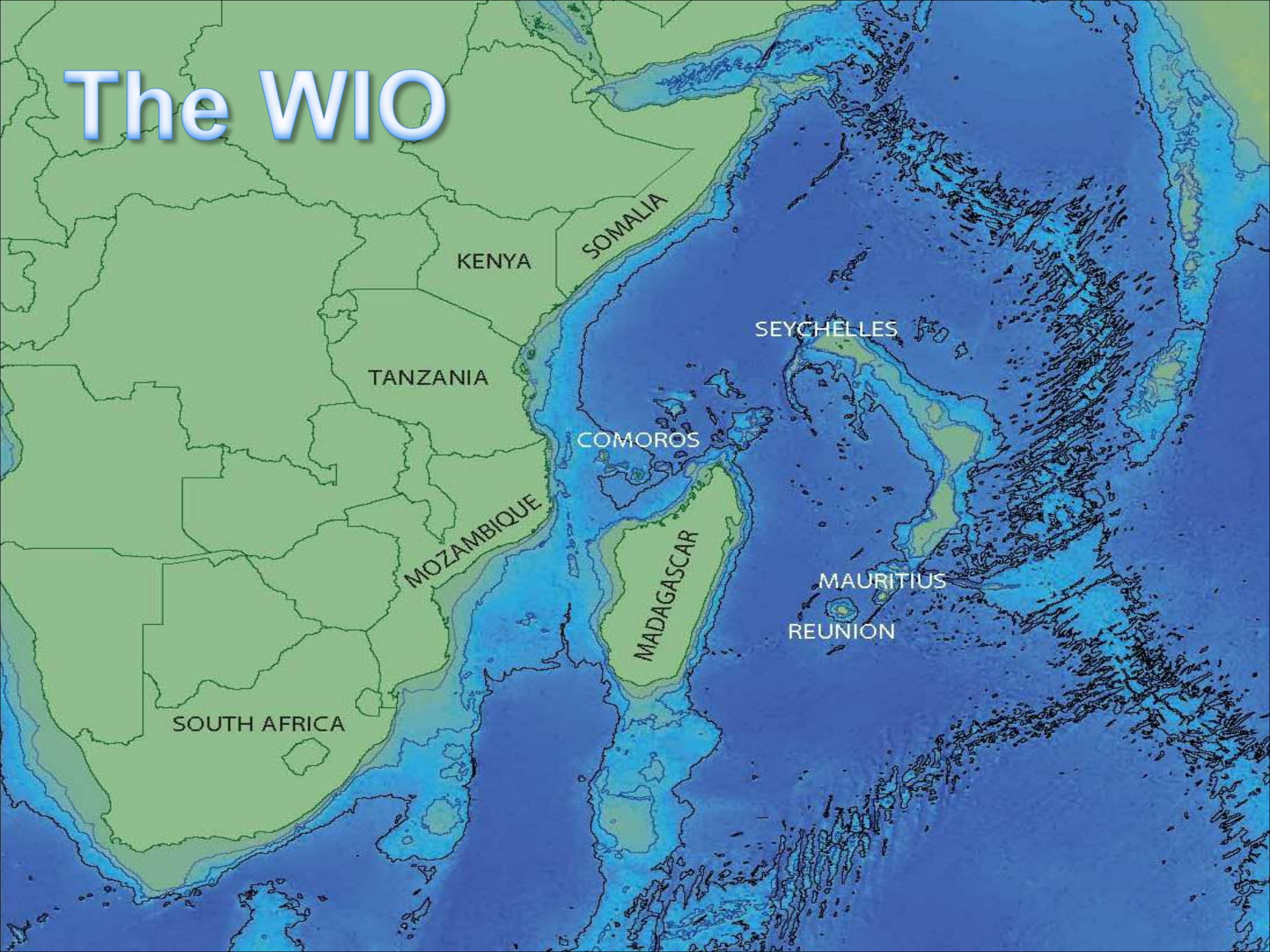


WIOMSA's Perspective

Julius Francis
WIOMSA

The WIO



1. WIOMSA in brief...

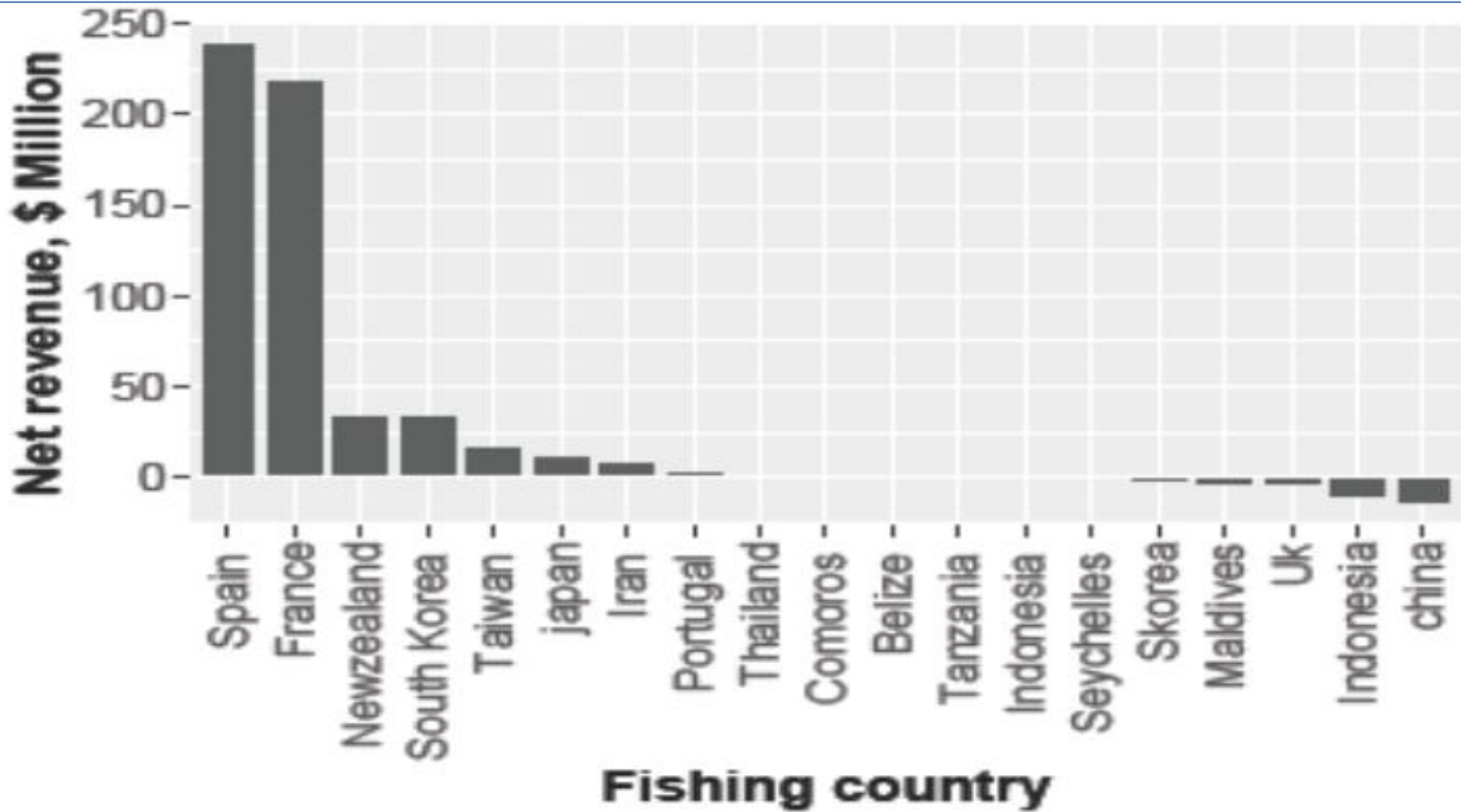
- Forum for addressing the regional issues efficiently;
- Means for generating knowledge whilst building capacity;
- The basis for developing collaborations & partnerships;
- Mechanisms to promote the relationship between science and management and improving decision-making processes
- Opportunities for upscaling and enhancing outcomes and impacts
- Mobilizing more resources for the region

■ Functional Connectivity as a Basis for Aligning Marine Spatial Conservation Priorities Across Maritime Jurisdictions

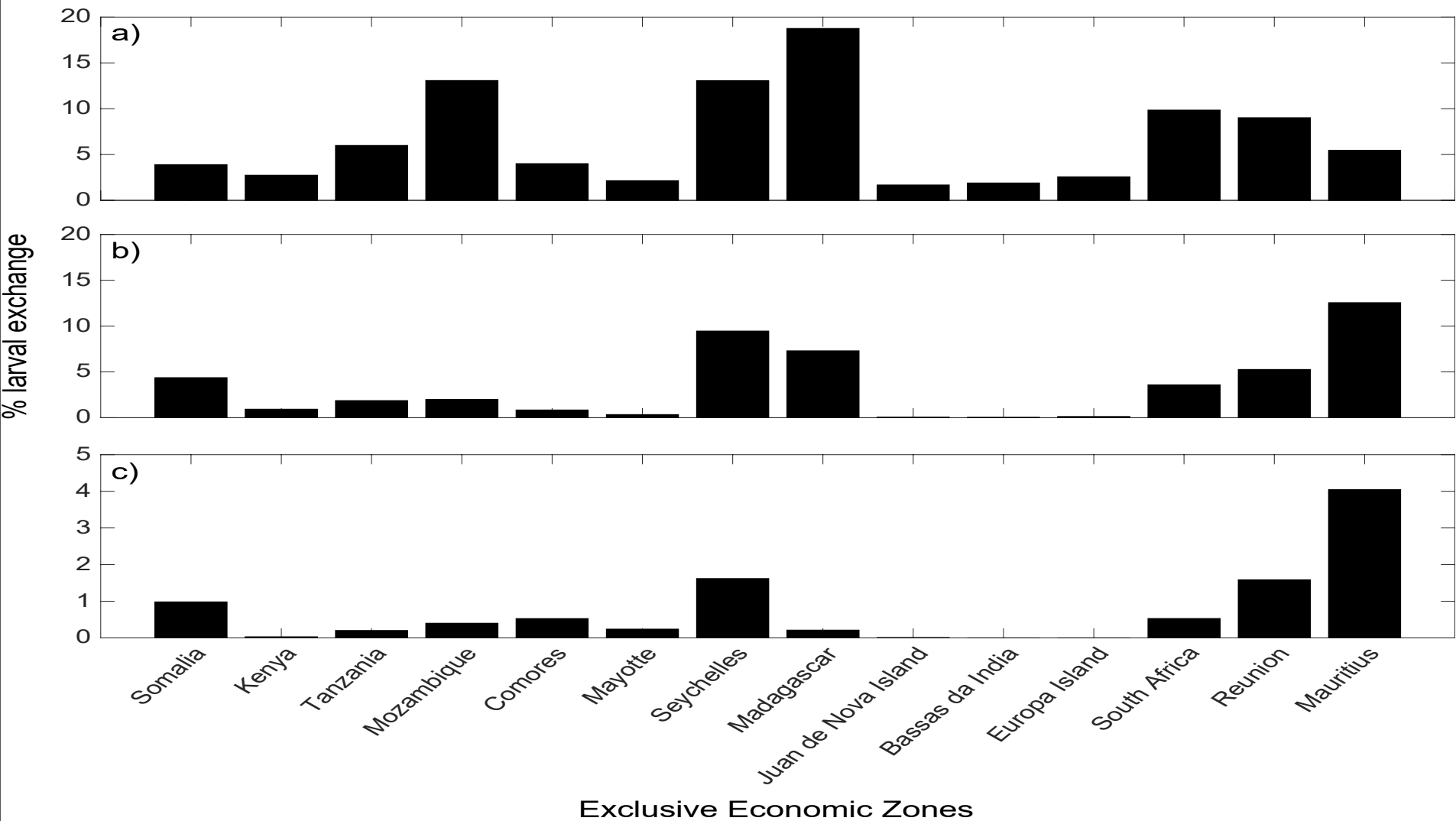
- Identification of areas suitable for inclusion in the high seas MPA in the Western Indian Ocean region.
- Assessed connectivity patterns among existing MPAs, coral reefs and seamounts at large spatial scales to identify the gaps and opportunities for maintaining functional connectivity.
- Illustrate how regional scale prioritisation across maritime zones of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and ABNJ can be applied using area-based tools.

The economics of fishing in the WIO

ABNJ



Proportion of larvae by different area



Science to policy/user interface

Science to Policy/User Interface

- Processes
- Deliverables



Science and other
knowledge systems

FARI



Policy and decision-
making processes/actions

COP



- To encourage historical data rescue activities on seamounts of the SWIO in order to set up a knowledge base on the marine natural heritage, its potential and its vulnerability.
- To examine the issue of extending geographical competence beyond national jurisdiction because of different types of connectivity (economic, ecological...) between seamounts located in international waters and coastal zones
- To account for new measures from RFMOs, in particular the recent classification (29/06/2018) by the SIOFA of 5 seamounts located in international waters (Walters shoal, Coral, Middle of What, Atlantis Bank, Fools Flat) as Protected Areas, with ban of trawl fishing and mandatory boarding of observers for all other gears, pending a final management plan by SIOFA in 2019.
- To support the States to engage any form of network protection –partial or total- of marine regional natural heritage that is partially documented by the LMEs, the EBSA process, or the oceanographic cruises, but which remains with any legal protection.

- To capitalize on opportunities provided in the UN binding international instrument on the governance of the oceans, currently under development, in order to enable convergence of the WIO on the 5 authorized themes: i) spatial management and MPAs in international waters; ii) marine technology transfer; iii) sharing advantages of the genetic diversity; iv) combating IUU fishing and v) environmental impact assessments.

Some thoughts...

- Are there lessons to learn from the UNCLOS experience?
- Are key actors on the table?
 - FAO and RFMOs?
 - AU?
- Is existing data optimally used?
- How to link up with other similar processes?
- What is the appropriate framework for these dialogues at regional level? What is regional ocean governance in the context of ABNJ?



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**Thank you for your
attention!!**