

THE USE OF SCIENCE IN STRENGTHENING OCEAN GOVERNANCE FOR THE HIGH SEAS: CASE STUDY OF THE STRONG HIGH SEAS PROJECT IN THE SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC REGION

(A forum for developing Cross-sectoral Strategies for Effective Ocean Governance)

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PLAN

I- Science in ocean governance

II- Presentation of the STRONG High Seas Project

III- The key role of science in establishing the STRONG High Seas Project

IV- Perspectives in the use of science in the STRONG High Seas Project

I- Science in ocean governance

A- science as an anchoring factor in decision making

Knowledge/data is power and thus controls the world.

Scientific discoveries (both natural and social sciences) and the data available therein give rhythm to the functioning of the world and individual government in decision making.

Ocean management is not left out of this dependency in the need for adequate data.

B- Lack of Adequate Data for an Effective Ocean Governance

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE GAPS

99%
Of habitable
marine areas lack
basic biodiversity
knowledge of their
management

1 million
Approximate number
of marine species that
could still be unknown
to science

103 million
Squares miles of Deep
Seas are in perpetual
darkness

3
Is the number
of people who
have explored
the deepest
known point of
the ocean

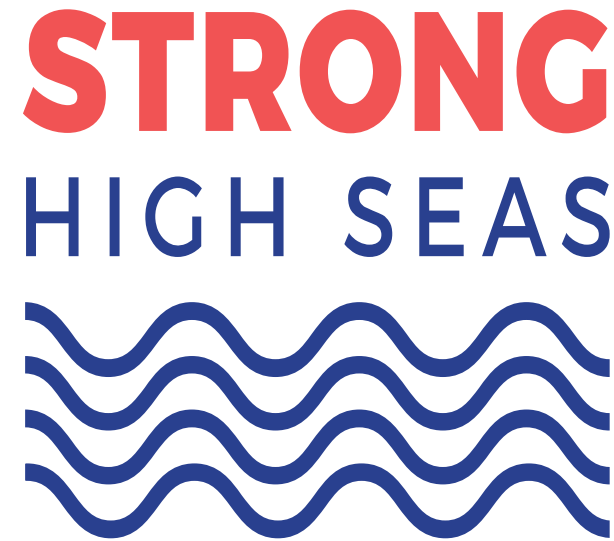
Only 5%
Of the ocean
floor has been
mapped at
high resolution

Source: IOC-UNESCO,
"The United Nations
Decade of Ocean Science
for Sustainable
Development (2021-
2030)" 2017, p. 3

II- PRESENTATION OF THE STRONG HIGH SEAS PROJECT

A- Background presentation and objectives of the Project (1)

- A five-year (2017-2022) project carrying out transdisciplinary scientific assessments to provide decision-makers with improved knowledge and understanding on high seas biodiversity.
- To strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ of both the Southeast Atlantic and Pacific region.
- To achieve that, it plans on organising five workshops of which the first one was held from the 27 to 28 June in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.



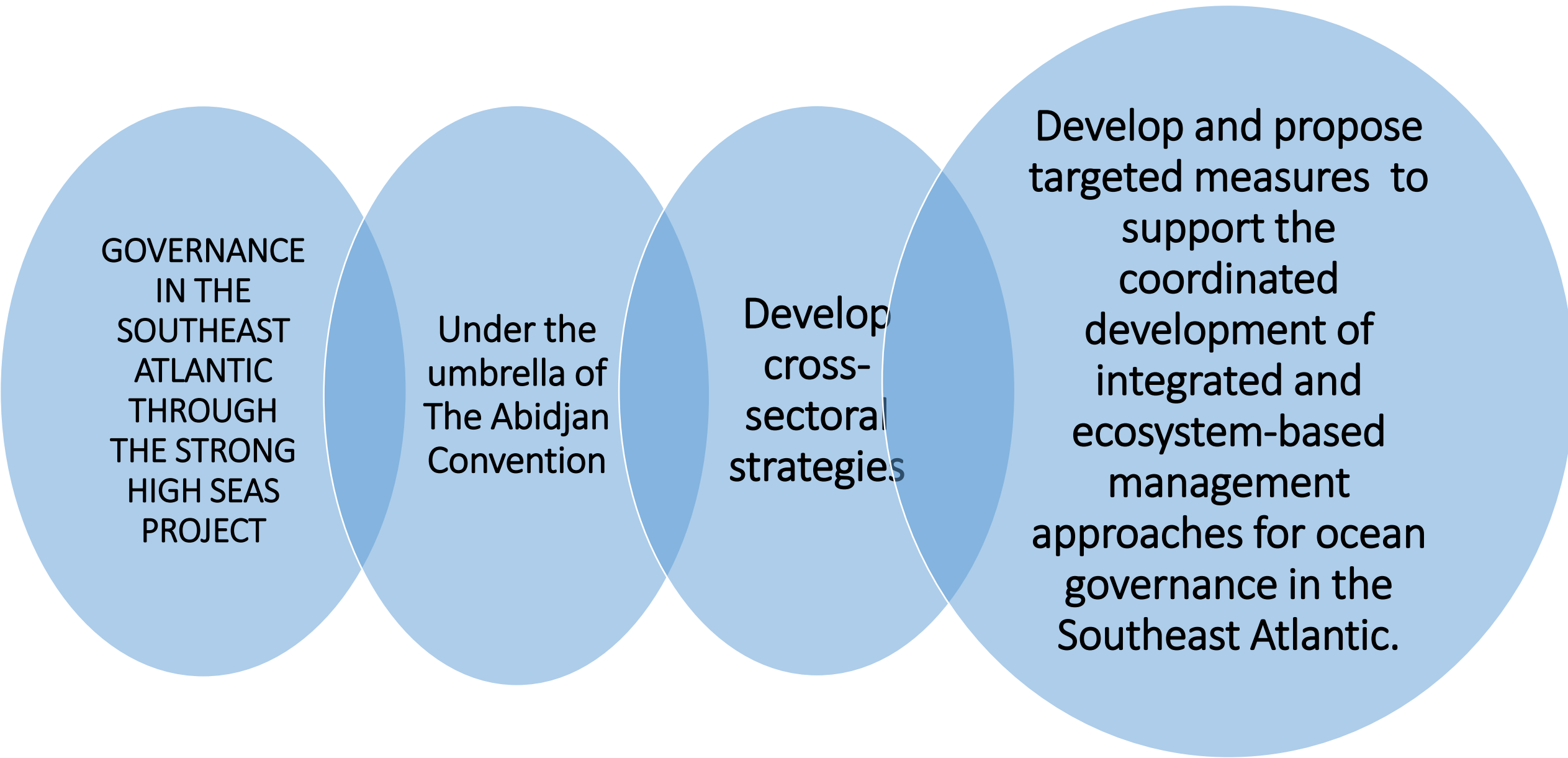
A- Background presentation and objectives of the Project (2)

- Identify best practices and provide support to regional institutions and national authorities for implementing existing regional instruments;
- Facilitate the development of improved or new management approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in ABNJ in the Southeast Pacific and Atlantic regions;
- Develop options for regional governance in a future international instrument under UNCLOS and transfer regional lessons learned to the global level to promote ocean governance.

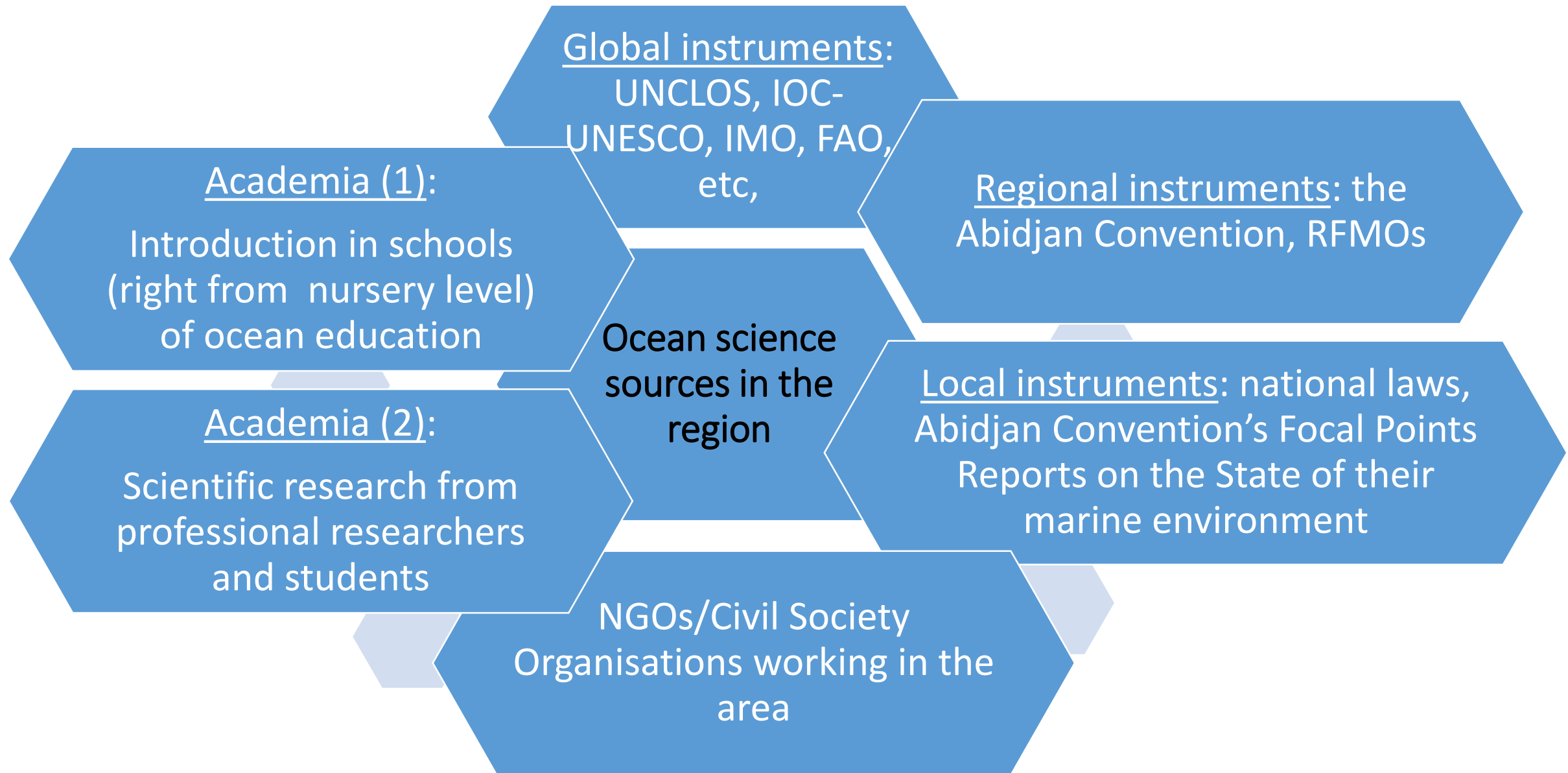


Source: Image from Ben Boteler's presentation during the STRONG High Seas Project workshop in Abidjan: "Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic – Ben Boteler (IASS) "

B- THE CROSS-SECTORAL NATURE OF THE PROJECT IN THE SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC REGION (1)



B- THE CROSS-SECTORAL NATURE OF THE PROJECT (2): ITS OCEAN SCIENCE SOURCES



C- FUNDING AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS OF THE PROJECT



ABIDJAN CONVENTION
CONVENTION D'ABIDJAN



International Ocean Institute
African Region



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

<https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/>



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

III- KEY ROLE OF SCIENCE IN ESTABLISHING THE STRONG HIGH SEAS PROJECT

A- Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in Southeast Atlantic – Dialogue Workshop1

- This first workshop saw the participation of 37 representatives from 6 of the 22 States Parties to the Abidjan Convention as well as, global and regional organisations, regional scientific institutions, academia and NGOs;
- The workshop provided participants with the opportunity to discuss several issues among which capacity building and technology transfer was identified as most important in the carrying out of the project.



Ben Boteler, Abou Bamba, Julien Rochette and Michael Grau at the opening of the workshop. Photo by Carole Durussel, IASS.

B- Out-comes of the Workshop: Identified Issues and Solutions (1)

Issues

- ☐ Knowledge gap in the importance of High Seas biodiversity to human activities in the Southeast Atlantic;
- ☐ Key pressures on the High Seas in the Southeast Atlantic;
- ☐ Lack of awareness in the connectivity between marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and coastal areas;
- ☐ Lack of awareness on the real value of their marine ecosystem and the ABNJ among decision-makers could justify the absence of member States of the region in the BBNJ discussions.



Work in the breakout groups.
Photo by Carole Durussel, IASS

B- Out-comes of the Workshop: Identified Issues and Solutions (2)

Solutions

- ☐ Improve knowledge exchange, collaboration and cooperation among different stakeholders in the region;
- ☐ Revitalise existing organisations in to ensure the implementation of existing agreements;
- ☐ Include ABNJ in the mandate of the Abidjan Convention;
- ☐ Launch of an ABNJ working group under the Abidjan Convention;
- ☐ Carry out of capacity building and technology transfer;
- ☐ Involve multi-sectoral stakeholders in the ABNJ discussion.



Work in the breakout groups.
Photo by Carole Durussel, IASS

IV- Perspectives in the Use of Science in the STRONG High Seas Project (1): Success

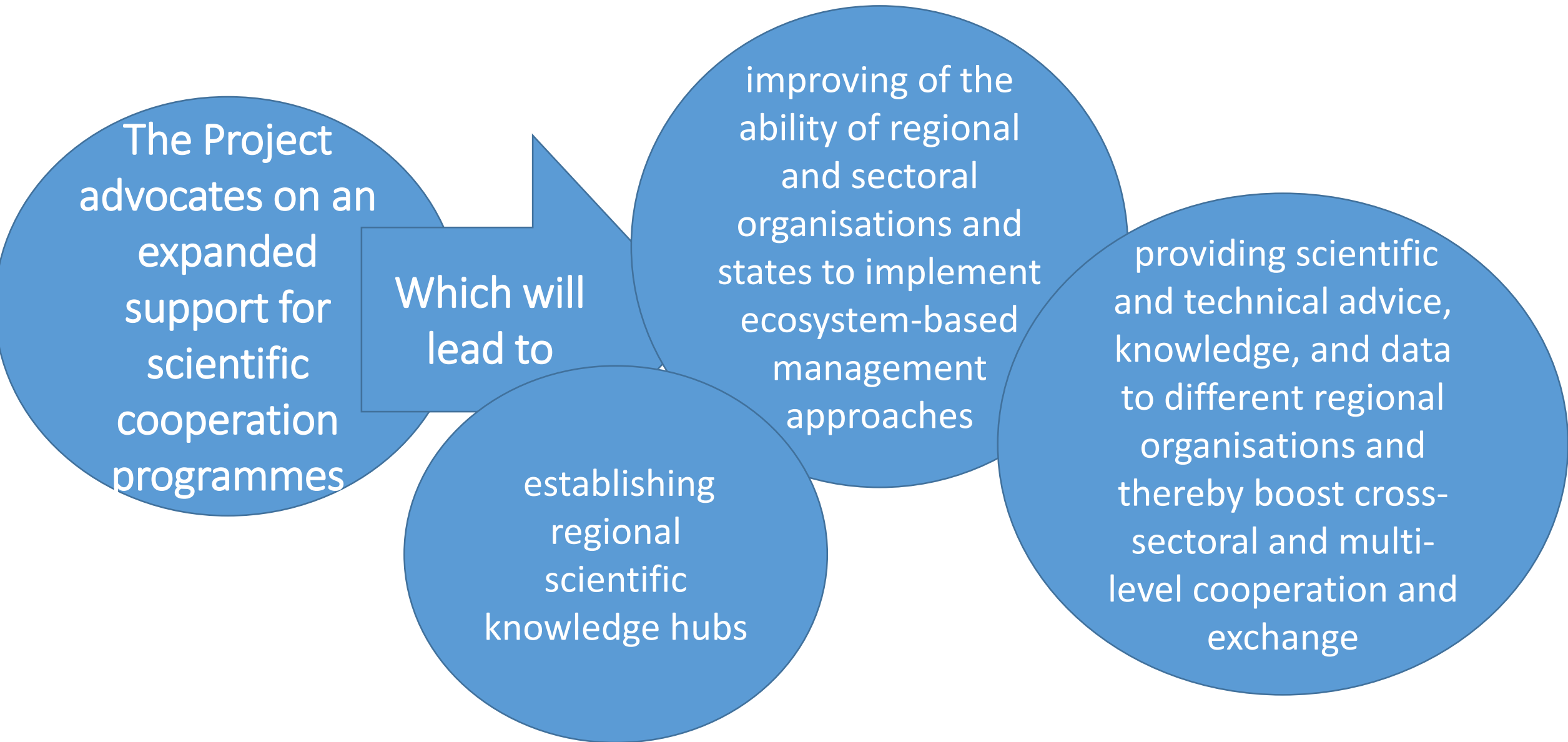
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graph LR; A((The success of Project depends immensely on the availability of the right data)) --> B[Strategic partnership with all stakeholders involved in ocean science]; B --> C((This will harness an adequate sustainable incentive needed by decision-makers to create effective governance of the marine ecosystem of the High Sea));
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The success of Project depends immensely on the availability of the right data

Strategic partnership with all stakeholders involved in ocean science

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IV- Perspectives in the Use of Science in the STRONG High Seas Project (1): Success



V- Perspectives in the Use of Science in the STRONG High Seas Project

(2): Roadblocks

Challenges to cooperation between and amongst sectoral organisations and regional seas organisations may occur for lack of capacity, time, money or information, as well as sometimes differing priorities amongst bodies.

States can only act within the specific terms of their respective foreign policy.

Organisations can only act within the specific terms of their respective jurisdictions and mandates.

Strengthening collaboration at the national level amongst the various ministries so that a harmonised position is taken by the same government for the success of this project.

Fisheries		Shipping		Conservation		Tele-communications		Research		Seabed Mining		Donor Agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Whaling Commission (IWC) • International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) • South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) • Western and central regional fisheries • Sub-regional fisheries organisations • Interim Guinea Current Commission • Benguela Current Commission • Port State Control authorities • nationally flagged vessels, foreign vessels, national flagged but foreign owned • Maritime administrations of each nation • Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) • Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) • Local communities fishing highly migratory fish stocks • Fish processors • Community based organisations and NGOs • African Union • South African Development Community (SADC) • Economic Community of West 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Chamber of Shipping • International Transport Federation • International Maritime Organization (IMO) • World Maritime University • United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) • Hydrographic Organisation • World Ocean Council • Ports Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWACA) • International association of ports and harbours • International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), London Convention • National Maritime administrations • National Chamber of Shipping • Ports Environmental Network-Africa (PENAf) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Wildlife Fund (WWF) • International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) • Birdlife International • Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) • UN Environment • Abidjan Convention • Greenpeace International • Africa Marine and Environmental Sustainability Initiative • Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) • Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) • International Ocean Institute (IOI) • Global Ocean Forum • Regional NGOs • PEW 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Cable Protection Commission • Users of technology • Private sector 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) • Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) • World Meteorological Association • Scientists from the region – universities and research institutes and international scientists doing work in the region. Interests may overlap. • Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Seabed Authority (ISA) • Contractors/responsible • IPIECA (conglomeration of oil companies looking at environment) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Development Bank (Ocean program underway) • New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) • Global Environment Facility (GEF) • European Commission • World Bank • National funders • MAVA and other philanthropic foundations • United States Agency for International Development (USAID) • German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development • Nippon Foundation • Japan International Cooperation Agency • Agence Française de Développement • Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) • MAR Charitable Foundation 	

“All Nations need scientific solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda”



Participants at the Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in Southeast Atlantic
– Dialogue Workshop1. Photo by Carole Durussel, IASS.

Thank you

For your kind attention!!!!!!