

AFRICA GROUP

Building capacity of African Ocean Leaders

Preamble

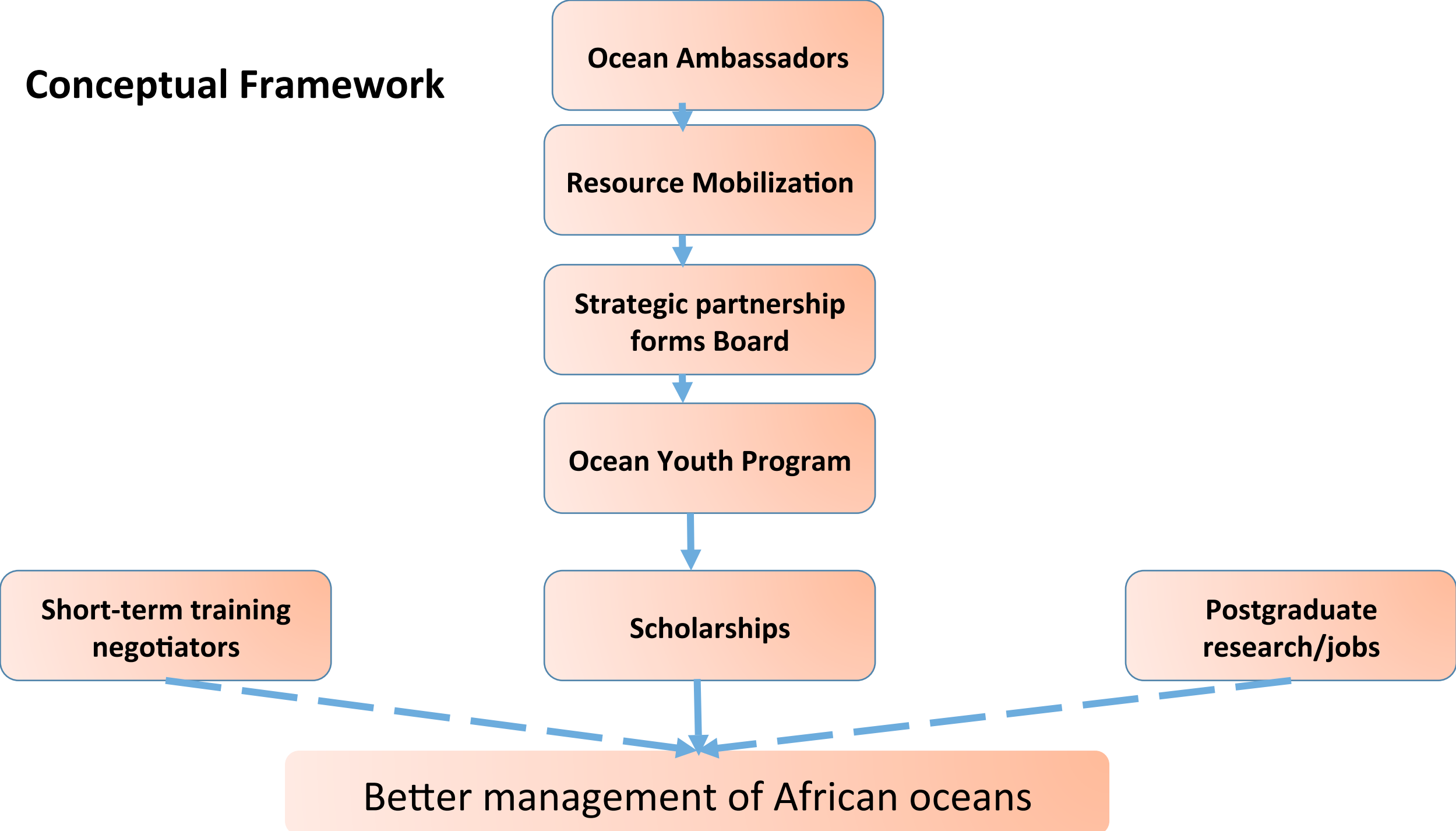
- **Decision CP8/5: *Agenda 2063 and the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050***

- To *urge* Contracting Parties to implement the Cairo Declaration of the 15th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on ecosystem-based management approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters and inform on progress at AMCEN sessions;
- To *request* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention, Jeddah Convention, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to contribute to the development of an African strategy on ocean governance in the context of the African Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063.

Key observations

- Think broadly in terms of ocean capacity building rather than just ABNJ
- Link the ABNJ discussions with blue economy/poverty reduction
- Africa should have a strategy on blue economy as is not covered by AIMS
- For any planned capacity building initiatives, they should be linked with existing organizations, networks, etc
- Investing on few individuals/institutions could make a major difference
- Creations of conducive enabling environment at the institutional level is critical for retaining staff and for encouraging those who have gone for further studies to return back
- Limited involvement of African countries in activities of ISA

Conceptual Framework



Components and Activities of the Program

A. Supporting decision-making processes

- Enhance African involvement in the BBNJ/ISA processes
 - Support relevant expert to provide technical support to negotiators
 - Build a network of African negotiators
- Raise awareness in countries, region on ocean issues –
 - Publication: ‘What does ABNJ means to Africa’
 - Identification of ambassadors/champions: Trevor Manual
 - Support their participation to African Summit, AMCEN, ADB annual meeting

B. Building capacity African education/training institutions on ocean matters

- Specialized short term trainings on legal matters regarding ABNJ
- Long-term term course curricula on deep-sea biodiversity/genetic resources
- Continuing Education on area-based planning tools
- Link of universities – online program: resource center capturing research, policies info
- Scholarships/grants

Components and Activities of the Program

C. Building a Strategic Partnerships for management of ABNJ

- Building capacity of countries to participate in the planning and management of high seas

D. Create conditions for retaining young leaders in their professional career

- Retention strategy – paid research positions eg postdoc for 5 years