



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# ABNJ Deep Seas Project Next Steps



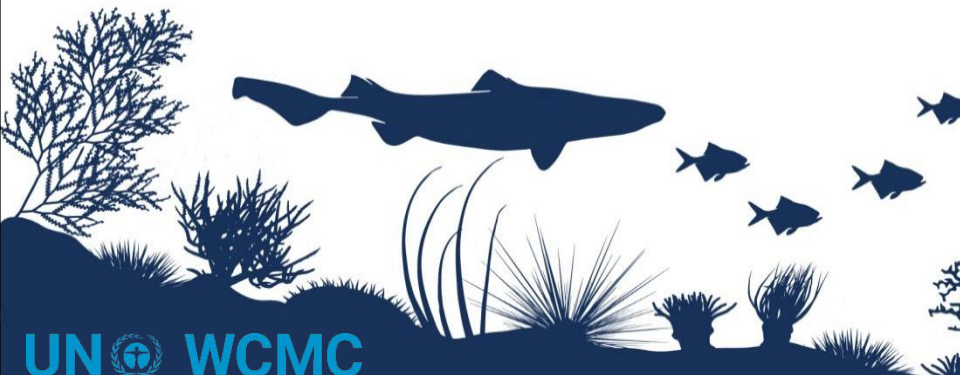
*Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*

**Dr. Nina Bhola**

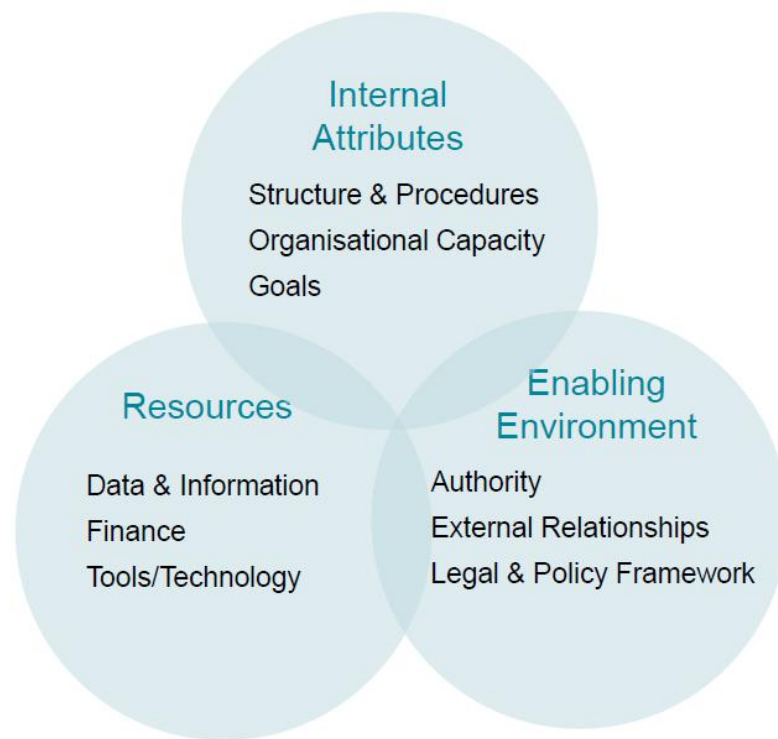
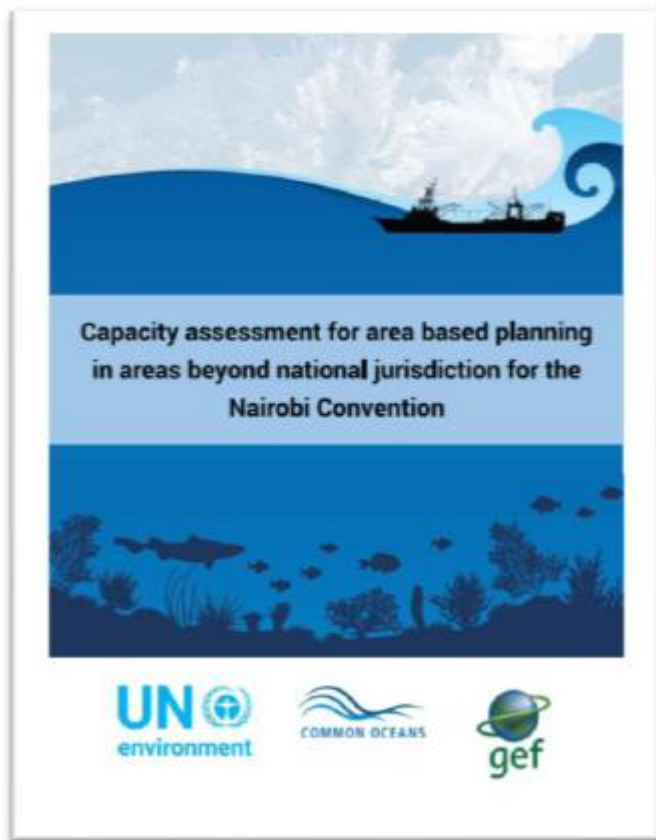
**Senior Programme Officer** UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring  
Centre

# Outputs

- **Synthesis report**
  - Key messages
- **Methodology for cross-sectoral planning in ABNJ**
  - Interactive sessions to test
  - Wider review
- **Online summary report**



# Capacity Assessment updated







[Advanced Search](#) | [Legend](#) | [EmbedLink](#) X

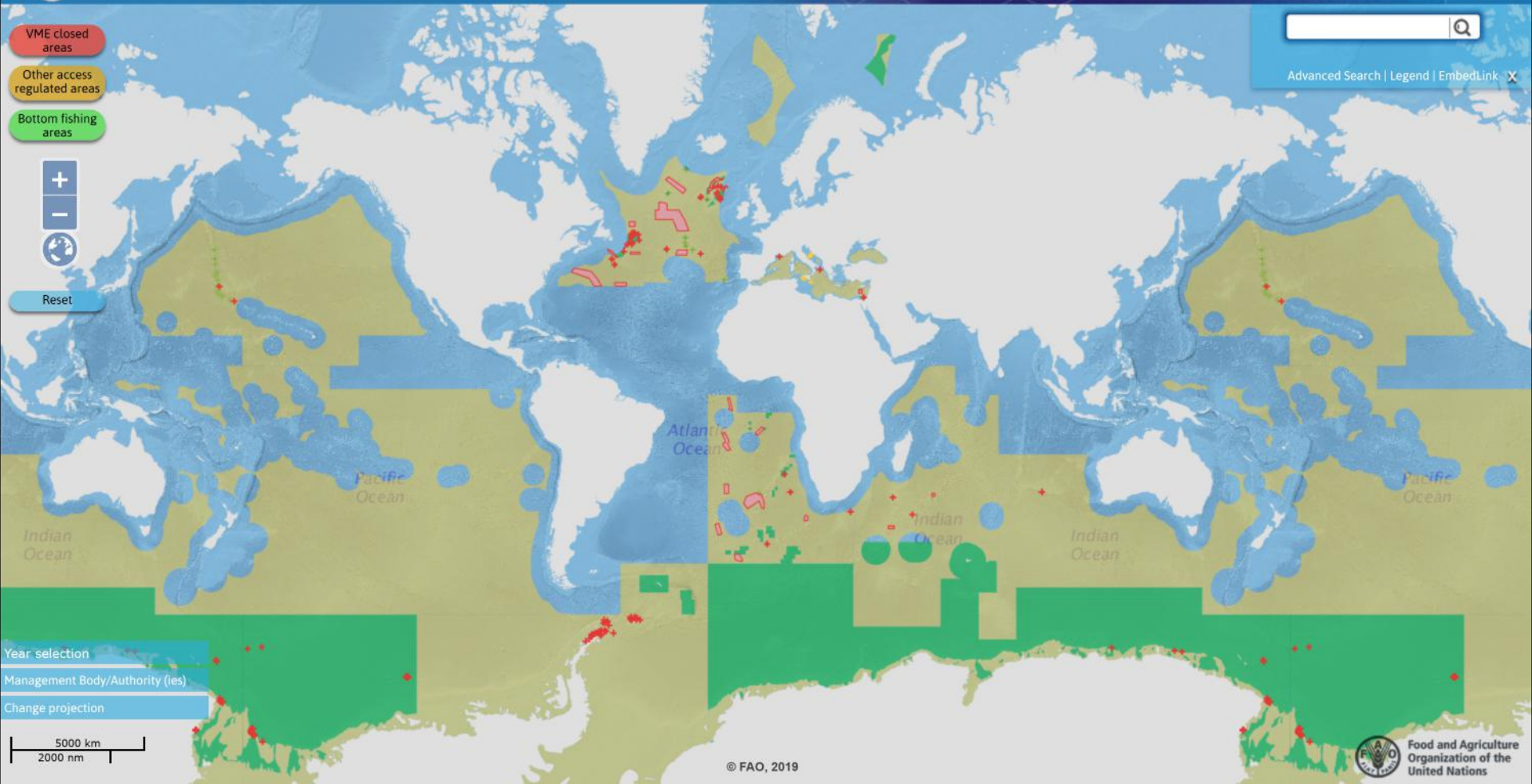
VME closed areas

Other access regulated areas

Bottom fishing areas



Reset



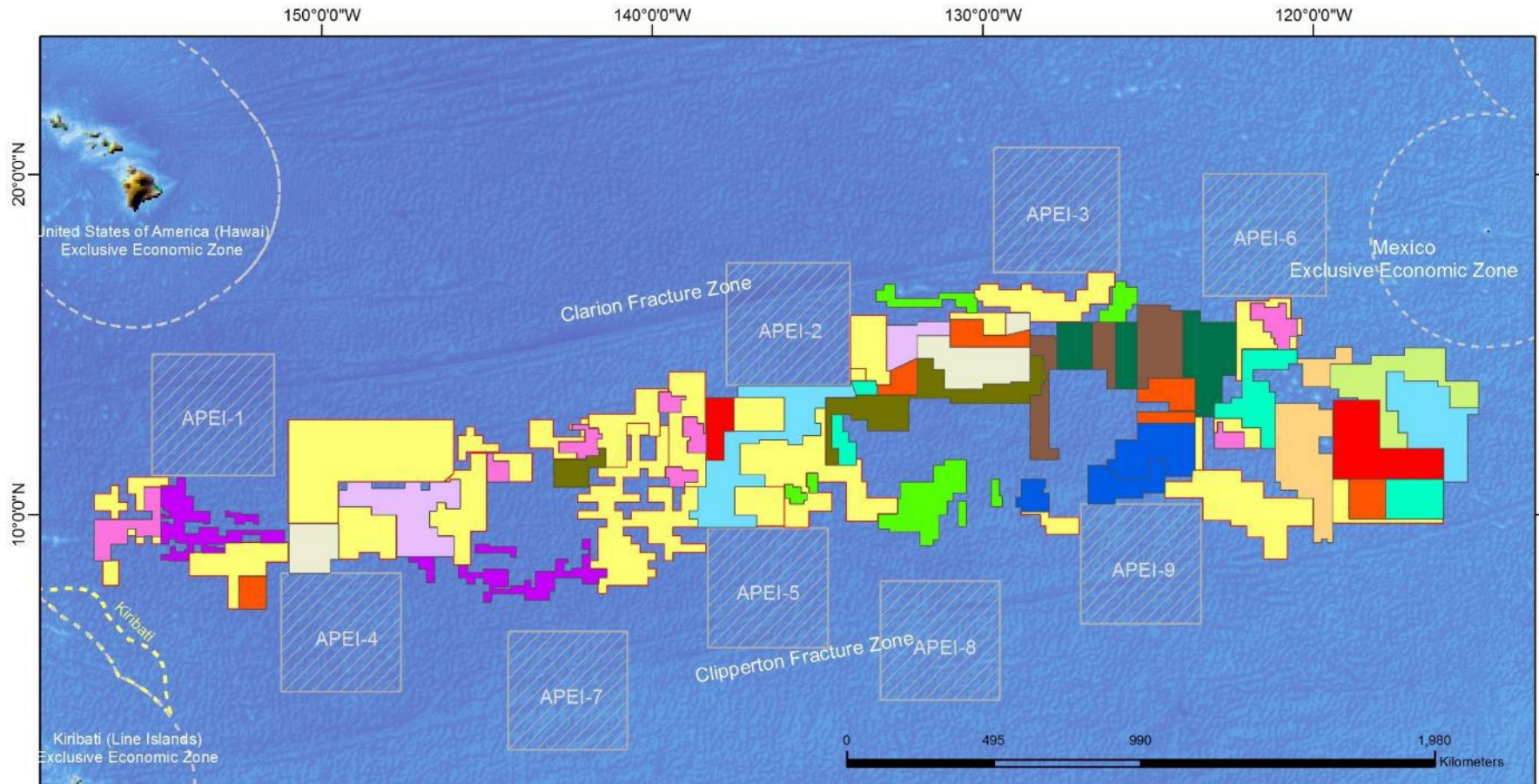
Year selection

Management Body/Authority (ies)

Change projection

5000 km  
2000 nm





**Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone Exploration Areas for Polymetallic Nodules**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR; Germany)            | Interoceanmetal (IOM; Bulgaria, Cuba, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Fed., Slovakia) |
| Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC; Cook Islands)                          | Marawa Reseach and Exploration Ltd (Kiribati)   |
| China Minmetals Corporation (CMC; China)  | Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. (NORI; Nauru)  |
| China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA; China) | Ocean Mineral Singapore PTE Ltd. (OMS; Singapore)                                     |
| Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. (DORD; Japan)                           | Tonga Offshore Mining Limited (TOML; Tonga)   |
| Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR; Belgium)                                    | UK Seabed Resources Ltd. (UKSRL; UK-I, UK-II)   |
| Government of Republic of Korea   | Yuzhmoregeologiya (Russian Federation)  |
| Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER; France)    | Reserved Areas  |
|   | Submission to the Commission for the Limits of the Continental Shelf                  |
|   | Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (APEI)                                     |

Map background Source: MarineRegions.org. Accessed at <http://www.marinerregions.org> on 1 March 2018. Ortel Garcia, P.; Souza Dias, F.; Claus, S.; De Haavere, N.; Vanhorne, B.; Hernandez, F.; Miles, J. (2017). A new version of the Maritime Boundaries (geodatabase) (Penders Marine Institute)



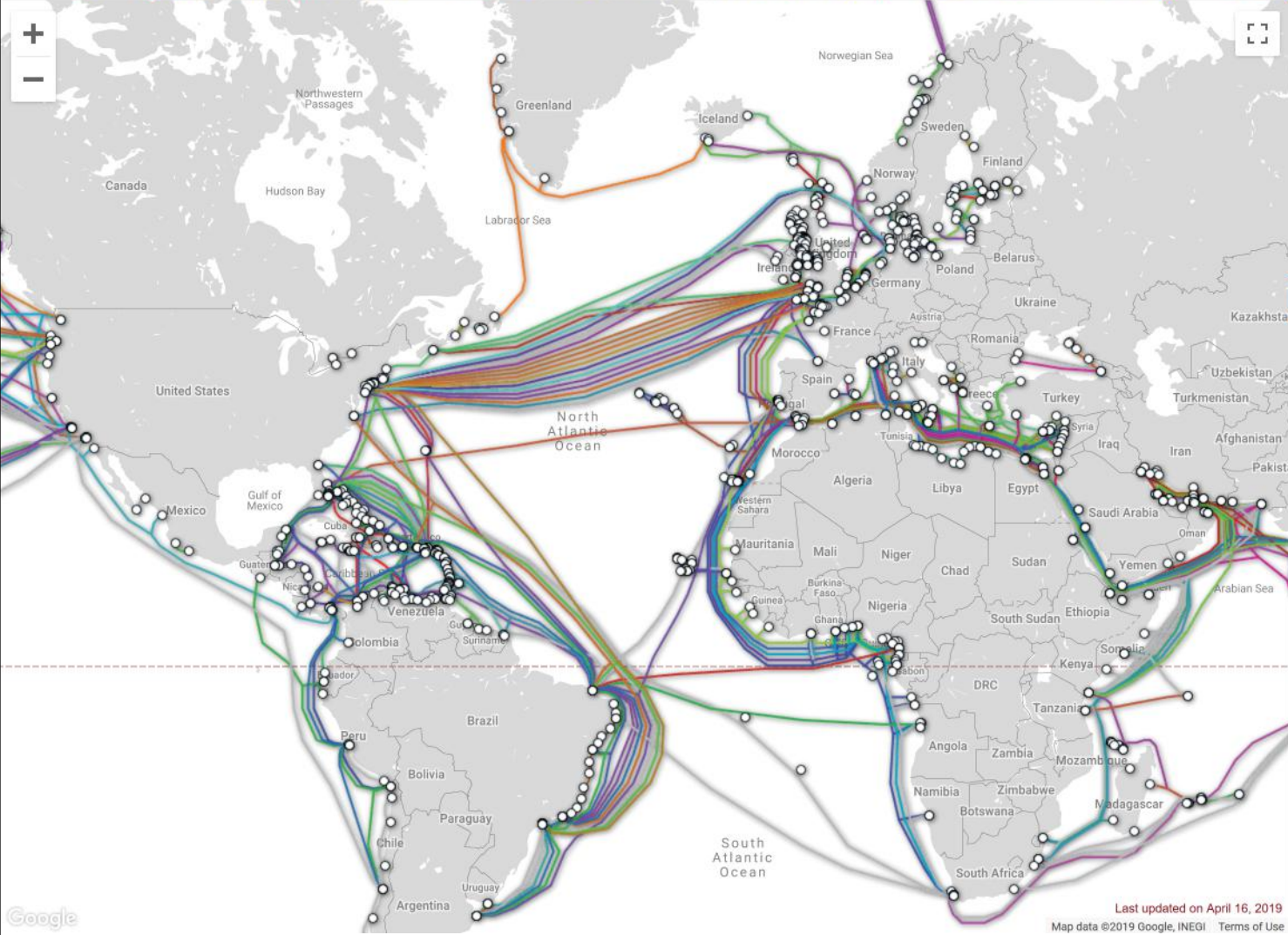
© International Seabed Authority 2018 (Oct. 2018)



# Protected areas coverage in 2019



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



## TeleGeography Submarine Cable Map

The Submarine Cable Map is a free and regularly updated resource from TeleGeography.

Got a question about how we make this map? Or about how submarine cables work? Look no further.



Sponsored in part by Huawei Marine | [Feedback](#) | [github](#)

Search bar with magnifying glass icon

### Submarine Cables

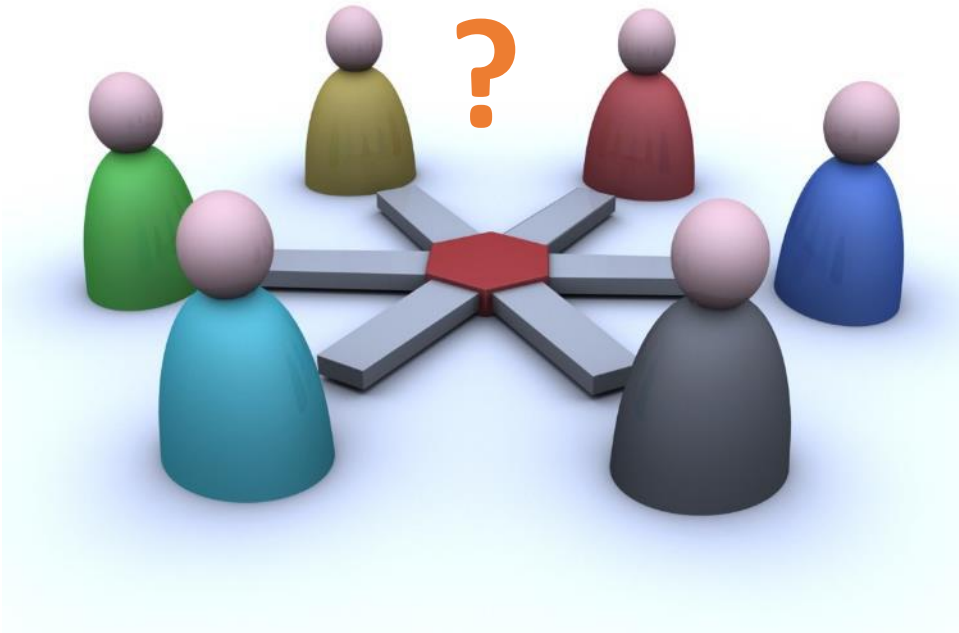
- ACS Alaska-Oregon Network (AKORN)
- Aden-Djibouti
- Adria-1
- AEConnect-1
- Africa Coast to Europe (ACE)
- Africa-1
- Alaska United East
- Alaska United Southeast
- Alaska United Turnagain Arm (AUTA)
- Alaska United West
- ALBA-1
- Aletar
- Alonso de Ojeda
- ALPAL-2
- America Movil Submarine Cable System-1 (AMX-1)
- American Samoa-Hawaii (ASH)
- Americas-I North
- Americas-II
- Amigo Vespucci
- Antillas 1
- APCN-2
- Aphrodite 2
- Apollo
- Aqualink
- ARBR
- ARCOS

Last updated on April 16, 2019  
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# ABNJ Deep Seas Project Information Sharing Platform (*Prototype*)

Information  
exchange



Aim: to create a **prototype** of a user-friendly web platform that brings together information from **across all sectors** active in ABNJ



# Ocean + library

## Ocean+

Home to more than half of all life on Earth, the Ocean covers over 70% of the surface of the planet.

The ocean contains some of the most productive ecosystems, vast natural resources, and unique habitats on Earth. The ocean also plays a vital role in regulating the planet's climate. However, the marine environment is facing many pressures, from the impacts of climate change and overfishing to the effects of pollution from microplastics and marine litter.

Accurate and up-to-date data and information are required to support adaptive conservation and resource management that can help to mitigate these impacts, and to conserve marine species and habitats.

### Ocean+ Library

[Ocean+ Library](#) addresses this need for information by providing an overview of global marine and coastal datasets of biodiversity importance, including some datasets of regional interest.

### Ocean+ Habitats

[Ocean+ Habitats](#) aims to improve access to marine habitat data and information through partnerships, and will be evolving to include regional and national information.



[Protected Planet - Marine](#) presents the most recent official coverage statistics for marine protected areas, updated monthly from the World Database on Protected Areas.

### OCEAN DATA VIEWER

The [Ocean Data Viewer](#) offers users the opportunity to view and download a range of spatial datasets that are useful for informing decisions regarding the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

# Deep Seas project: partners

## Funding:

US\$ 8 million  
from GEF for  
5 years



## Co-funding

estimate US\$ 79 million

## Executing Agencies



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## Partners



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on  
Biological Diversity (CBD)



Northwest Atlantic Fisheries  
Organization (NAFO)



Commission for the Conservation of  
Antarctic Marine Living Resources  
(CCAMLR)



Nairobi Convention



Permanent Commission for the South  
Pacific (CPPS)



North East Atlantic Fisheries  
Commission (NEAFC)



Duke University



National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration (NOAA)



General Fisheries Commission for  
the Mediterranean (GFCM)

NPFC



Global Oceans Biodiversity Initiative  
(GOBI)



South East Atlantic Fisheries  
Organisation (SEAFO)



GRID-Arendal



Sealord Group



International Coalition of Fisheries  
Associations (ICFA)



Southern Indian Ocean  
Deepwater Fishers Association  
(SIODFA)



International Union for Conservation  
of Nature (IUCN)



South Pacific Regional Fisheries  
Management Organisation (SPRFMO)



# All outputs available online

[www.commonoceans.org](http://www.commonoceans.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Common Oceans website. At the top, there is the FAO logo and the text 'Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations'. Below this is a navigation menu with links for 'About FAO', 'In Action', 'Countries', 'Themes', 'Media', 'Publications', 'Statistics', and 'Partnerships'. The main heading is 'Common Oceans - A partnership for sustainability in the ABNJ'. Below the heading is a secondary navigation menu with 'Background', 'Projects', 'News', 'Calendar', 'Partners', and 'Documents'. The 'Projects' menu is active, showing four project cards: 'Tuna & Biodiversity', 'Deep Seas', 'Ocean Partnerships', and 'Strengthening Capacity'. The 'Deep Seas' card is highlighted with a red border. At the bottom, there is a footer with 'FAO Departments and Offices' and 'Follow us on' with social media icons.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

About FAO | In Action | Countries | Themes | Media | Publications | Statistics | Partnerships

English

## Common Oceans - A partnership for sustainability in the ABNJ

Background Projects News Calendar Partners Documents

Tuna & Biodiversity  
Achieving responsible, efficient and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ

**Deep Seas**  
Contributing to the improvement of deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation through the harmonization of conservation and sustainable use following the principles of the ecosystem approach, while testing innovative and appropriate management tools

Ocean Partnerships  
Promoting effective global and regional coordination on ABNJ through information exchange, capacity development, and enhanced engagement of stakeholders at global, regional and national levels in constructive policy dialogues

Strengthening Capacity  
Providing technical assistance and analytical support to identify and design investment proposals for transformational pilot projects to improve the management of transboundary fisheries

FAO Departments and Offices  
Contact us Employment Agriculture and Regional Office for Africa

Follow us on

The infographic features a title at the top: 'Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the ABNJ'. Below the title is a photograph of a fishing vessel. The main text states: 'Over 60% of the world's ocean lies in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), which contain a diversity of living and non-living resources that support human well-being. With technological developments that allow increased access to these resources, collective efforts are required to ensure that ecosystems are protected and that resource use is sustainable.' It then mentions that UN Environment, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and UNEP-WCMC are collectively working to support development, management and sustainability of deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ. A world map highlights the ABNJ areas. At the bottom, there are logos for UN Environment, Common Oceans, and GEF.

### Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the ABNJ

Over 60% of the world's ocean lies in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), which contain a diversity of living and non-living resources that support human well-being. With technological developments that allow increased access to these resources, collective efforts are required to ensure that ecosystems are protected and that resource use is sustainable.

UN Environment, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and UNEP-WCMC are collectively working to support development, management and sustainability of deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ. Specifically, UNEP-WCMC is testing and developing area-based planning in ABNJ. A series of reports have been produced to support understanding in this space. These reports have a specific focus on the two pilot regions for the project, the Western Indian Ocean, and the South East Pacific; however, they are of relevance to other regional seas.

71% of the planet is ocean  
61% of the ocean lies in ABNJ

ABNJ cover  
43% of the planet

UN environment COMMON OCEANS gef

A collage of several report covers related to area-based planning in ABNJ. The reports include titles such as 'Review of area-based planning tools and approaches for the Western Indian Ocean', 'Introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the Western Indian Ocean', and 'Introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the South East Pacific'. Each cover features a world map and a list of key findings or objectives.

Review of area-based planning tools and approaches for the Western Indian Ocean

Introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the Western Indian Ocean

Introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the South East Pacific

# Possible Next Phase under GEF 7 (Draft)

## Immediate programme Outcomes and key elements (enabling environment)

### Outcome 1 – Frameworks and processes for more effective governance and management in ABNJ (including fisheries management) strengthened

1. Policy and legal frameworks to support sustainable use of ABNJ resources
2. Government and institutional mandates, roles and responsibilities related to governance of ABNJ
3. Fisheries management processes to enhance responsiveness to uncertainty strengthened
4. Incentives and and deterrents to promote compliant behaviour

### Outcome 2 - Capacity for better implementation of ecosystem based management in fisheries management in the ABNJ strengthened

1. Capacity to apply EAM to ABNJ
2. Capacity to develop and enforce governance regimes related to ABNJ resources (e.g. addressing IUU fishing)
3. Data collection, compliance monitoring and reporting to support science-based decision making and implementation
4. Management solutions for sustainable use of ABNJ resources

### Outcome 3 – Participation in multi-sectoral coordination for more effective governance and management of ABNJ improved

1. Mechanisms, tools and resources to improve coordination between sectors and stakeholders with interests in ABNJ
2. Awareness and understanding of the role of all sectors in the sustainable use of ABNJ

### Outcome 4 – Knowledge and information exchange for more informed decision-making among stakeholders to support sustainable utilization of ABNJ improved

1. Technical/scientific information on ABNJ issues
2. Information exchange mechanisms to support decision-making and awareness-raising
3. Information on ABNJ issues available to inform choices of decision-makers and civil society

## Medium-term Outcomes (changes in systems and behaviour)

### Effective compliance and enforcement of fisheries regulations by RFMO member states

Widespread adoption of best practices for sustainable management of ABNJ resources including consideration of impacts on the ecosystem and adaptation to climate change

Comprehensive, well-informed BBNJ process underway with coordinating mechanisms among sectoral users (including links to LMEs and RSOs) to achieve ecosystem goals in the ABNJ

Increased market and political pressure for sustainably sourced ABNJ products with greater transparency and traceability, reducing presence of IUU products in the markets

Increased public and private sector support and investment for sustainable management of ABNJ

Effective and sustainable cross-sectoral governance of natural resources in ABNJ

Adaptive, coordinated, sustainable management of ABNJ resources following Ecosystem Approach

Sustainable/optimal use of ABNJ resources and strengthened biodiversity conservation in face of a changing environment

### Intermediate states (improved environmental + social conditions)

#### Environmental (GEB)

Reduced/minimized negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services in ABNJ (e.g. reduced bycatch)  
Improved conservation status of key ABNJ species/ habitats

#### Socio-economic

Improved livelihoods, food security for communities dependent on ABNJ resources  
Improved working conditions and gender opportunities in ABNJ  
Reduced vulnerability/improved resilience of communities reliant on ABNJ resources to CC impacts  
Equitable and managed access and benefit sharing of ABNJ resources including marine genetic resources

### Long-term impacts

Healthy ecosystem structure, function and processes in ABNJ improved and maintained  
Sustainable supply of ecosystem goods and services from ABNJ with long-term socio-economic benefits (both use and non-use values) to human populations (link with Blue Growth?)



# Thank you

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  - [Rachael.Scrimgeour@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:Rachael.Scrimgeour@unep-wcmc.org)

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

