



Governance of the High Seas South West Indian Ocean

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The FFEM-SWIO Project

French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)

South West Indian Ocean



Conservation and sustainable exploitation
of seamount and hydrothermal vent ecosystems
of the South West Indian Ocean
in areas beyond national jurisdiction

[2014-2016]

Project Objectives

- i. Advance knowledge of deep sea marine ecosystems
- ii. Improve and strengthen governance framework
- iii. Propose conservation and management measures
- iv. Raise awareness

Regional Landscape

- Global
 - CBD: EBSAs, Regional Workshops
 - ISA: environmental impact assessment
 - FAO: Fish Stocks Agreement, Fisheries closure & management of VMEs; ABNJ Program
 - UN: BBNJ Working Group
 - IWC
- Regional level:
 - Nairobi Convention
 - SIOFA
 - SIODFA
 - COI
 - IOTC
 - LME projects

SWIO Region - Weaknesses

- Few regional organisations with mandate in ABNJ
- RFMOs not fully operational – only voluntary measures in place for deep sea fishing
- Limited capacity for developing governance in ABNJ

SWIO Region - Strengths

- Growing knowledge base and impetus for action provided by a number of prominent projects
- Opportunity to shape future RFMO/regional activity according to best practice

Future Directions

- Build the capacity of coastal States to develop governance and management of ABNJ
- Explore the possibilities to advance via regional initiatives: collaboration between regional initiatives in SWIO
- Feed into the international discussions on the role of regional governance of ABNJ

Thank you!

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