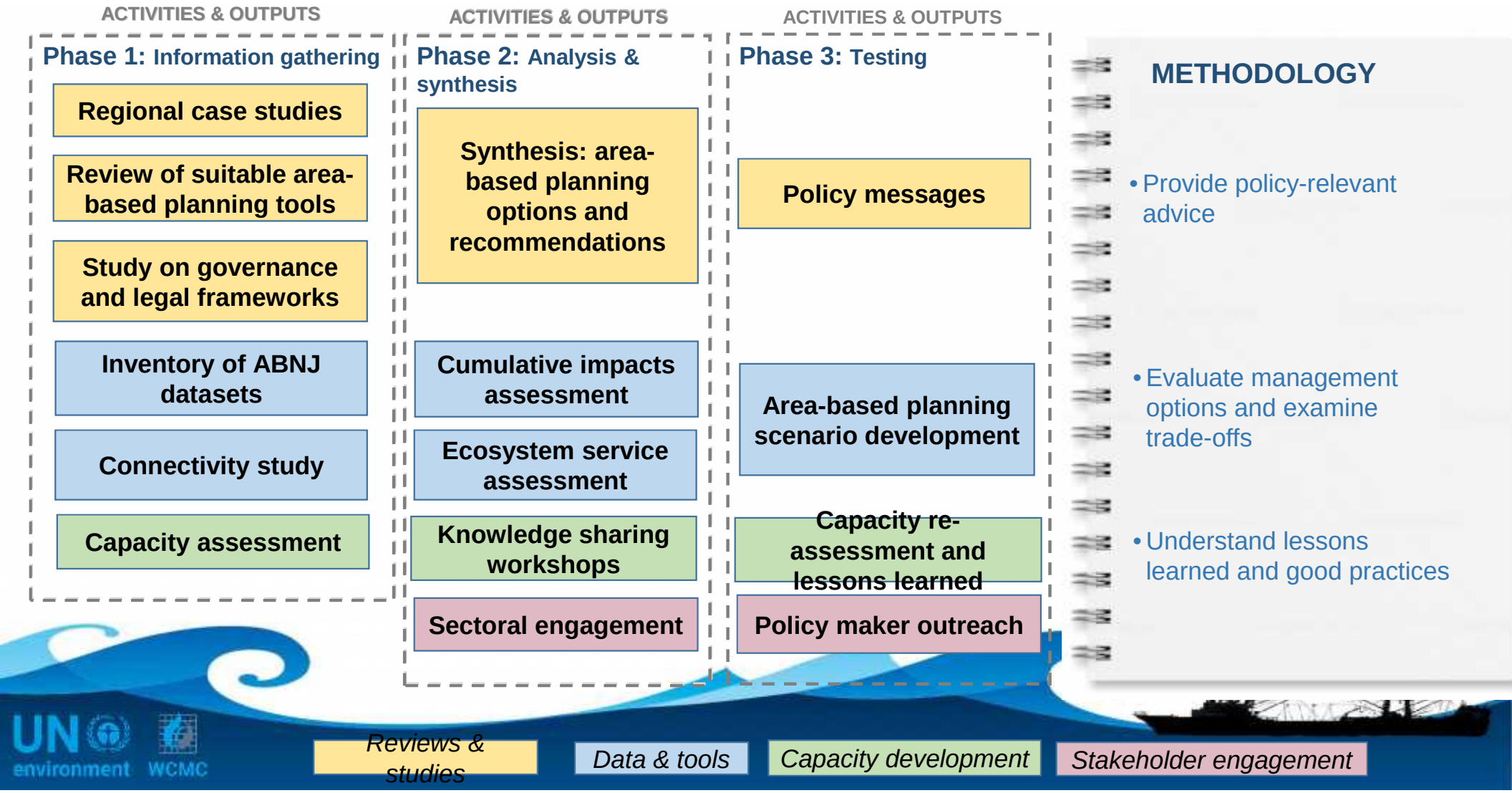
Reviews & studies | *Data & tools* | *Capacity development* | *Stakeholder engagement*


ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS
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Ecosystem service assessment
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Sectoral engagement
ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS
Phase 3: Testing
Policy messages
Area-based planning scenario development
Capacity re-assessment and lessons learned
Policy maker outreach
METHODOLOGY
• Provide policy-relevant advice
• Evaluate management options and examine trade-offs
• Understand lessons learned and good practices
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WCMC
Reviews & studies
Data & tools
Capacity development
Stakeholder engagement

Regional case studies

Review of suitable area-based planning tools

Study on governance and legal frameworks

Synthesis: area-based planning options and recommendations

Policy messages

Inventory of ABNJ datasets

Cumulative impacts assessment

Area-based planning scenario development

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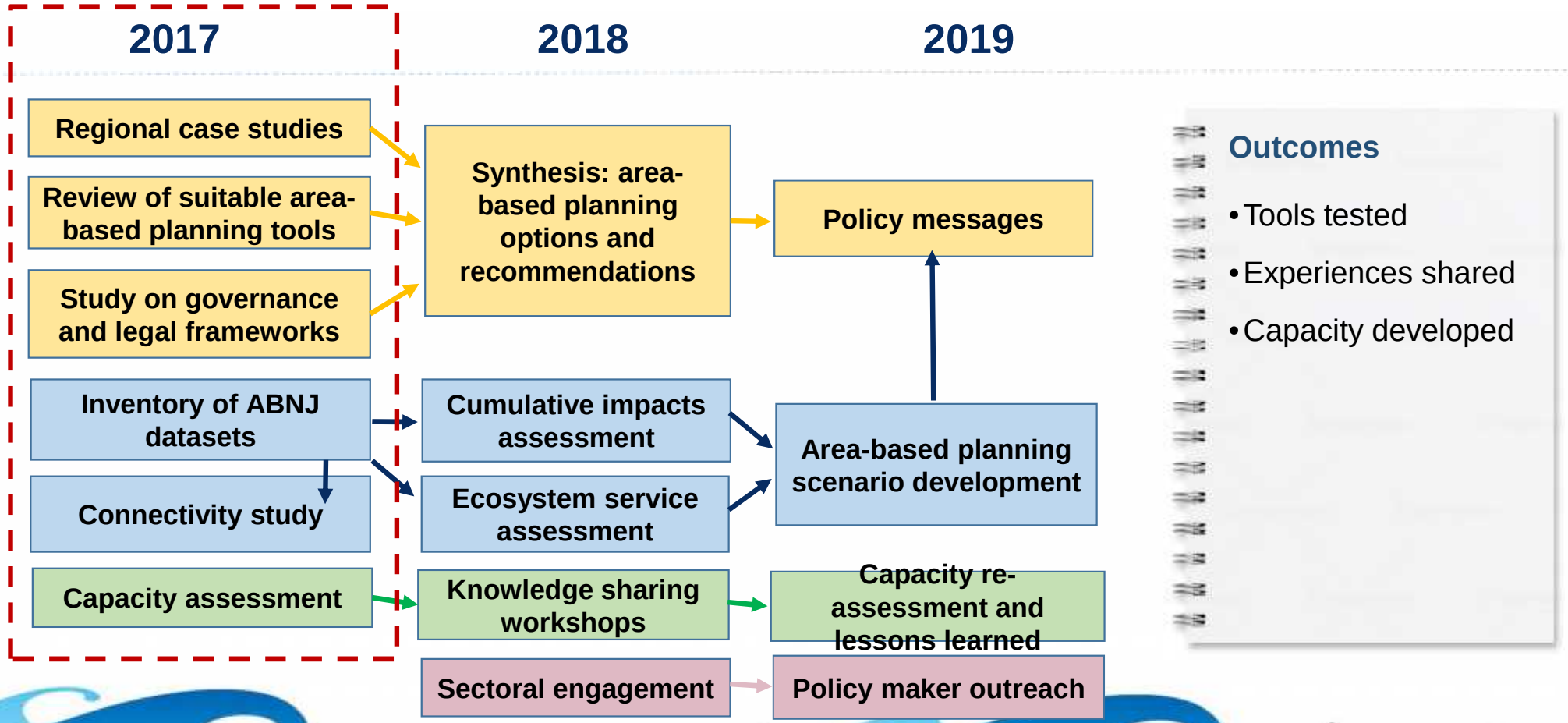
Reviews & studies | *Data & tools* | *Capacity development* | *Stakeholder engagement*


2017
2018
2019
Regional case studies
Review of suitable area-based planning tools
Study on governance and legal frameworks
Inventory of ABNJ datasets
Connectivity study
Capacity assessment
Synthesis: area-based planning options and recommendations
Cumulative impacts assessment
Ecosystem service assessment
Knowledge sharing workshops
Sectoral engagement
Policy messages
Area-based planning scenario development
Capacity re-assessment and lessons learned
Policy maker outreach
Outcomes
• Tools tested
• Experiences shared
• Capacity developed
Reviews & studies
Data & tools
Capacity development
Stakeholder engagement

Governance study: Institutional arrangements and cross-sectoral cooperation

Key
WIO

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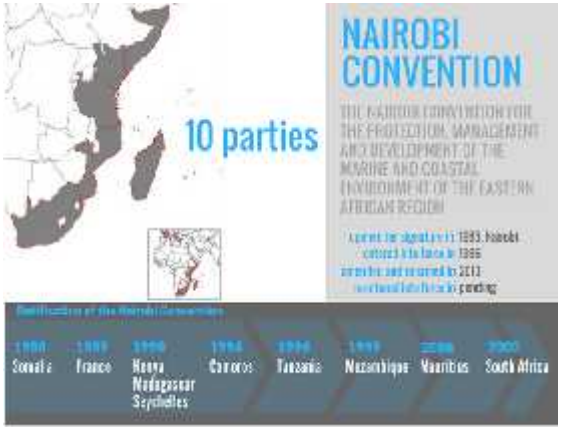
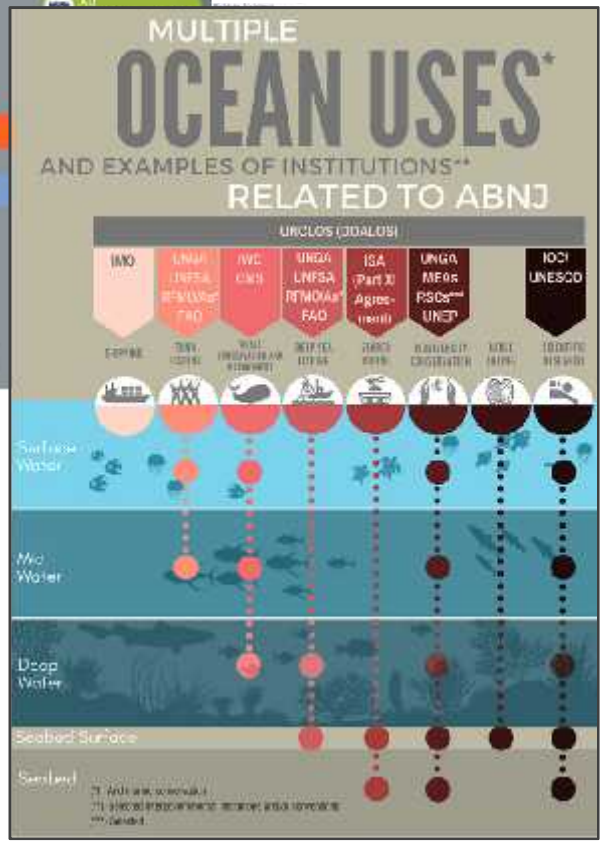
- N) can be an important forum for discussion on ABNJ issues

http://wcmc.io/ABNJInstitutionalArrangements





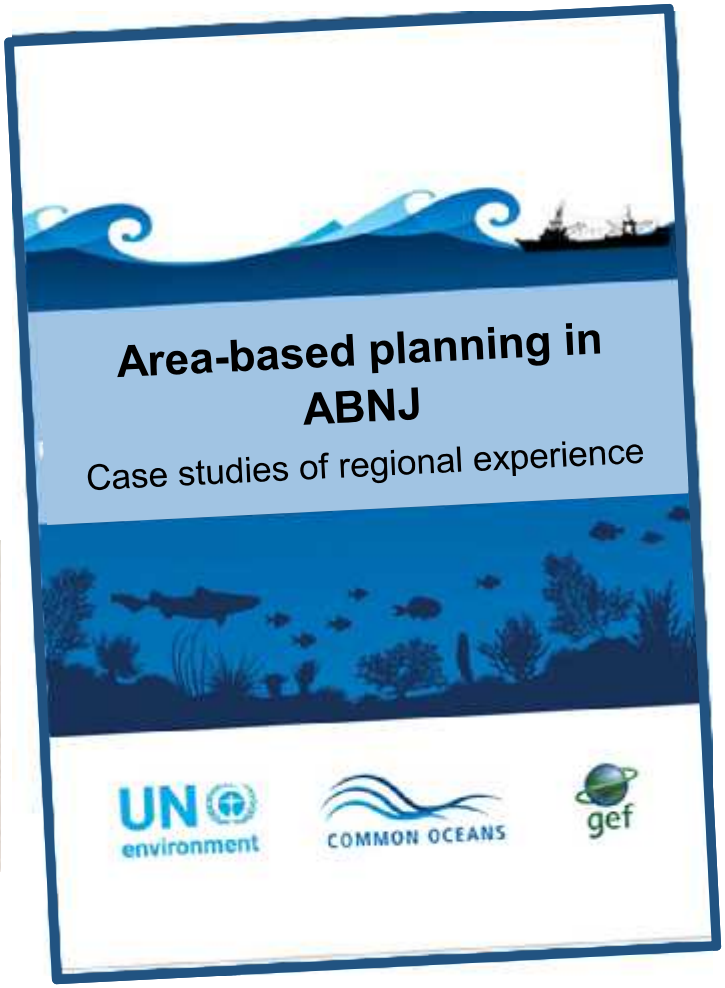
Learning from experiences: Case studies of regional area-based planning

Factors influencing success

- Governance
- Ecosystem-based
- Data quality
- Enforcement
- Stakeholder engagement

Next steps

- Review Dec 2017
- Review to be published Jan 2018



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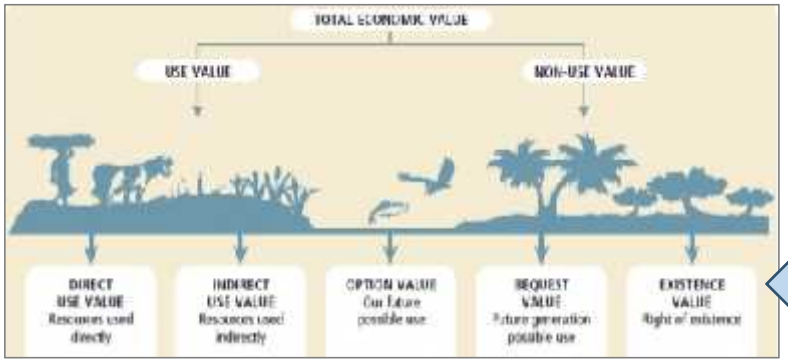
Assessing the suitability of area-based planning tools for ABNJ

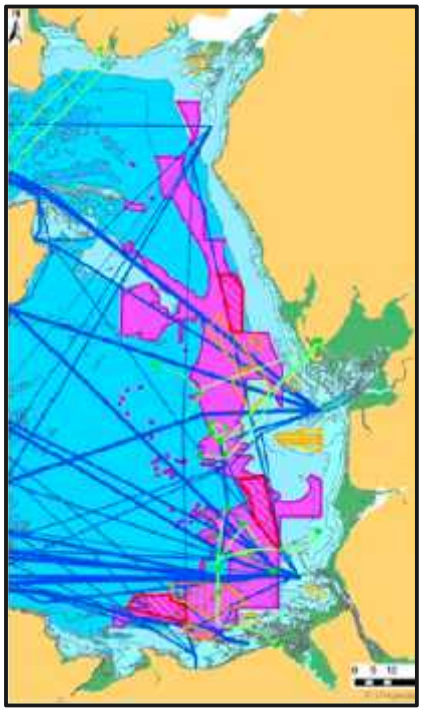
Trade-off tools?

Marine spatial planning?

MPA networks?



Ecosystem service valuation?



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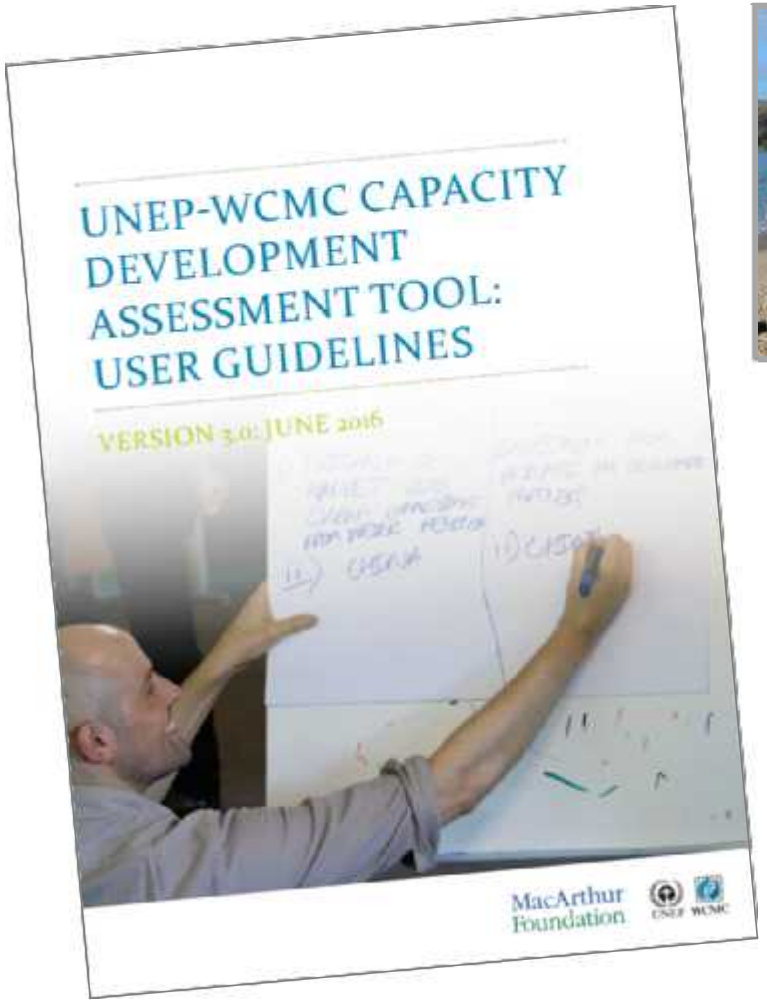
Suitability elements

- Legal framework
- Governance
- Data
- Geological/ecological conditions

Next steps

- Expert Workshop Feb 2018
- Present final draft at March Focal Points mtg
- Review to be published April 2018

Assessing regional capacity



G·R·I·D ARENDAL

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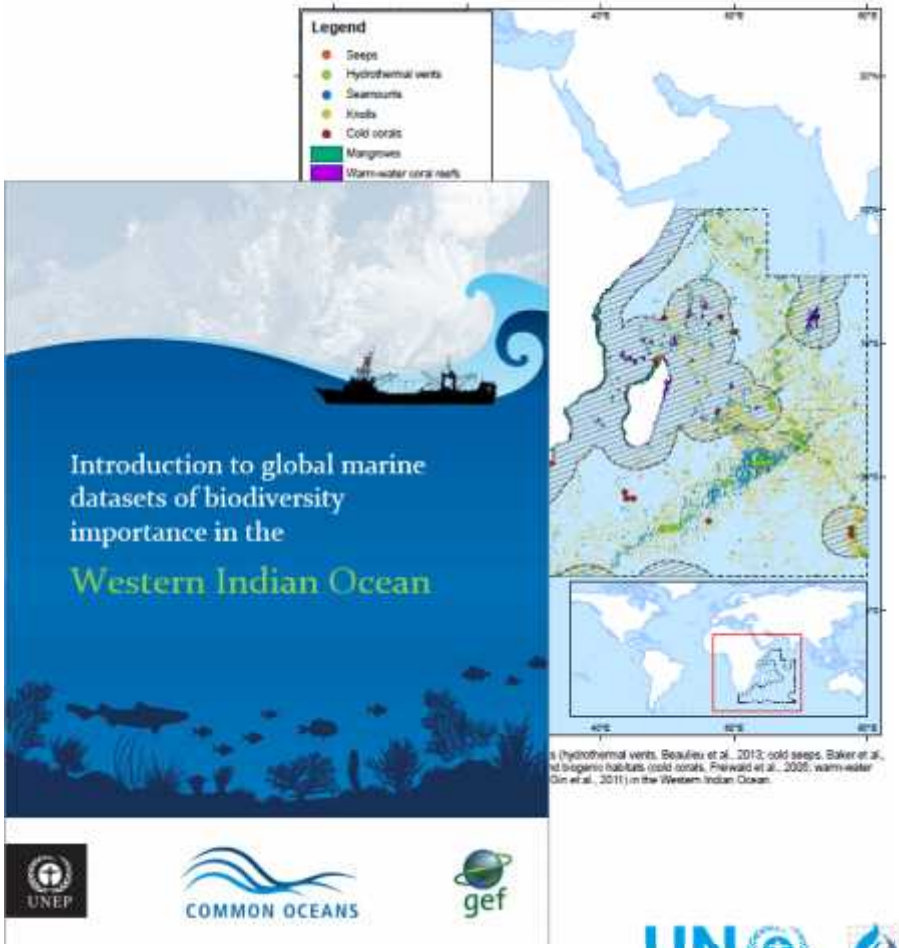
Collating ABNJ data



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http://wcmc.io/WIOdata

Inventory of **GLOBAL** marine biodiversity datasets

- Over 100 datasets of biodiversity characteristics
- Standardised metadata sheets and interactive pdfs for half the datasets

Inventory of **REGIONAL** marine datasets

- Starting in November 2017
- Nairobi Convention Sec coordination
- Supported by other project partners

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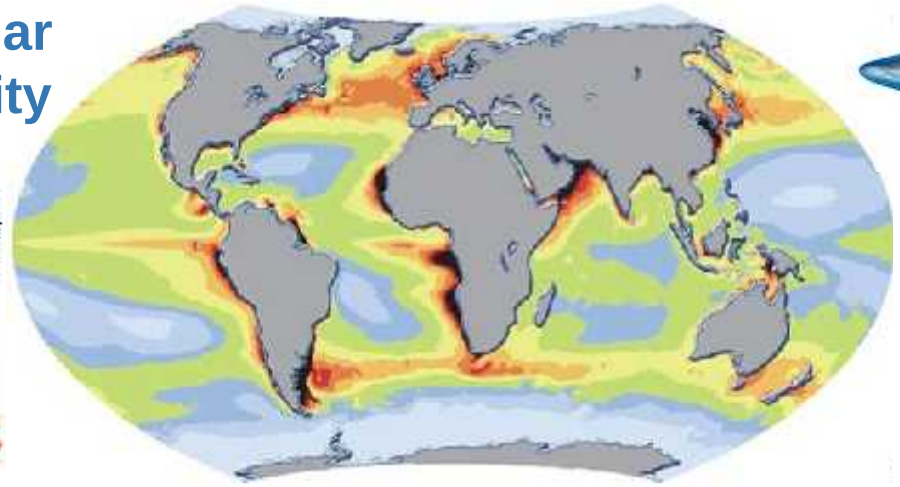
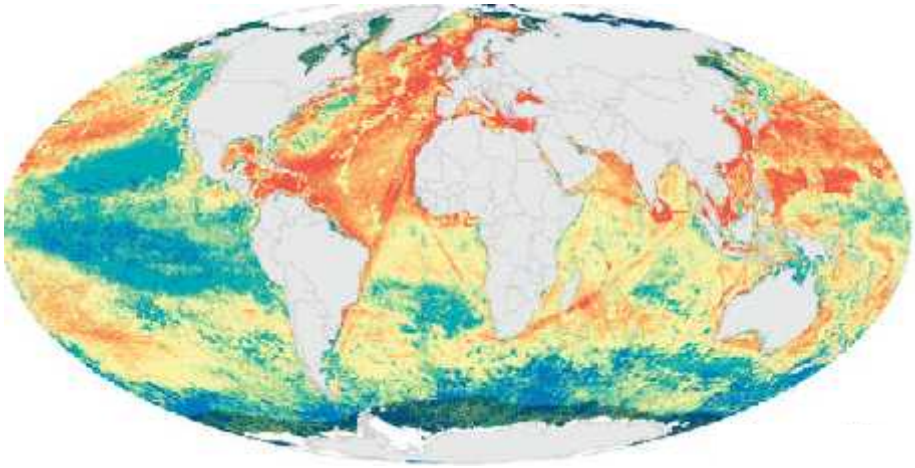
Adapting area-based planning tools for ABNJ

Transboundary connectivity



Regional cumulative impacts



Synthesis: area-based planning options and recommendations

Next steps:

- Published May 2018
- Presented at ABNJ Deep Seas workshop (2018)
- Foundation for Nairobi Convention decisions

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