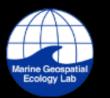
CBD's Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas process: Lessons & Relevance



Daniel C. Dunn, Jesse Cleary, Patrick N. Halpin

Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab Duke University Durham, NC 27708 daniel.dunn@duke.edu @danielcdunn





In the beginning...





Main goals:

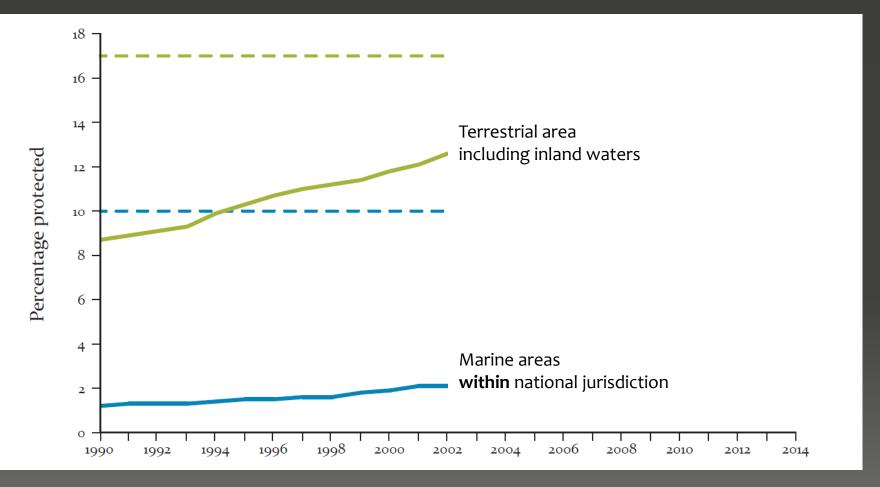
- The conservation of biodiversity,
- Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and
- Sharing the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way

Rio Earth Summit: Agenda 21

Called upon States to "identify marine ecosystems exhibiting high levels of biodiversity and productivity and other critical habitat areas" and to(...) "provide necessary limitations on use in these areas, through, inter alia, designation of protected areas"



10 Years... 1% more protection



Adapted from Protected Planet Report 2014, ©UNEP

SEMPIA 2015

Rio +10: The Sequel

World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002

Main Outcomes:

- Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development



• 10% protected area target



SEMPIA The history of the CBD EBSA process 2015 **CBD** commits to JPol **COP 8:** COP 9: 10% target Role of the CBD Adopts EBSA in ABNJ is to **CBD** forms an Ad-hoc criteria. Working Group on provide "scientific and **Protected Areas** Calls for technical advice" guidance. UNGA forms the **BBNJ** i.e., Not MPA Working designation Group 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 **CBD** Azores **CBD** Ottawa 1st Meeting of Canadian the CBD Ad-Workshop on Expert Expert EBSA criteria hoc WG on Workshop Workshop Protected Areas Collates criteria Recommends Produces **EBSA** criteria quidance on suites develops First call for criteria to the ecological benefit CBD. application FAO & IMO of the EBSA criteria for identification processes criteria of potential MPAs in ABNJ

So what exactly are EBSAs?

The result of a scientific and technical exercise

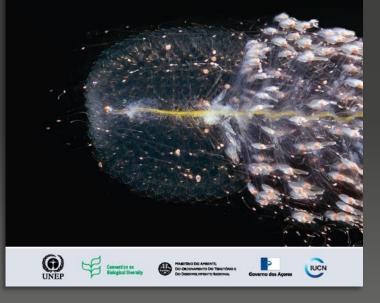
 Areas described to meet a set of biodiversity criteria promulgated by the Convention on Biological Diversity

 They carry NO direct management implication, thus they are not MPAs

CBD EBSA Criteria (2007)

AZORES SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE

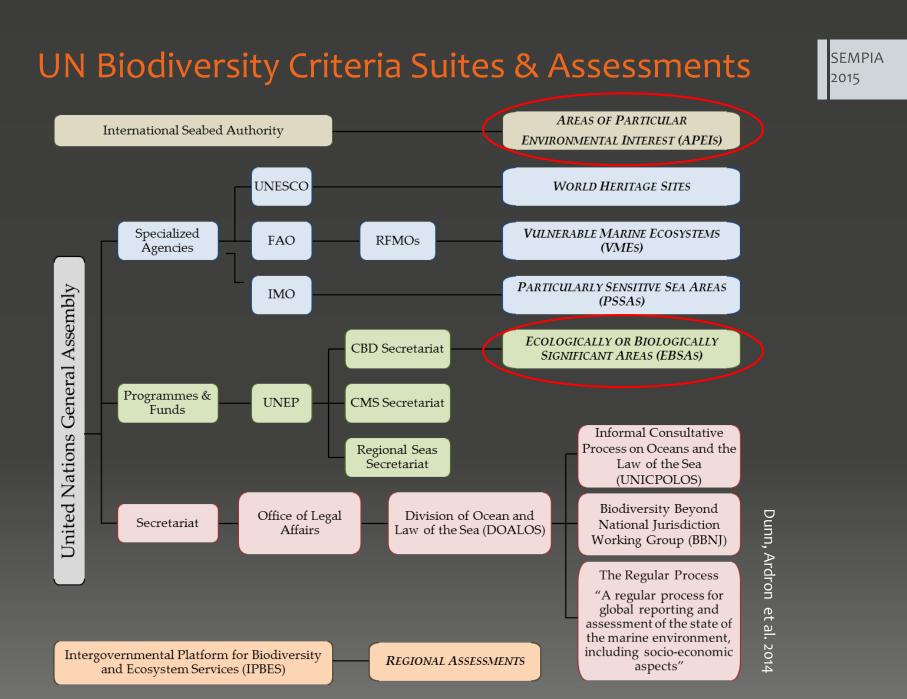
for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and designing representative networks of marine protected areas in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats



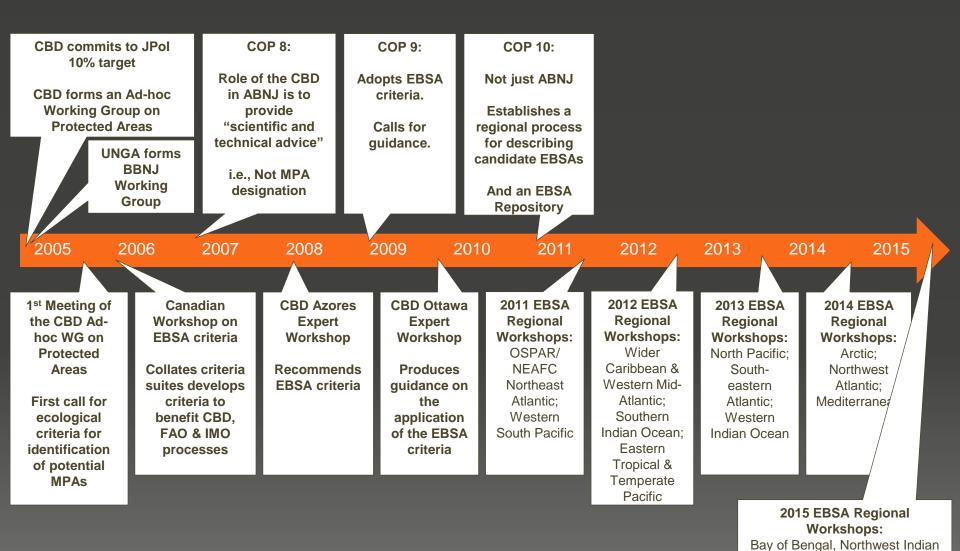
Annex II: Network Criteria

- 1. EBSA Site Criteria
- 2. Representativity
- 3. Connectivity
- 4. Replication
- 5. Adequacy & Viability

For more info: Dearden & Topelko 2005, Gilman et al. 2011, Dunn et al. 2014



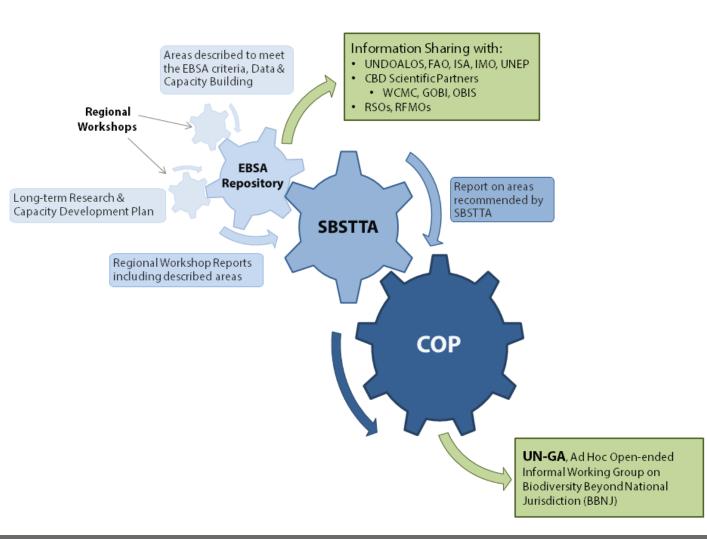
The history of the CBD EBSA process



SEMPIA 2015

Ocean, (Black & Caspian Seas?)

Have criteria. Will apply.

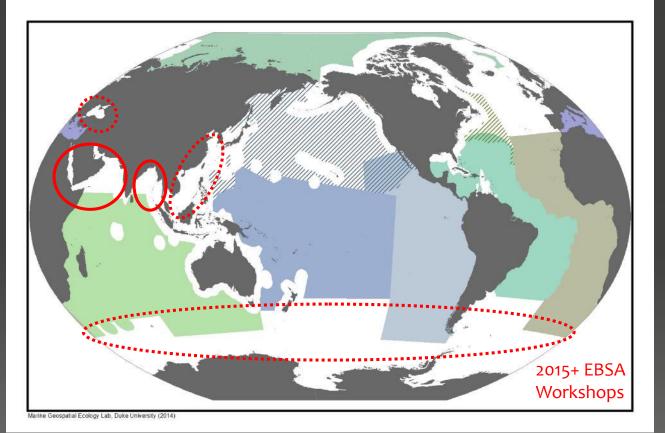


SEMPIA 2015

Dunn, Ardron et al. 2014

Regional EBSA Workshops

Synthesis of best available <u>scientific</u> and <u>technical information</u> to support expert scientific judgment on description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria

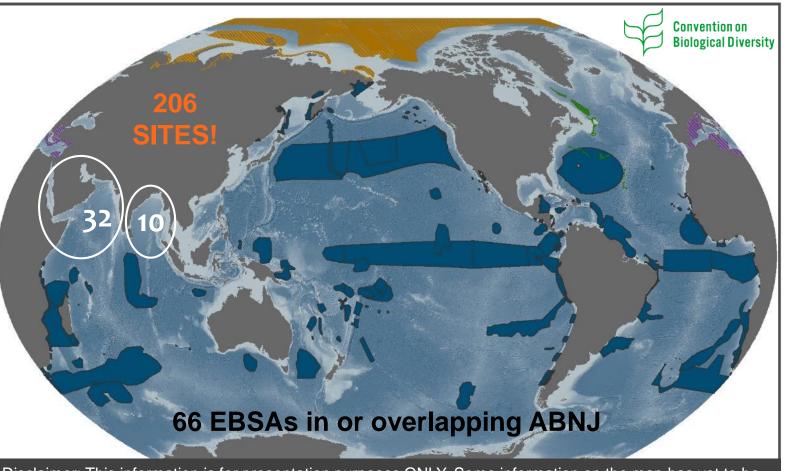






BSA workshops: Nov 2011 - Apr 2015 5% of ocean area covered A regional scientific expert process

CBD EBSA Workshop Results



Disclaimer: This information is for presentation purposes ONLY. Some information on the map has yet to be finalized. Do not quote or distribute this material without direct consent of the author.

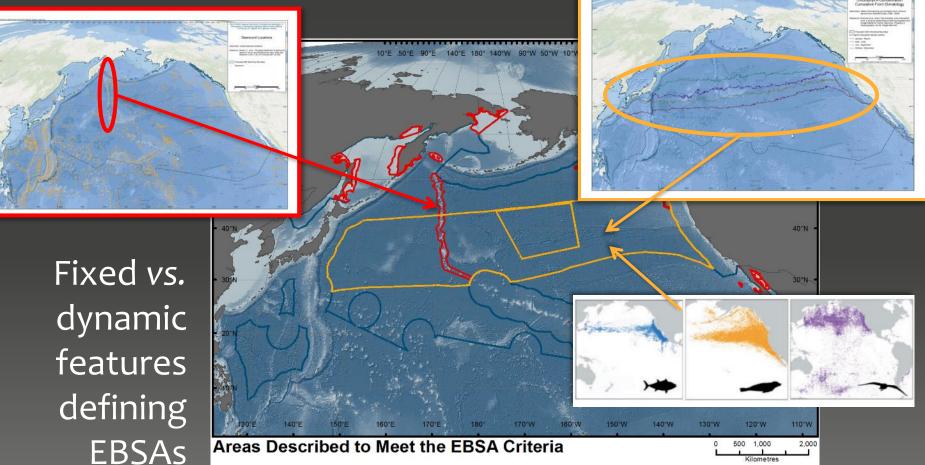
Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University (2014)

Issues with interpreting the EBSA results

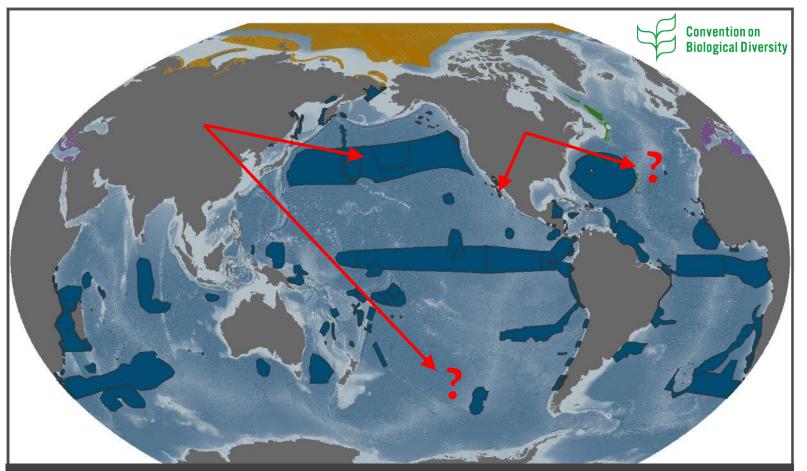
SEMPIA 2015

Fixed: Emperor Seamount Chain

Dynamic: North Pacific Transition Zone



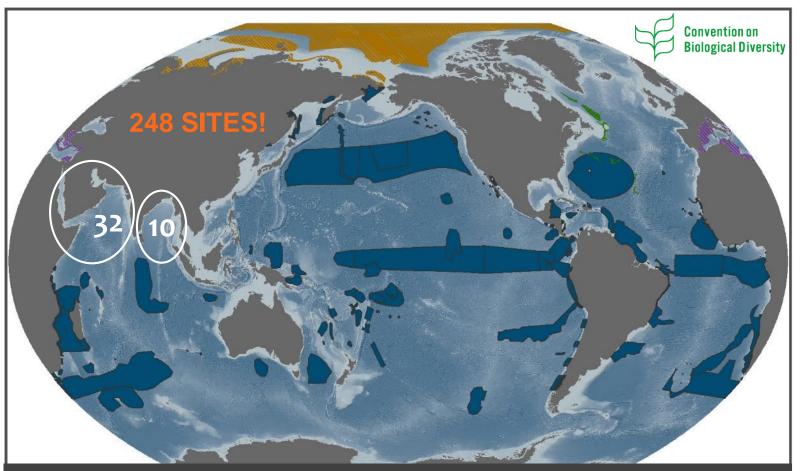
Is this representative?



Disclaimer: This information is for presentation purposes ONLY. Some information on the map has yet to be finalized. Do not quote or distribute this material without direct consent of the author.

Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University (2014)

What's the CBD to do with 248 EBSAs??

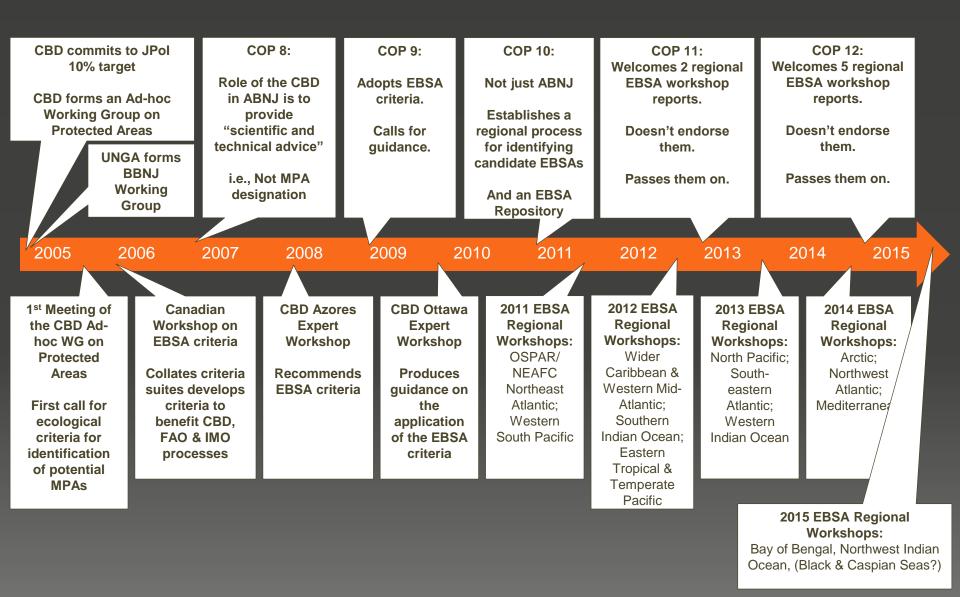


Disclaimer: This information is for presentation purposes ONLY. Some information on the map has yet to be finalized. Do not quote or distribute this material without direct consent of the author.

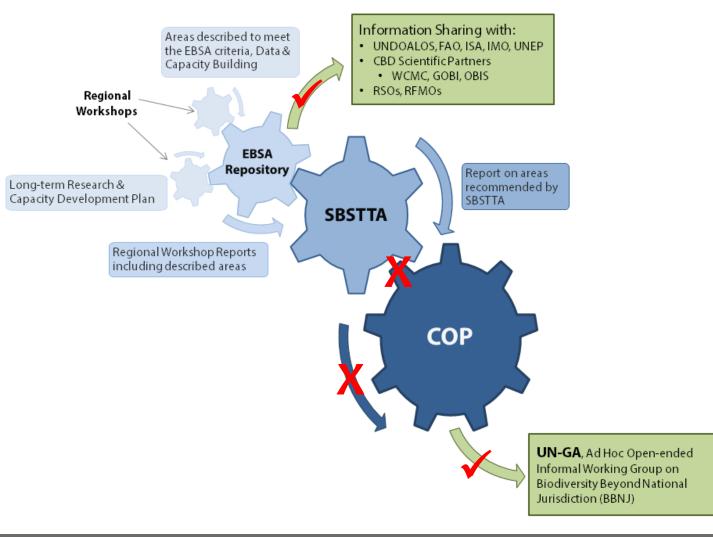
Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University (2014)

The history of the CBD EBSA process

SEMPIA 2015



Who endorses the science?



SEMPIA 2015

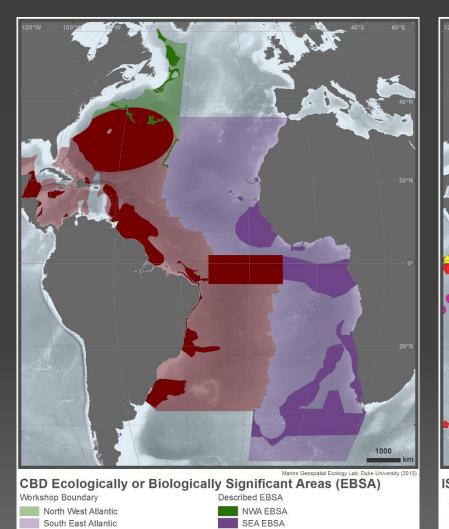
So, what exactly is the EBSA process?

 An outcome of a non-systematic, noncomprehensive, expert-driven "technical exercise" to describe important marine areas which has no direct management implications and has been filtered through, but not endorsed by, a political consensus process.

The only global marine biodiversity prioritization effort sanctioned by an intergovernmental organization

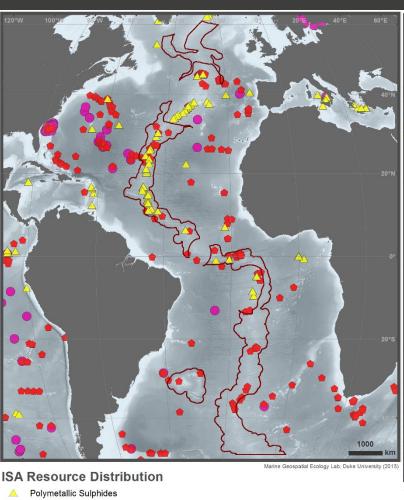
Information

Industry meet EBSA. EBSA meet industry. ^{SEMPIA}



WC and WMA EBSA

Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic

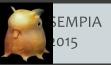


- Cobalt-Rich Ferromanganese Crusts
- **Polymetallic Nodules**

SEMPIA 2015

Lessons Learned

- EBSAs are based on site criteria, not network criteria
 - Thus there is no effort to ensure representativity, connectivity, replication or adequacy & sufficiency
- Interpreting/Comparing EBSAs is a tricky venture
- Information exists... we just need to do a better job of collating it and delivering it to policy fora
- We are both informed by and inform efforts to conserve biodiversity within and beyond national jurisdiction
 - E.g., Brazil and Peruvian EBSA processes; BBNJ



Thanks! daniel.dunn@duke.edu @danielcdunn

The CBD's Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas process: Lessons & Relevance

Daniel C. Dunn, Jesse Cleary, Patrick N. Halpin

Duke University Durham, NC 27708

