

# FAOs work on Deep-sea fisheries and the ABNJ Deep-sea project- Opportunities for collaboration with SPRFMO

Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity  
conservation of deep-sea living resources and  
ecosystems in the ABNJ

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**1 st SPRFMO Scientific Committee meeting, La Jolla, California 2013**

# The Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program

## Program objective:

To promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, in accordance with the global targets agreed in international forums.

### Project 1:

Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ “Tuna Project”

### Project 2:

Sustainable Fisheries Management & Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Ecosystems in the ABNJ “Deep Seas Project”

### Project 3:

Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Models for Innovation and Reform “OPP”

### Project 4:

Strengthening Global Capacity to effectively manage ABNJ “Capacity Project”

# Project partners

## Funding:

US\$ 8.4 million  
from GEF for  
5 years



## Co-funding

estimate US\$ 29.4 million

## GEF Agencies

FAO



UNEP



## Partners:

### **RFMO/As**

SEAFO, NAFO, NEAFC,  
GFCM, CCAMLR, SIOFA,  
SPRFMO, (NPFC)

### **Regional Seas Programmes**

CPPS - Permanent  
Commission for the South  
Pacific

The Nairobi Convention

### **Fishing Industry Coalitions**

SIODFA - Southern Indian  
Ocean Deepwater Fishers  
Association

ICFA - International Coalition  
of Fisheries Associations

## **Others**

- UNEP WCMC
- Secretariat of the  
Convention on Biological  
Diversity
- IUCN - International Union  
for Conservation of Nature
- BirdLife International
- GOBI - Global Oceans  
Biodiversity Initiative
- CSIRO -  
The Commonwealth  
Scientific and Industrial  
Research Organisation
- Duke University
- States, as interested and  
appropriate

# Objective & components

## Objective:

To achieve efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through systematic application of ecosystem approach

### Component 1

Improved application of policy and legal frameworks

### Component 2

Reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and EBSAs

### Component 3

Improved planning and adaptive management for ABNJ deep-sea fisheries

### Component 4

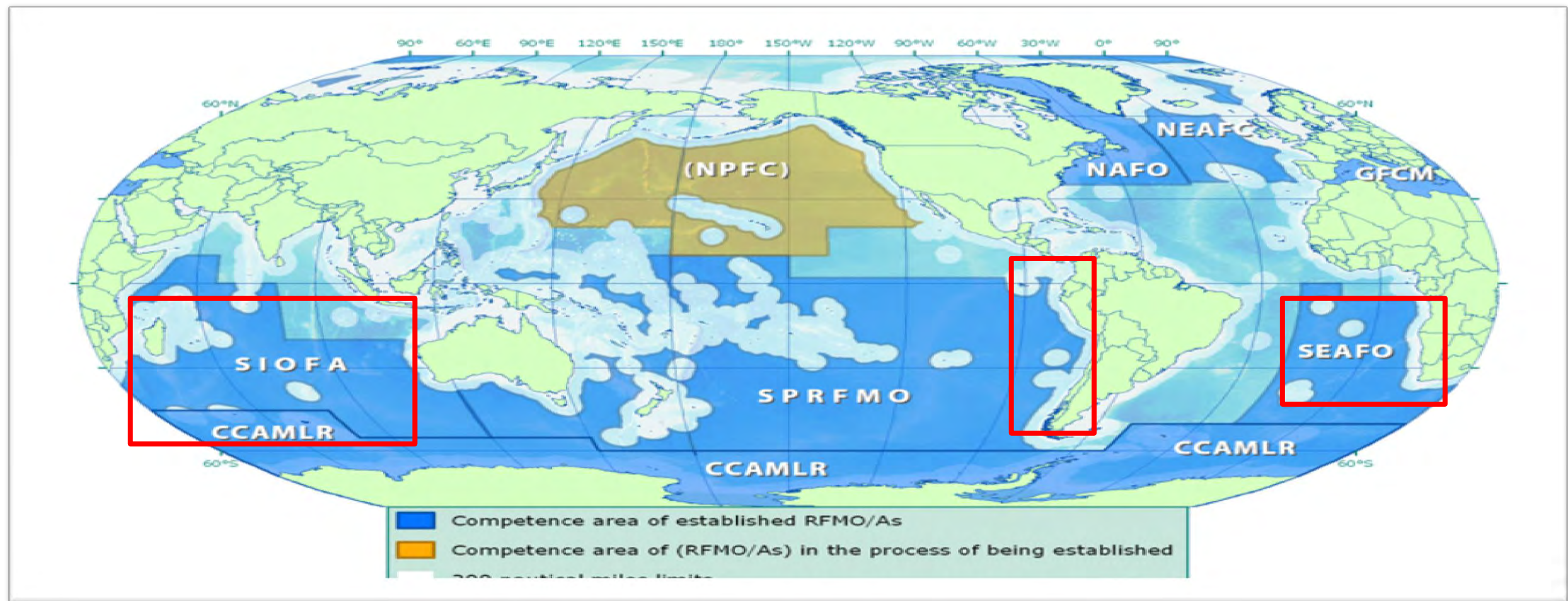
Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning



### Component 5 Monitoring & Evaluation



# Deep-sea RFMOs & case study areas



# Legal and Policy Frameworks

Implementation guide

Gaps in effective  
implementation of policy and  
legal frameworks

Options for use of economic  
instruments (pilot)

Model Framework for policy and  
legal instruments (pilot)

Global and regional networks

Improved application of existing legal and policy instruments and best  
practices

# Component 1 – Policy and Legal Frameworks

- **Conferences and networking**
  - Inception meeting, and Busan II
  - Global symposium – DEEP SEA 2018
  - Deep-sea scientist networking - One day discussions on deep-sea fisheries back-to-back with existing conferences /meetings
  - Electronic networks – on deep-sea fisheries in general, VME database and EBSAs
    - Fora for SPRFMO and SPRFMO Scientists to build awareness on practices and share information

# VMEs and EBSAs

Biological, ecological and economic analyses

Interactive web databases

Indicators for species and habitats (VMEs) (pilot)

Support/training for application of VME and EBSA criteria

Improved fishing practices (pilot)

Capacity development at national level for implementation of best practices

Improved application of management tools to reduce threats to VMEs & EBSAs



# The VME Database

**vulnerable marine ecosystems DATABASE**

The Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems Database (VME-DB) gathers [information](#) on VME areas stored in harmonized way and disseminated through maps and fact sheets.

Login

Advanced Search | Legend

**VME Area**

**Corner Seamounts**

**Validity:** 2007 - 2014

**Management Body/Authority(ies):** Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

**Geographical reference:** Northwest Atlantic

**Area Type:** VME (Adopted)

Change projection

5000 km  
2000 nmi

lon: 115.66, lat: -67.59

< 2013

Name	Type
VMEAREAS.cst	CST File
VMEAREAS.dbf	DBF File
VMEAREAS.prj	PRJ File
VMEAREAS.shp	SHP File
VMEAREAS.shx	SHX File
wfsrequest.txt	Text Document

**Corner Seamounts**

Source: Citations SHP Print PDF

**Overview** Map Management Regional History Source

Validity: 2007 - 2014  
Selected year: 2011  
Management Body/Authority(ies): Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)  
Geographical reference: Northwest Atlantic  
Area Type: VME (Adopted)

**Habitat and Biology**

SC 2008: Five of the Corner Rise Seamounts have been explored using an ROV and areas of pristine coral as well as evidence of large-scale trawling damage were found on the summits of Kukulthai Peak and Yukutat Seamount (Waller, R., L. Watling, P. Auster).

**Impacts**

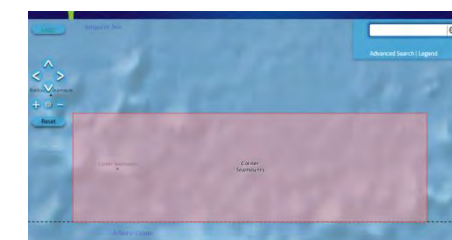
SC 2007: The shallow peaks have been heavily fished. Spanish Fisheries information available in this area between 2005 and March 2007 (SCR Doc. 07/26) showed that one seamount in particular, and western Corner Rise in general, seem to have more species.

**Physical description of the environment:** Seamounts

**Management Body/Authority(ies):** Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

**Web site:** <http://www.nafo.int>

**Regional Fishery Body fact sheet:** <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nafo/>

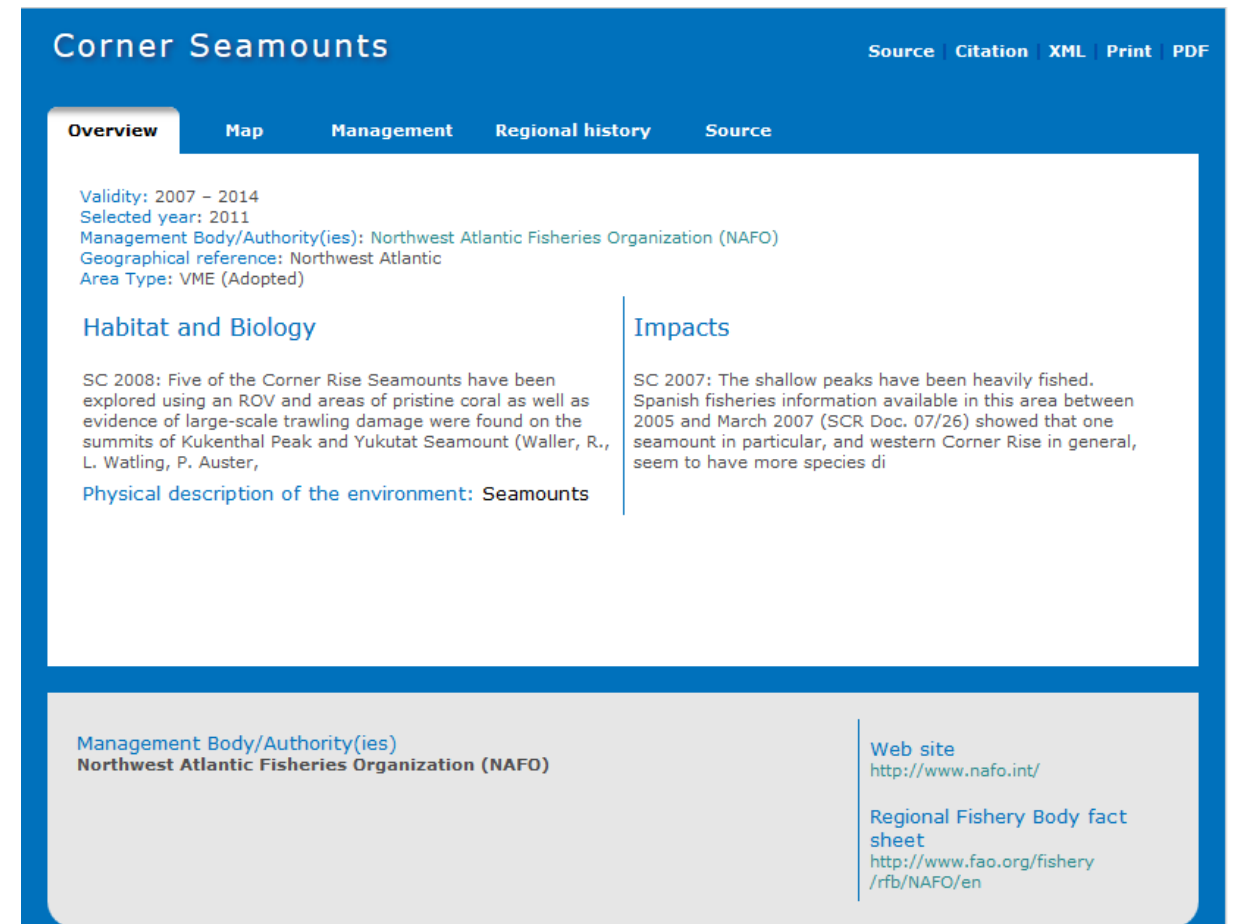


Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) are for illustration only and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal or constitutional [status](#) of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

# Information in VME Database

## For each VME or VME-type area

- Overview of area (habitat, biology, human activities)
- Map
- Information on management – both specific to the VME and regional wide VME measures
- Regional History – information on the fisheries
- Sources – summaries of references to VMEs in the region
- Media – any images or other media types from the VME area



The screenshot shows a web page titled "Corner Seamounts" with a blue header. In the top right corner of the header are links for "Source", "Citation", "XML", "Print", and "PDF". Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: "Overview" (selected), "Map", "Management", "Regional history", and "Source". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains the following text: "Validity: 2007 – 2014", "Selected year: 2011", "Management Body/Authority(ies): Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)", "Geographical reference: Northwest Atlantic", "Area Type: VME (Adopted)", "Habitat and Biology", "SC 2008: Five of the Corner Rise Seamounts have been explored using an ROV and areas of pristine coral as well as evidence of large-scale trawling damage were found on the summits of Kukenthal Peak and Yukutat Seamount (Waller, R., L. Watling, P. Auster, Physical description of the environment: Seamounts". The right column contains the text: "Impacts", "SC 2007: The shallow peaks have been heavily fished. Spanish fisheries information available in this area between 2005 and March 2007 (SCR Doc. 07/26) showed that one seamount in particular, and western Corner Rise in general, seem to have more species di". At the bottom of the page, there is a grey box containing "Management Body/Authority(ies) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)", "Web site http://www.nafo.int/", and "Regional Fishery Body fact sheet http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/NAFO/en".





## UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

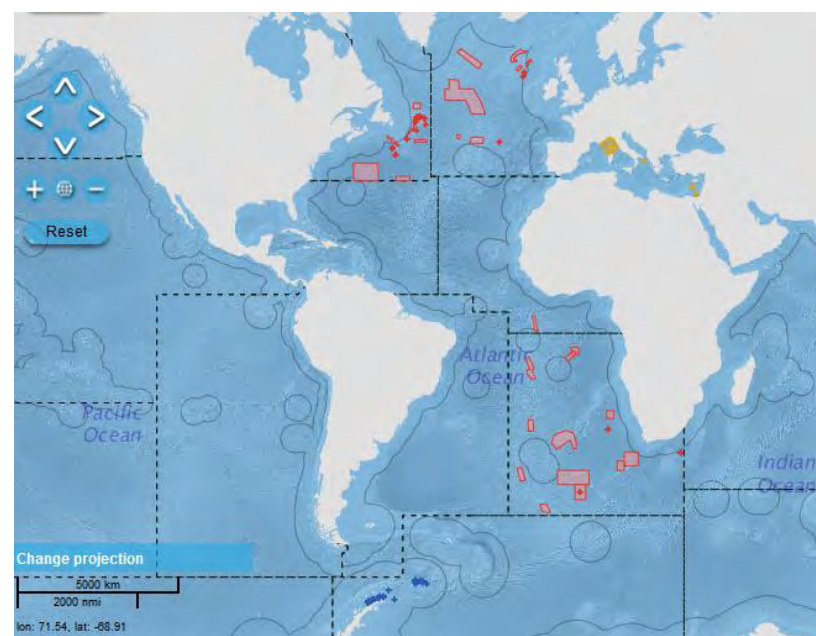


United Nations Environment Programme  
environment for development



Regional Fisheries  
Management Organization  
/Arrangements

## VME Database



### Research , Projects

Description

Contacts

Data sharing & repository

Publications

### Networking and support

Skippers

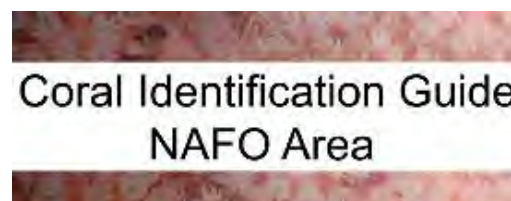
Crew

Observers

Managers

Scientist

## Species Identification



# Regional VME Workshops

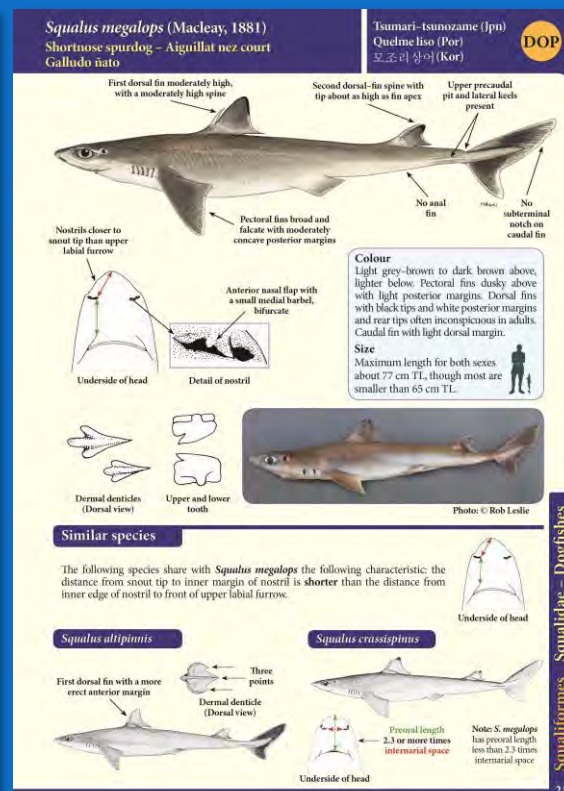
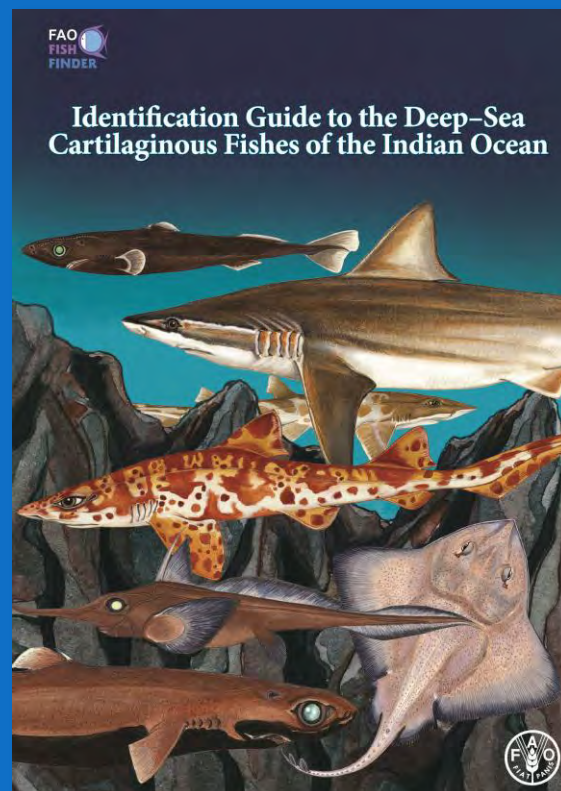
- Two workshops organized: Indian ocean and South east Atlantic
- Planned: North Pacific (March 2014)
  - Awareness raising on the DSF guidelines and VMEs in general including associated management measures
  - Information requirements, and possible data sources
  - Shared experiences with other RFMOs
  - VME database and inputs



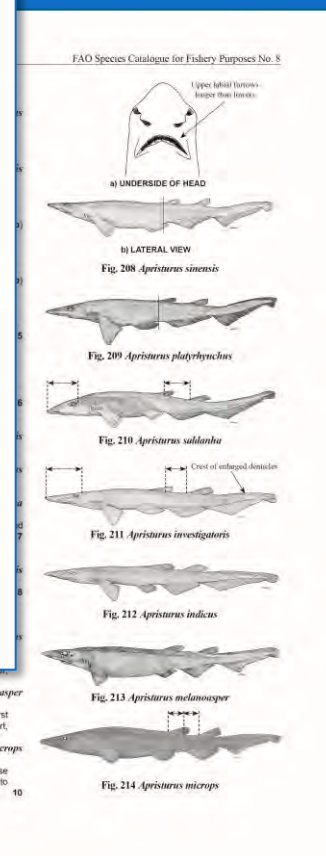
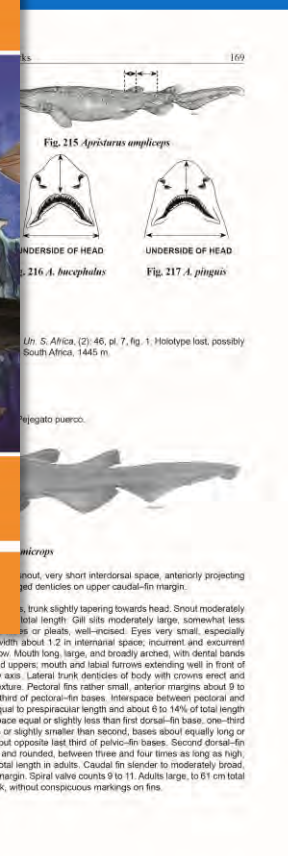
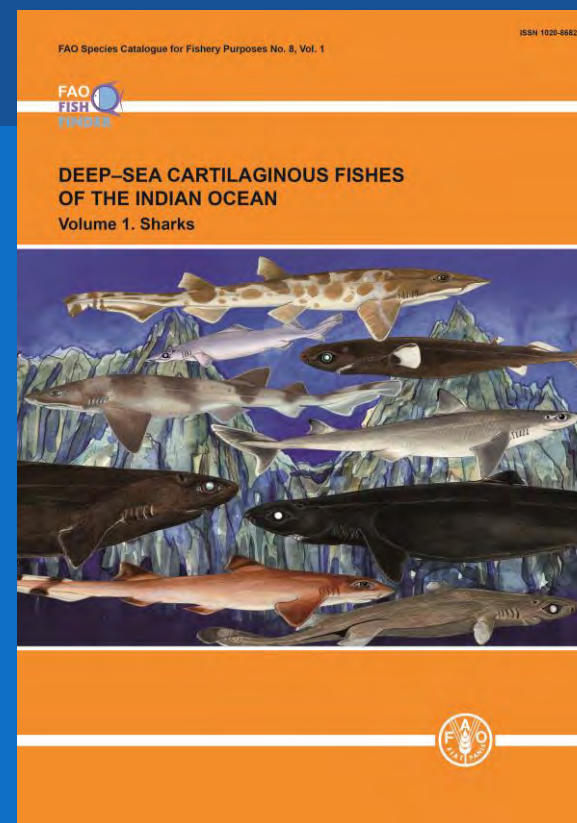
- Species identification

- Regional Catalogue

- Field Identification guide



The guide is intended to help fishery workers collecting catch data in the field in the identification of the cartilaginous fish species they might encounter. It is conceived to be updatable, offering the possibility to add new species accounts as new species are described. Each species is depicted with a colour illustration and photo, and key distinguishing features of similar-looking species occurring in the same area are highlighted allowing for easy and accurate identification in the field



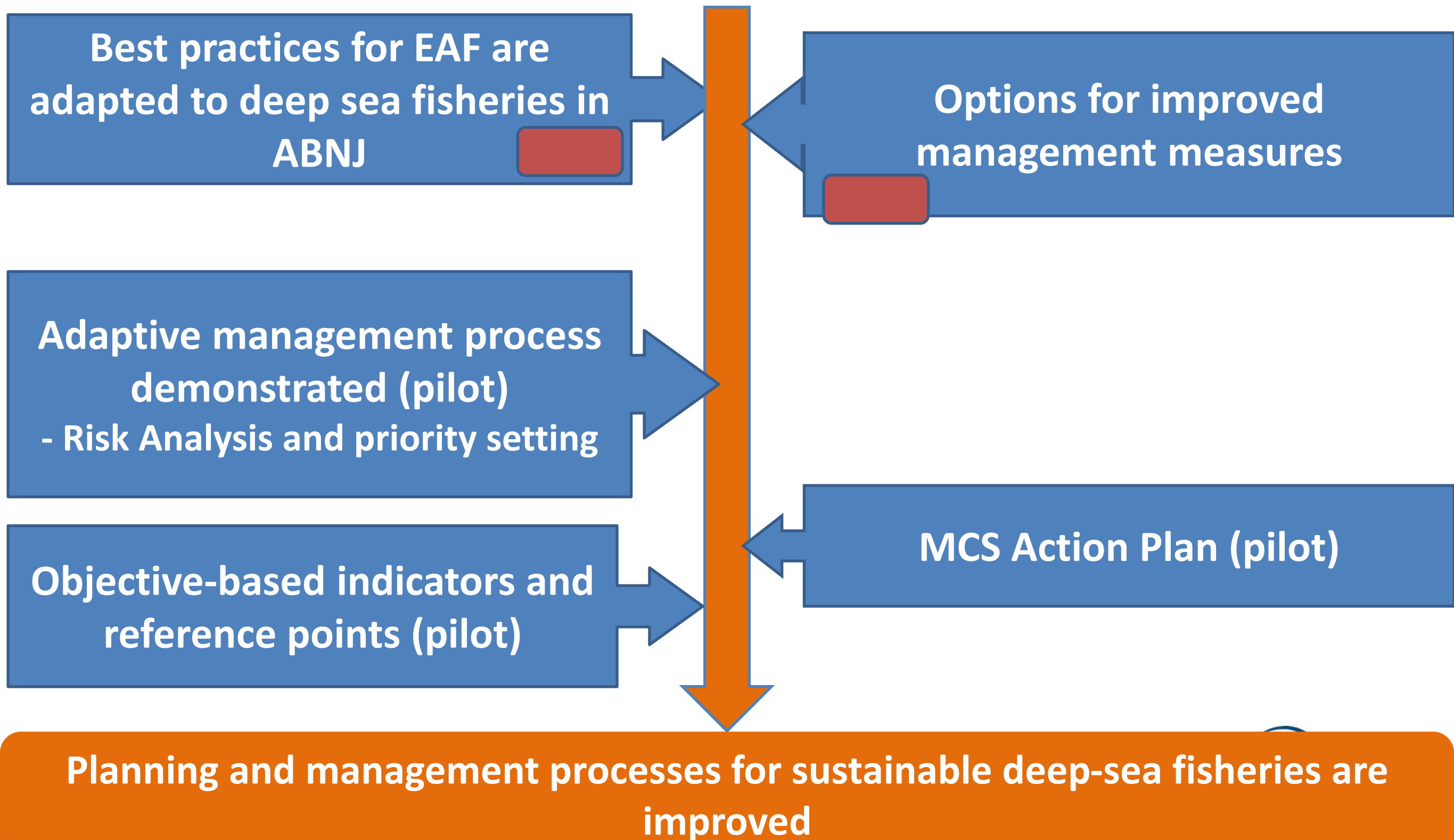
The Catalogue is aimed at facilitating the species specific identification of deep-sea shark fishes occurring in the Indian Ocean by providing accounts for all orders, families, and genera and fully illustrated keys to taxa



# Component 2 (cont) – VMEs and EBSAs

- **Activities for case study areas**
  - Indicators for VMEs
  - Applications for collection of biodiversity information
  - Capacity development for VME identification and application of criteria
  - Support for participation and input into conferences (twinning arrangements) and facilitation of fellowship programmes

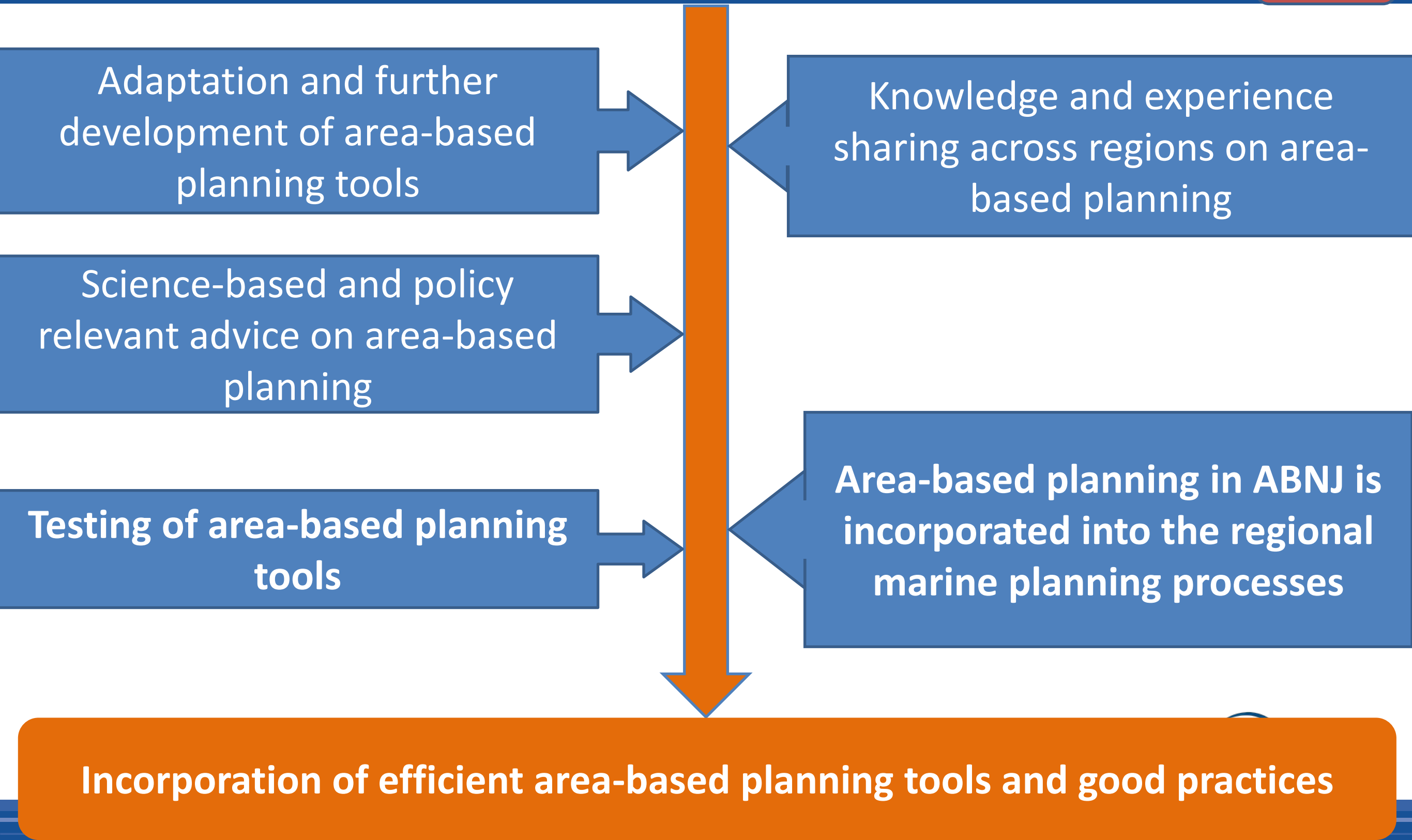
# Adaptive Management and Planning



# Component 3 – Applying an EAF

- Best practices, methods and tools for comprehensive management planning
  - Global analysis and review of successful practices – Encounter protocols, EIAs, collaboration with scientists / managers / industry
    - Operational guidance
  - Workshops to improve knowledge on key deep-sea species
  - `Monitoring programs and testing of best practice

# Area-based Planning (UNEP)



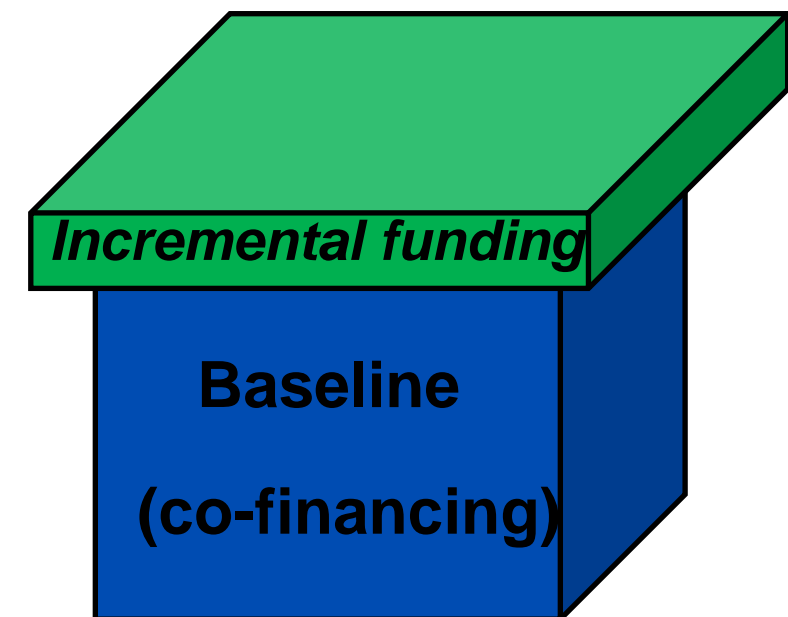
# Potential areas for collaboration by SPRFMO SC in ABNJ Project

- Information, background material and expertise
    - for the sharing of experiences and lessons learned from SPRFMO and its members through the different processes supported by the project.
  - Contribute and benefit from lessons learning and networking opportunities
  - Partnership or exchanges between deep-sea RFMOs for
  - improving data collection and monitoring of fisheries and biodiversity,
- generating mutual benefits for the ABNJ Deep Seas Project and the partners concerned.



# GEF Project Financing

- Baseline is the status quo, made up of all the work being done by all the institutions concerned in respect of a given project;
- GEF can finance the additional costs (or incremental costs) associated with transforming a project with national/local benefits into one with global environmental benefits as well
- The cost of the baseline is the cofinancing



# GEF - Commitment letter

## SAMPLE LETTER OF COFINANCING COMMITMENT

**[on official letterhead]**

Date:

To:

Ms. Barbara Cooney  
FAO GEF Coordinator  
Investment Centre Division  
Technical Cooperation Department  
FAO  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy

From: [Name and title, and name of organization]

Dear .....

This is to indicate our commitment to collaborating in the “xxxx” project.

We are pleased to confirm our commitment to provide co-financing in the amount of USD xxxx towards the realization of the objectives of the project over the xxx-year life of the project. This amount will be comprised of US\$ xxxxx in-kind and US\$ xxxx in cash. *(some organizations might provide more detail on the nature of their co-financing – this would be good)*

We look forward to be working with the GEF and FAO in addressing this important issue area.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Name and signature

## RFB ORGANISATIONS LETTER HEAD

8 July 2013

Barbara Cooney,  
FAO-GEF Coordination Unit,  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,  
00153 Rome, Italy

**Ref: xxxx**

***Subject: Co-financing letter for the FAO-GEF Project “Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”***

Dear Mrs Cooney,

I hereby confirm that the Regional Fisheries Body (RFB) agrees to provide co-financing for the FAO-GEF Project “Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”.

The RFB support to the project is an in-kind contribution of approximately USD 2.1 million over the period of 2014-2018. Support will be in the form of in-kind contribution for a) staff time for activities, included in the work plan of RFB; b) office space and c) expenses for RFB operations which are of direct relevance to the project.

It is assumed that our participation in the above mentioned programme will not entail any supplementary workload or cost for RFB beyond those already being carried out to achieve the objectives of our Organisation

RFB reserves the right to not disclose any confidential data without the prior and explicit authorization of the concerned Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party.

The in-kind contribution from RFB will be managed by the Secretariat as a contribution to the project components to be implemented in the RFB Area of Competence and to support the participation of RFB in project activities.

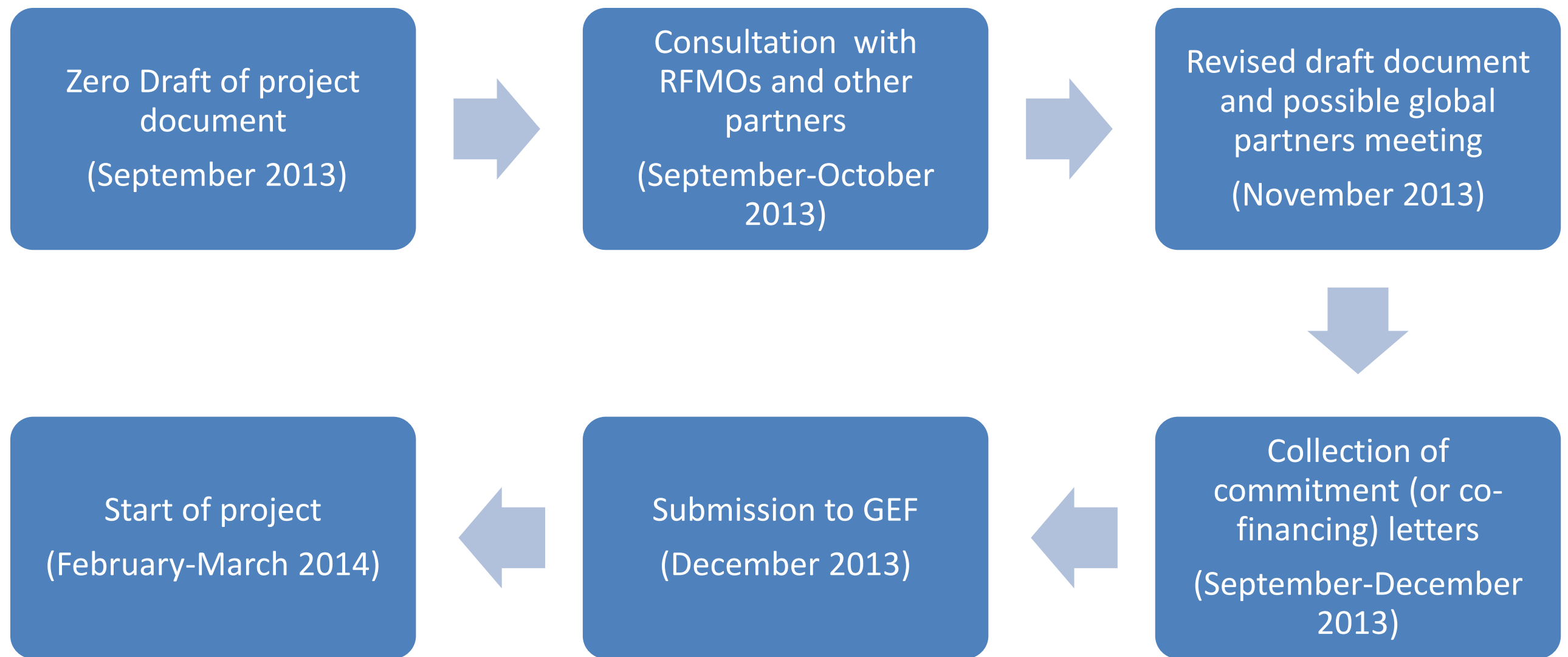
The project will keep informed RFB Members on the progress of implementation of the project, through a regular reporting at its annual meetings.

Yours sincerely,

*AN Other*

*RFB Executive Secretary*

# Next Steps





Thank You