



Applying Area-Based Planning to ABNJ: Challenges & Opportunities

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Year 1 and 2

Information gathering

Year 2

Synthesis and Capacity

Year 3, 4...

Applying and testing tools

Nairobi Convention / CPPS engagement

Applicability of ABP tools to ABNJ

Regional experiences of ABP in ABNJ

Institutional arrangements in each pilot region

Connectivity between EEZ & ABNJ

Synthesis and sharing of ABP tool information

Identification of suitable ABP tools for pilot regions and capacity assessment

Development of ABP tools

Testing ABP tools

Support, guidance and collating lessons learned

Multi-sectoral engagement

Project Pilot Regions

Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

Southeast Pacific

Western Indian Ocean

Nairobi Convention

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Agenda

- 5 Challenges
- 2 Opportunities
- Reflections



Challenge 1: What exactly is an ABP tool?

Which of the following are ABP tools?

1. Marine protected area
2. GIS to support management decisions
3. Fisheries closure area
4. Fisheries gear restriction in a certain area
5. Sector-specific licensing system
6. Agreement that covers an entire area – e.g. Polar Code.
7. Marine spatial planning system

There are different types of ABP tool:

Framework tools:

- Describe the overall approach taken by an ABP process, and as such provide a conceptual ABP framework. Many framework tools are multisectoral, such as MSP.

Supporting tools:

- Provide specific information to facilitate critical decisions within the delivery of an ABP framework tool
 - Assessment tools* - provide critical information through transforming or synthesizing existing information, for example combining datasets to produce enhanced information.
 - Decision support systems* - provide a mechanism for efficient computation or problem solving in order to deliver the objectives of a framework tool.

Challenge 2: ABNJ are 'different'... but how?

1. The legal and institutional framework is dictated by the High Seas provisions of UNCLOS not national law and/or regional agreements.
2. There is a very limited range of stakeholders and little public influence in ABNJ compared to within EEZs.
3. The physical conditions in ABNJ are less influenced by coastal features and can be considered as 'oceanic'.

4. The habitats and species in ABNJ have evolved to reflect deep cold ecosystems and are generally slow growing.
5. There are significant geological features such as seamounts and mid-ocean ridges in ABNJ that are not typically present in EEZs.

Why are these differences important?

- They create the possibility that ABP tools that can be used effectively within EEZs may not be as applicable in ABNJ.

Key issues and questions:

- Virtually all existing ABP tools were designed for use in EEZs.
- Do any existing ABP tools fully work in ABNJ?
- Can we *assume* that MPAs are equally effective in ABNJ as in EEZs?
- What institutions and laws are needed to support ABP in ABNJ (if any)?

Challenge 3:

Figuring out what spatial measures *already exist* in ABNJ

- Existing ABP tools in ABNJ are generally sector-specific.
- There is no single access point for ABP in ABNJ information.

For example: OSPAR

Why is this important?

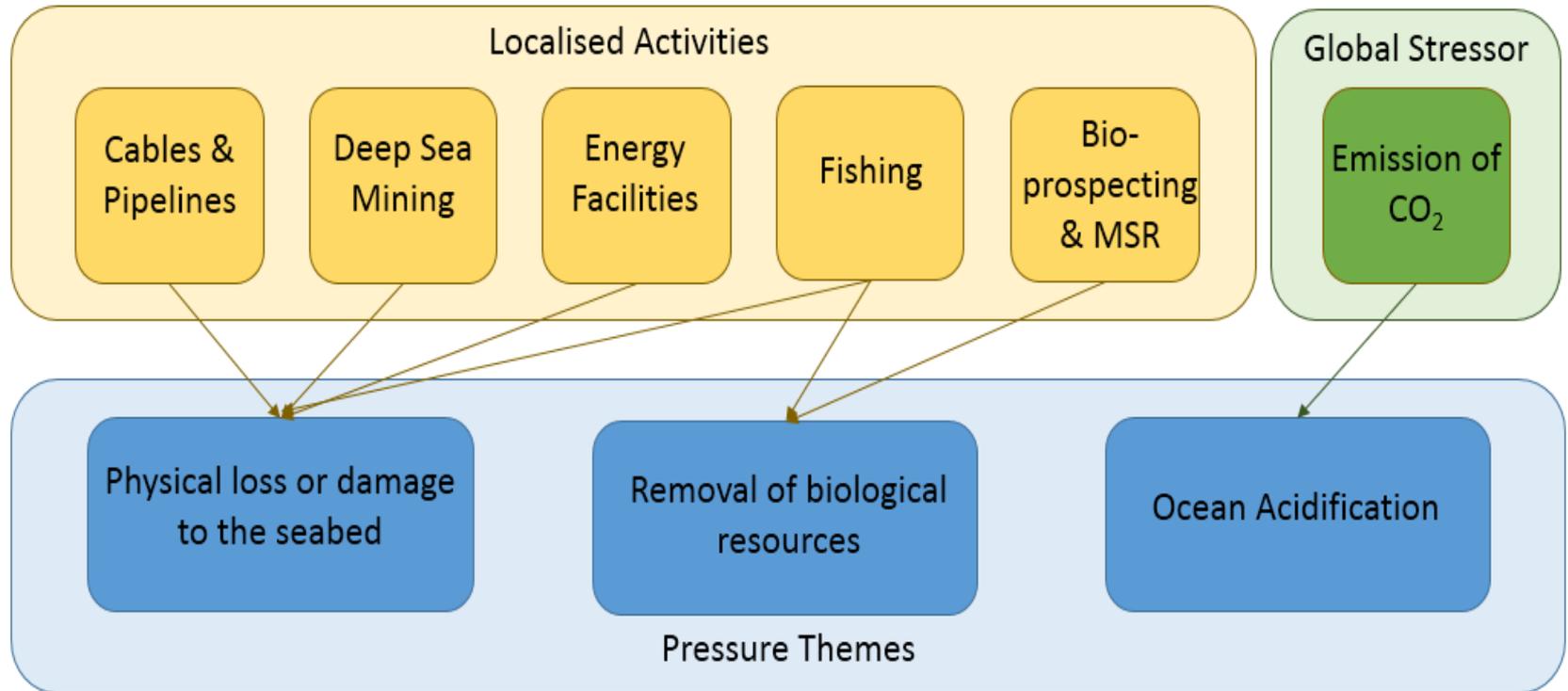
- Limited strategic approach to application of ABP tools – e.g. ABP tools may have conflicting objectives.
- Cumulative effects of multiple ABP tools are unclear – on biodiversity, sectors, blue economy, etc.

Challenge 4:

How do we take account of changing natural and use patterns in ABNJ?

- No form of ABP can be static – context is dynamic.
- In order for ABP to be effective, change must be understood.
- Data challenges – availability and quality.
- Is all ABP in ABNJ precautionary?

ABNJ Horizon scan structure (draft)



Challenge 5.

How do we make the case for ABP in ABNJ?

Why should a country or region want to apply ABP in ABNJ?

- ABP in ABNJ is difficult and costly.
- Sometimes managing EEZs is hard enough!

One possible answer is: **CONNECTIVITY!**

Opportunity 1: Coordinated application of ABP in ABNJ

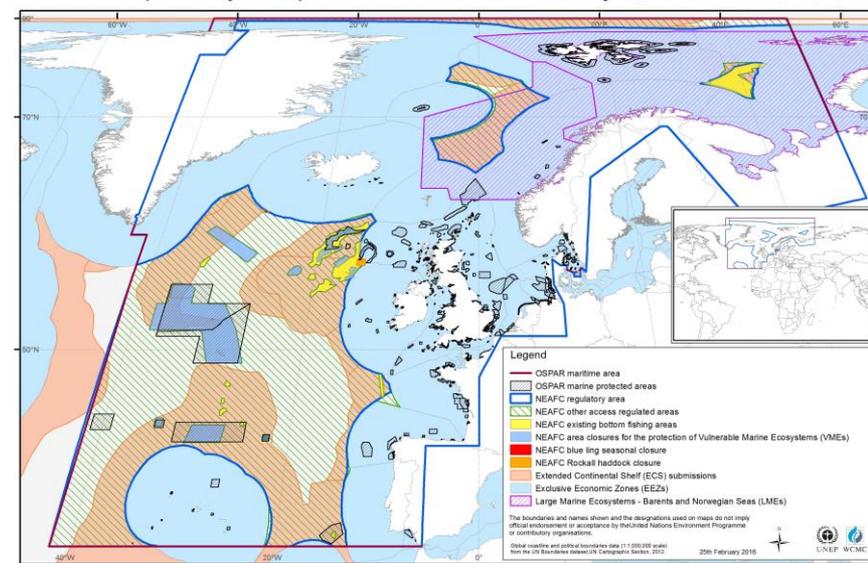
Sectoral ABP tools could be coordinated for better net effect.

- *(but what net effect is desirable?)*
- *(who would coordinate?)*

Data sharing could support improved ABP application.

- *(data standards / privacy?)*
- *(who would coordinate data?)*

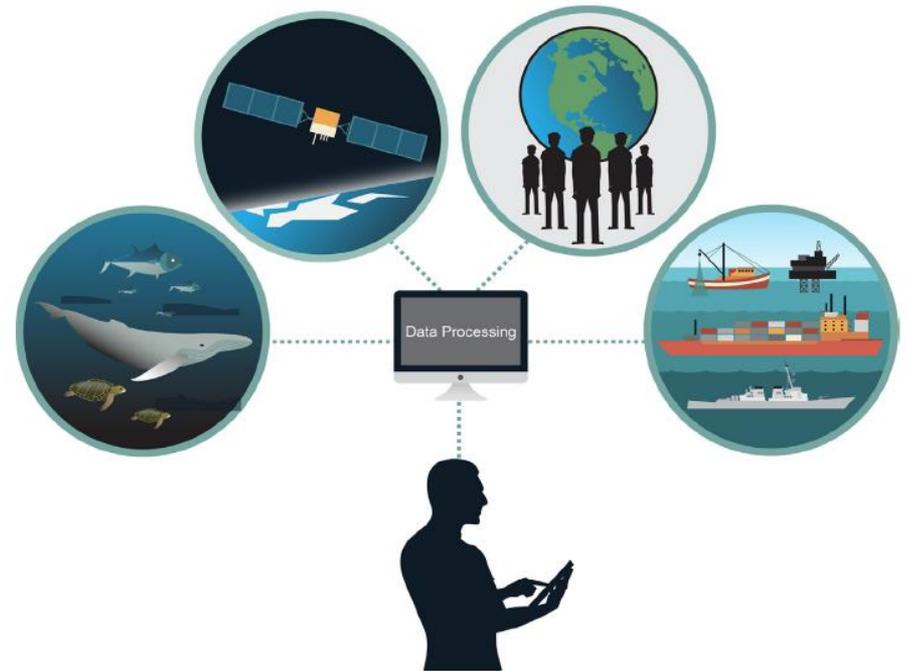
GEF ABNJ Deep Seas Project Component 4 - Northeast Atlantic Case Study (i) Area-Based Planning (ABP) in place



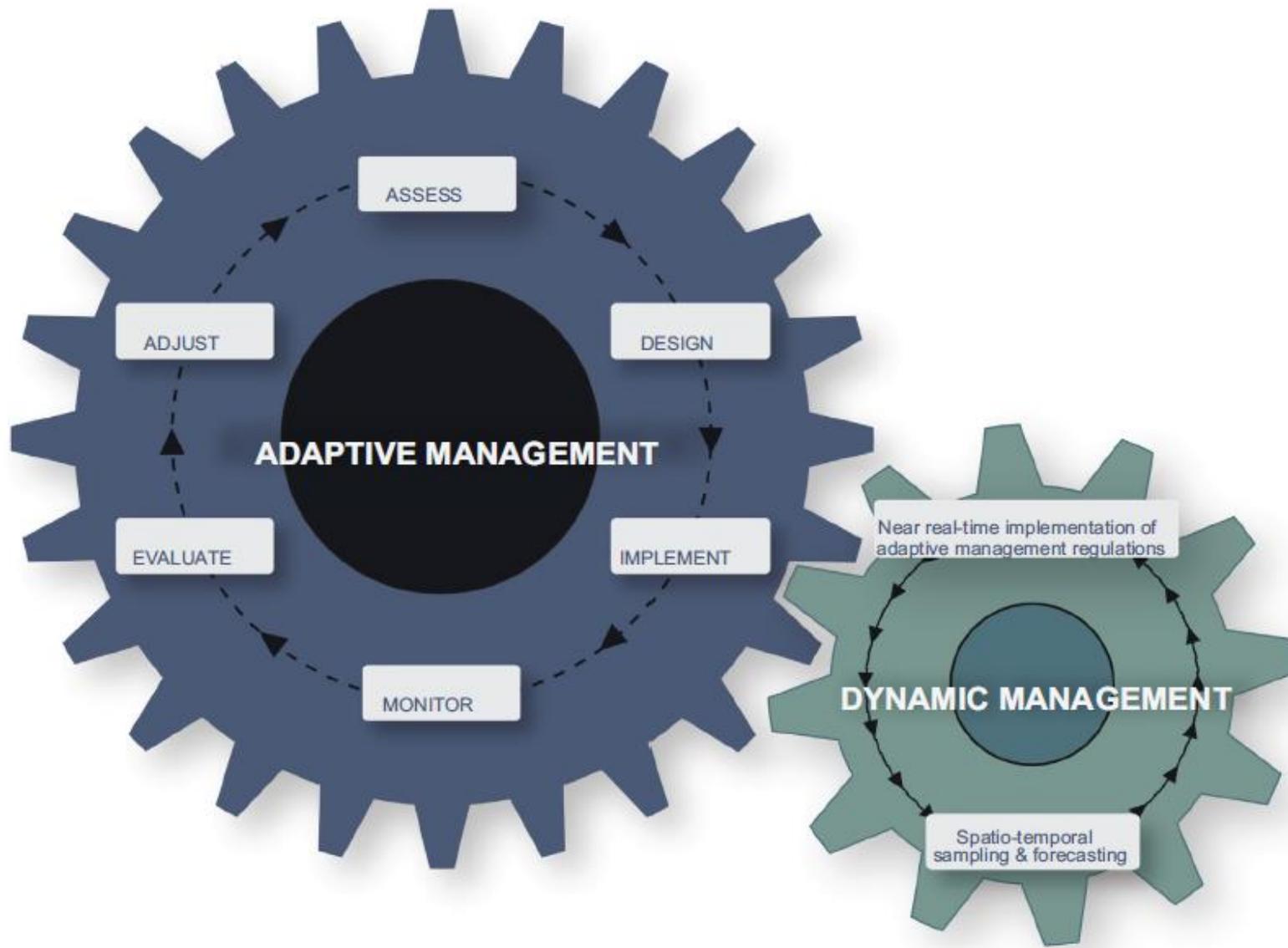
Opportunity 2. Creative and new approaches to ABP in ABNJ

- Remote sensing
- Big data
- Real-time ABP responses
- ABP tailored to ABNJ

S.M. Maxwell et al. / Marine Policy 58 (2015) 42–50



Dynamic Ocean Management



Final reflections

- ABP in ABNJ faces fundamentally different challenges than in EEZs.
- ABP that works in EEZs may not work in ABNJ (*adaptation?*).
- ABP in ABNJ needs to be tailored to ABNJ dynamic conditions (legal, social, economic, natural...).
- Opportunities for creative and new approaches exist.

Further questions:

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