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

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Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab

In the beginning…

IN OUR HANDS
EARTH SUMMIT '92

CBD

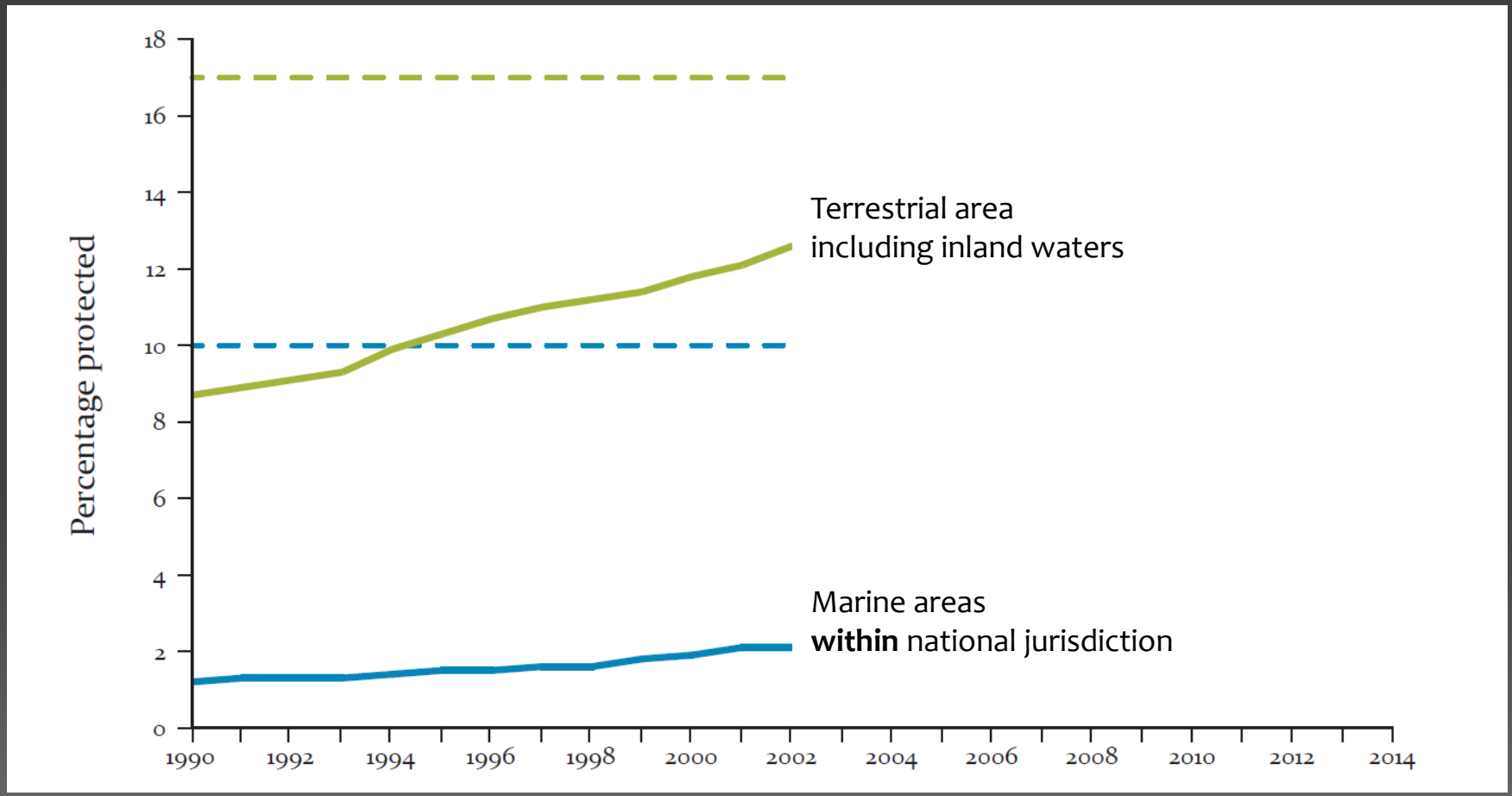
Main goals:

- 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

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

The history of the CBD EBSA process

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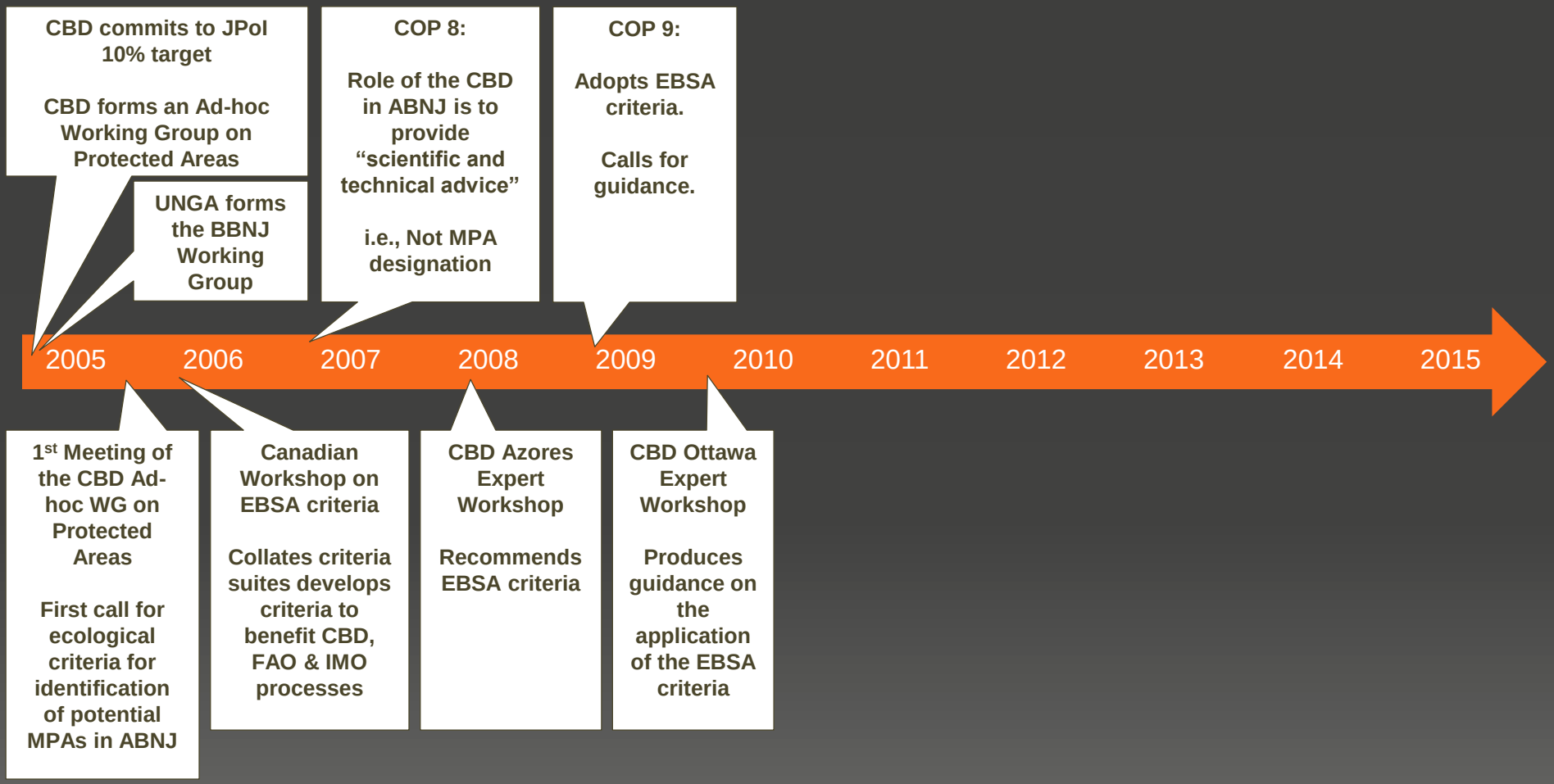
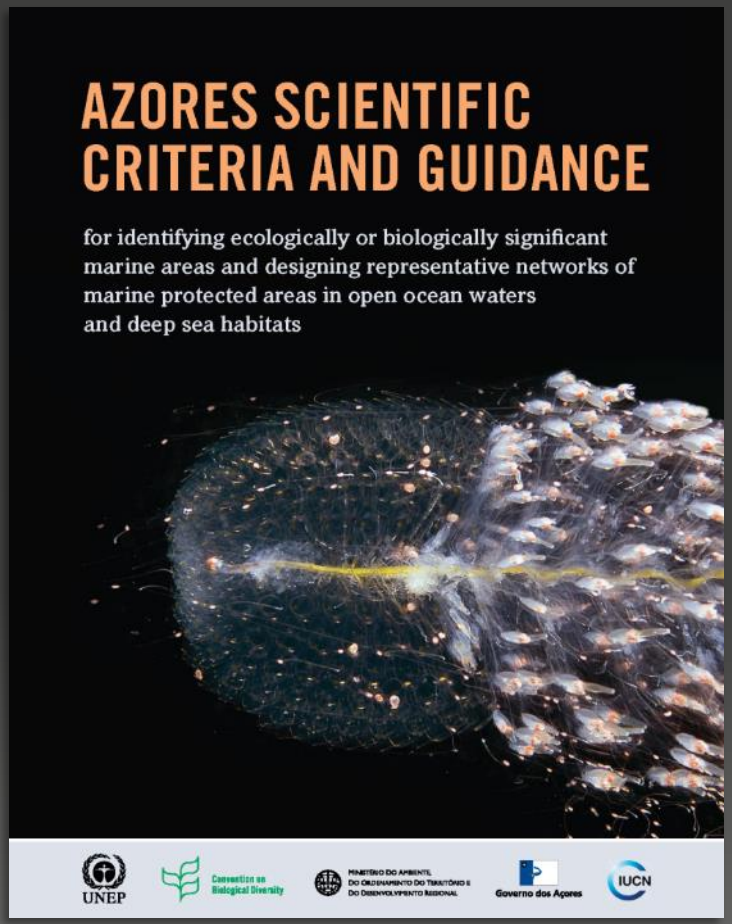


So what exactly are EBSAs?

- 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)

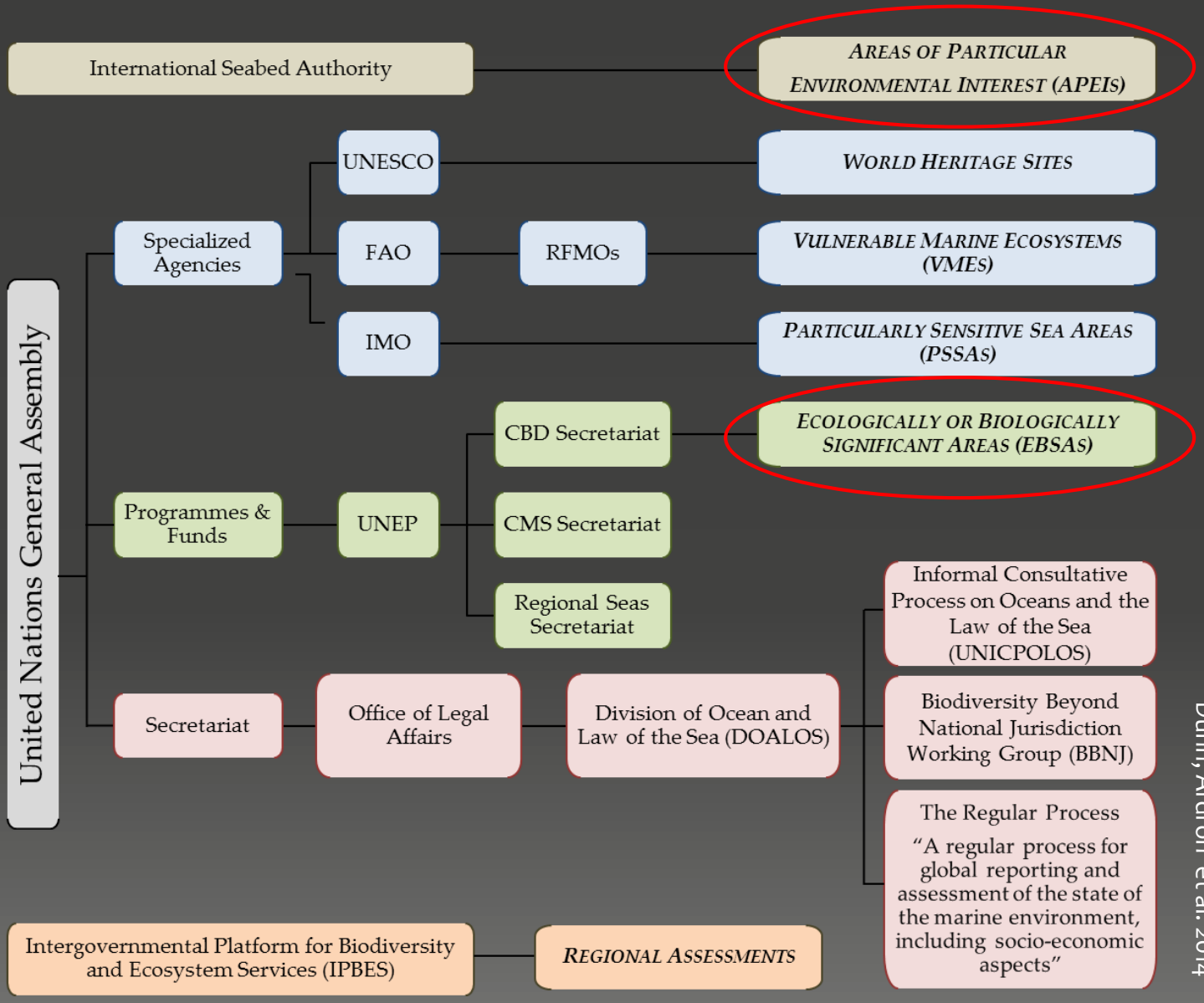


Annex II: Network Criteria

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

UN Biodiversity Criteria Suites & Assessments



Dunn, Ardron et al. 2014

The history of the CBD EBSA process

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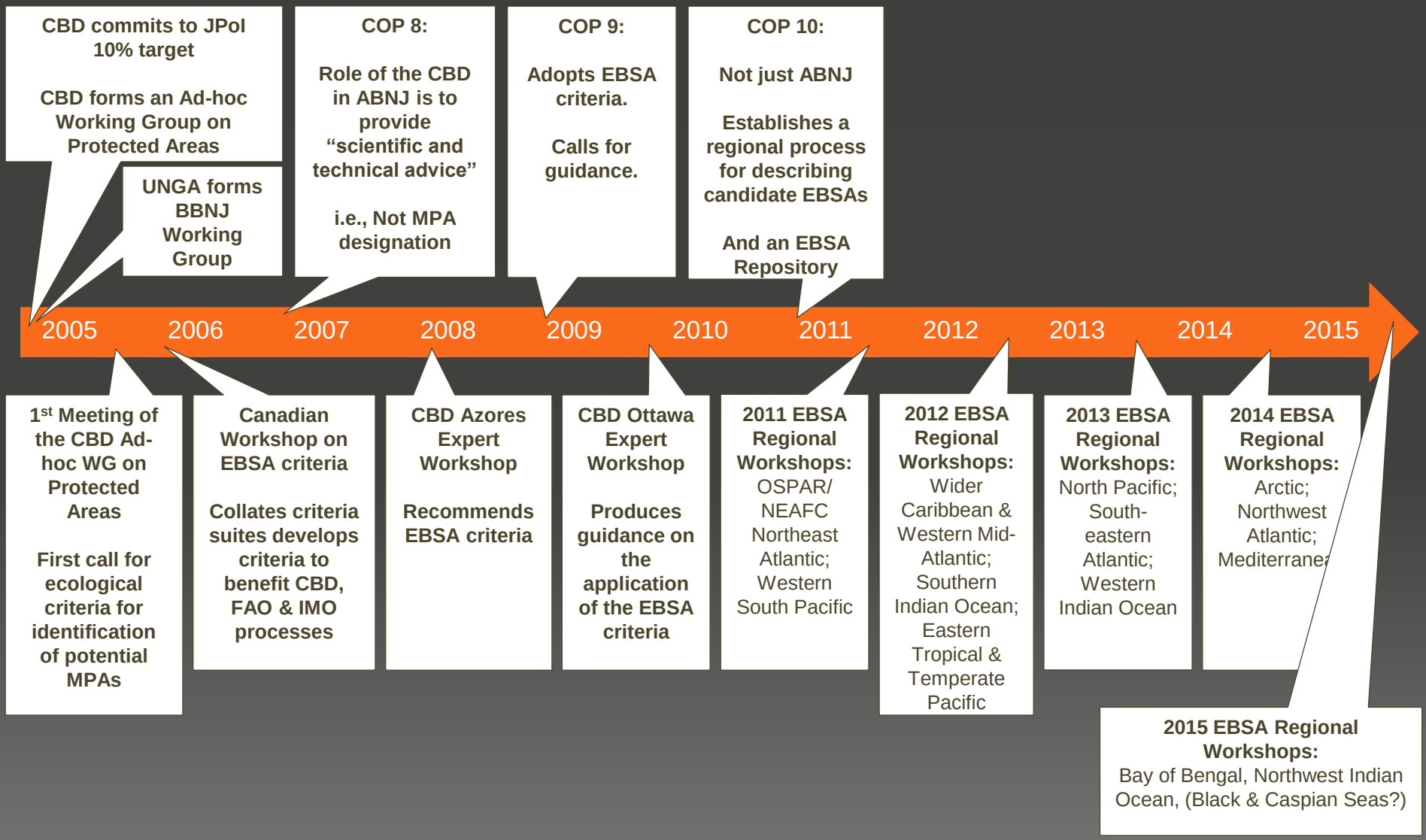
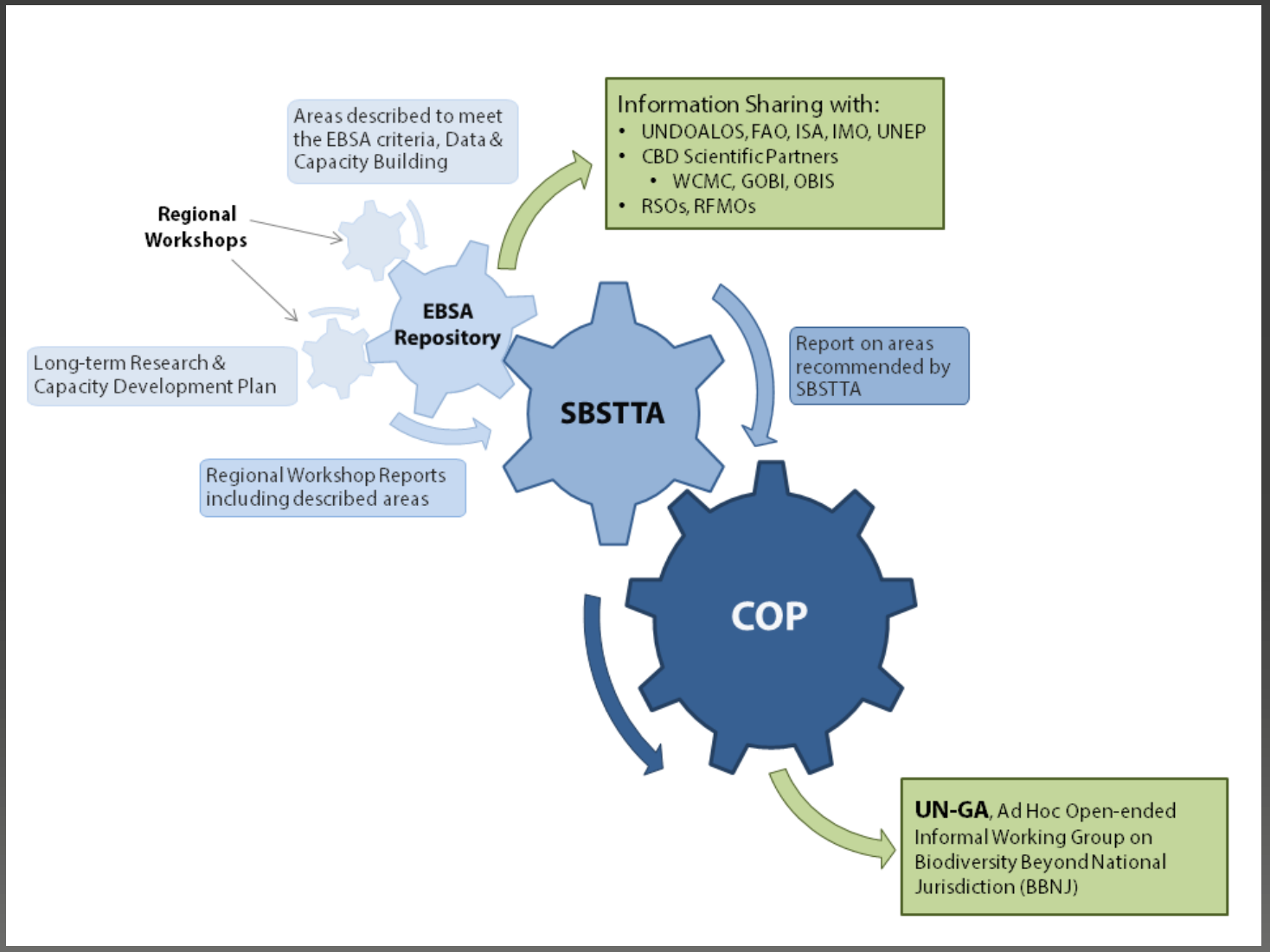


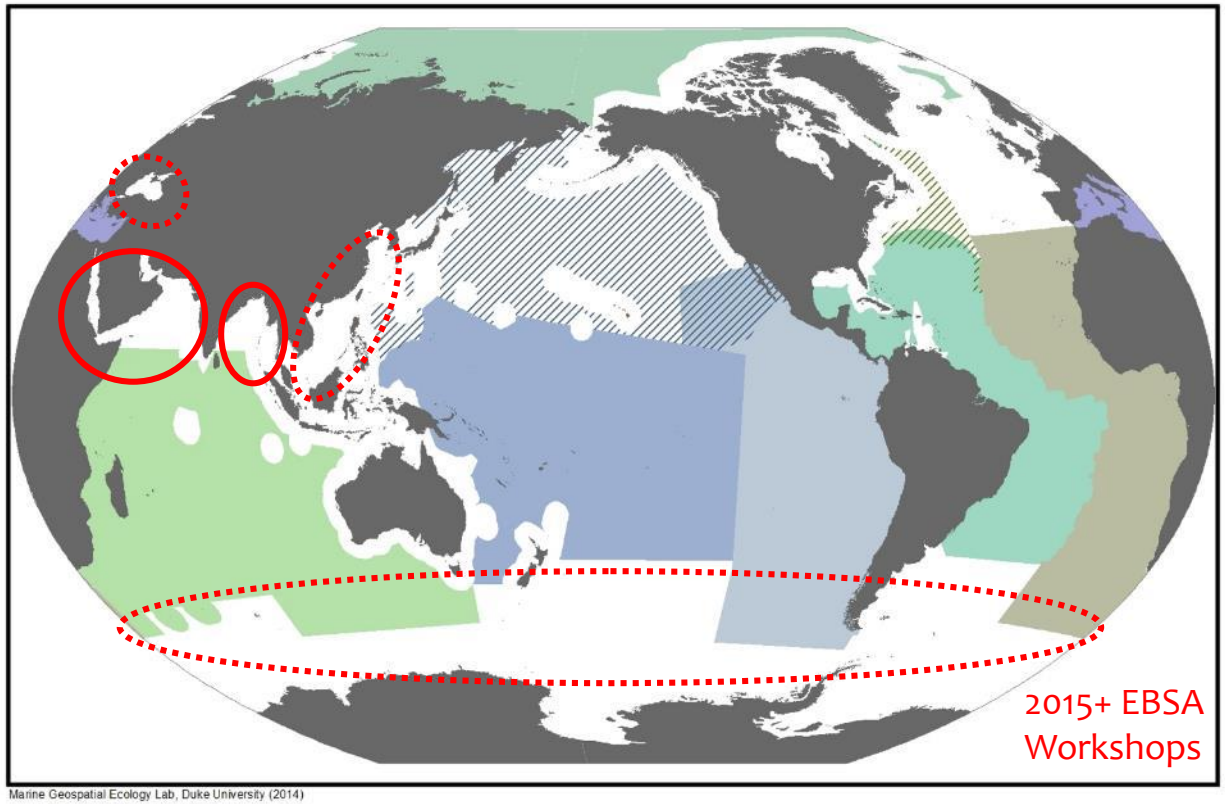
Have criteria. Will apply.



Dunn, Ardron et al. 2014

Regional EBSA Workshops

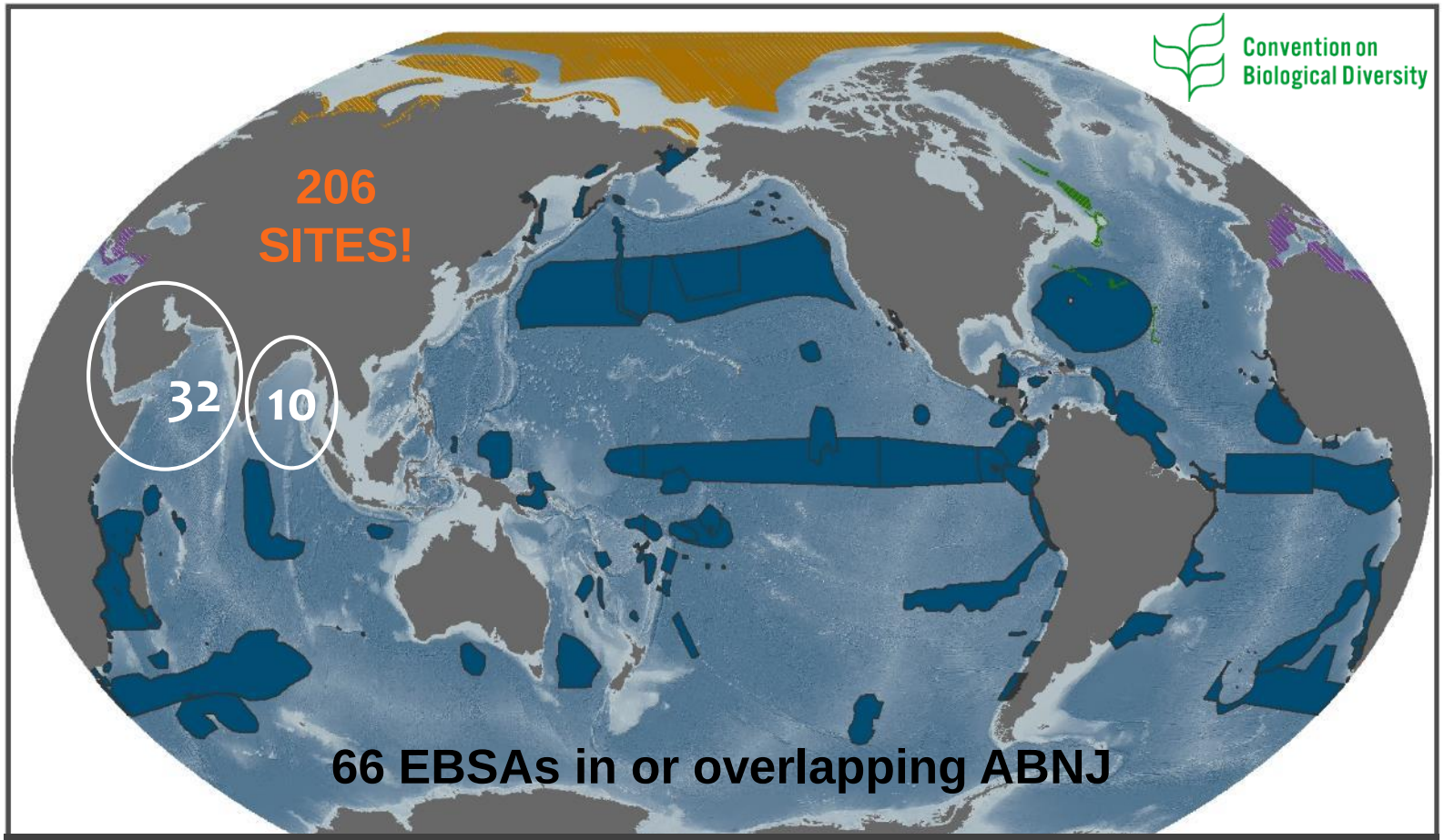
Synthesis of best available ***scientific*** and ***technical information*** to support expert scientific judgment on description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria



A regional scientific expert process

11 CBD EBSA workshops: Nov 2011 - Apr 2015
~75% of ocean area covered

CBD EBSA Workshop Results



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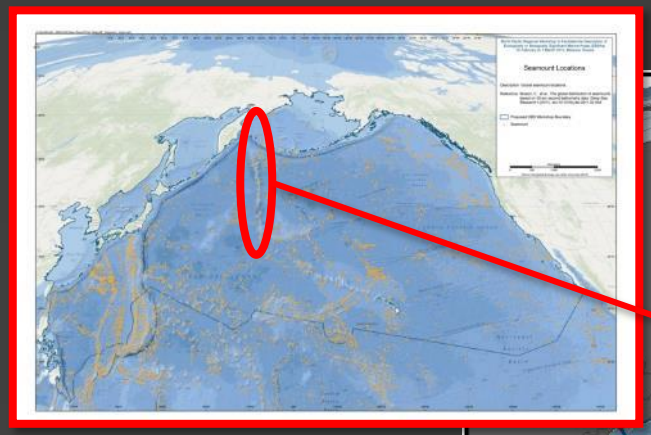
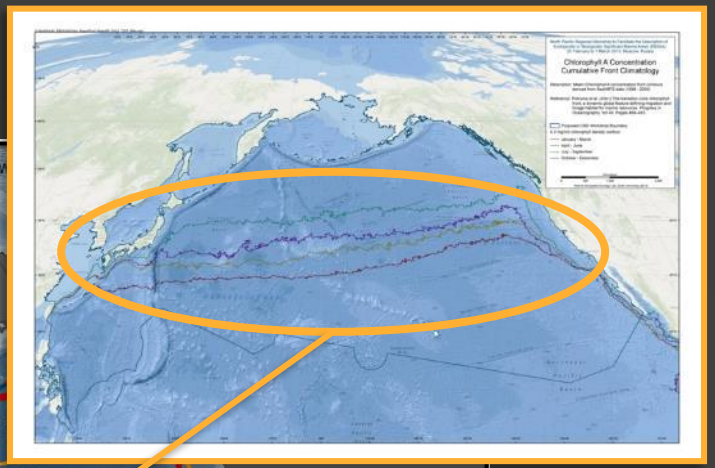
Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University (2014)

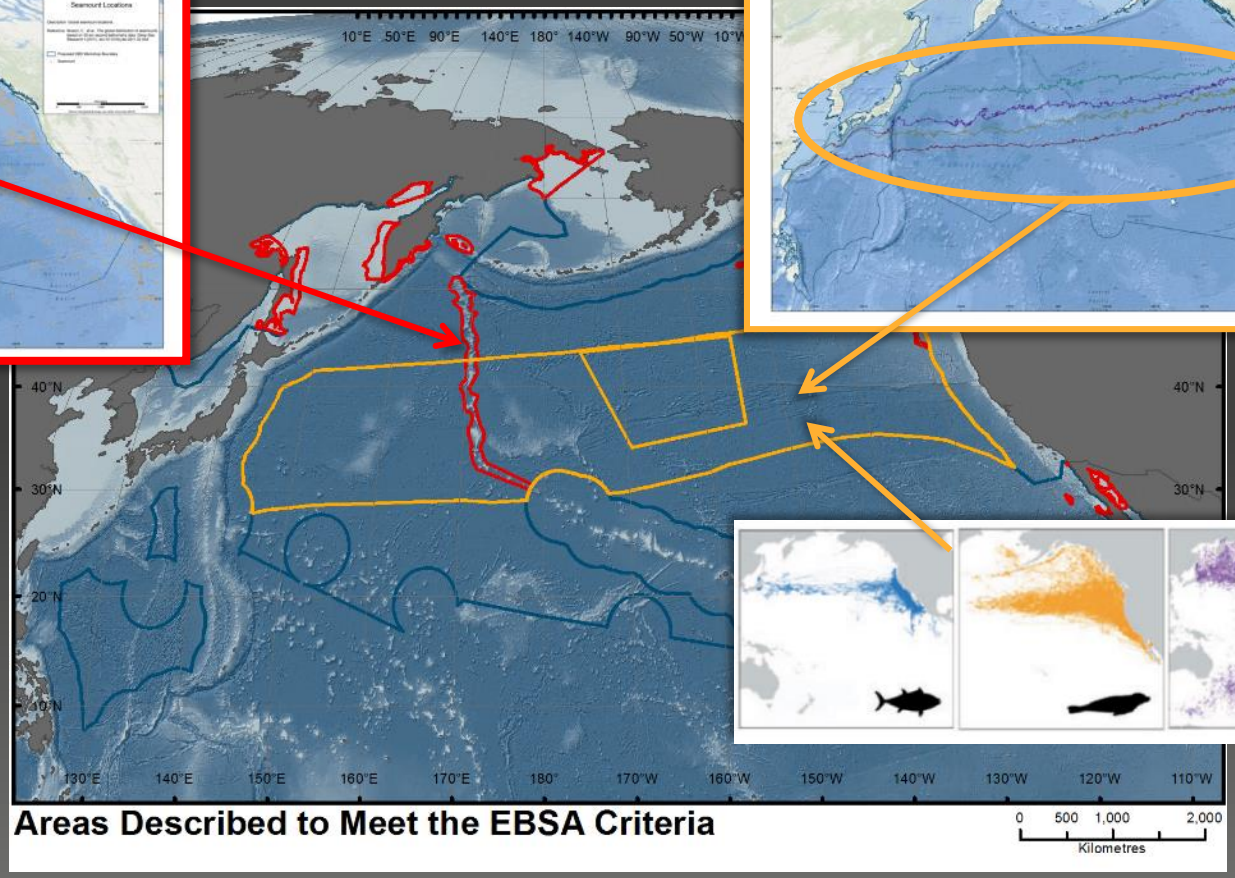
Issues with interpreting the EBSA results

Fixed:
Emperor Seamount Chain

Dynamic:
North Pacific Transition Zone

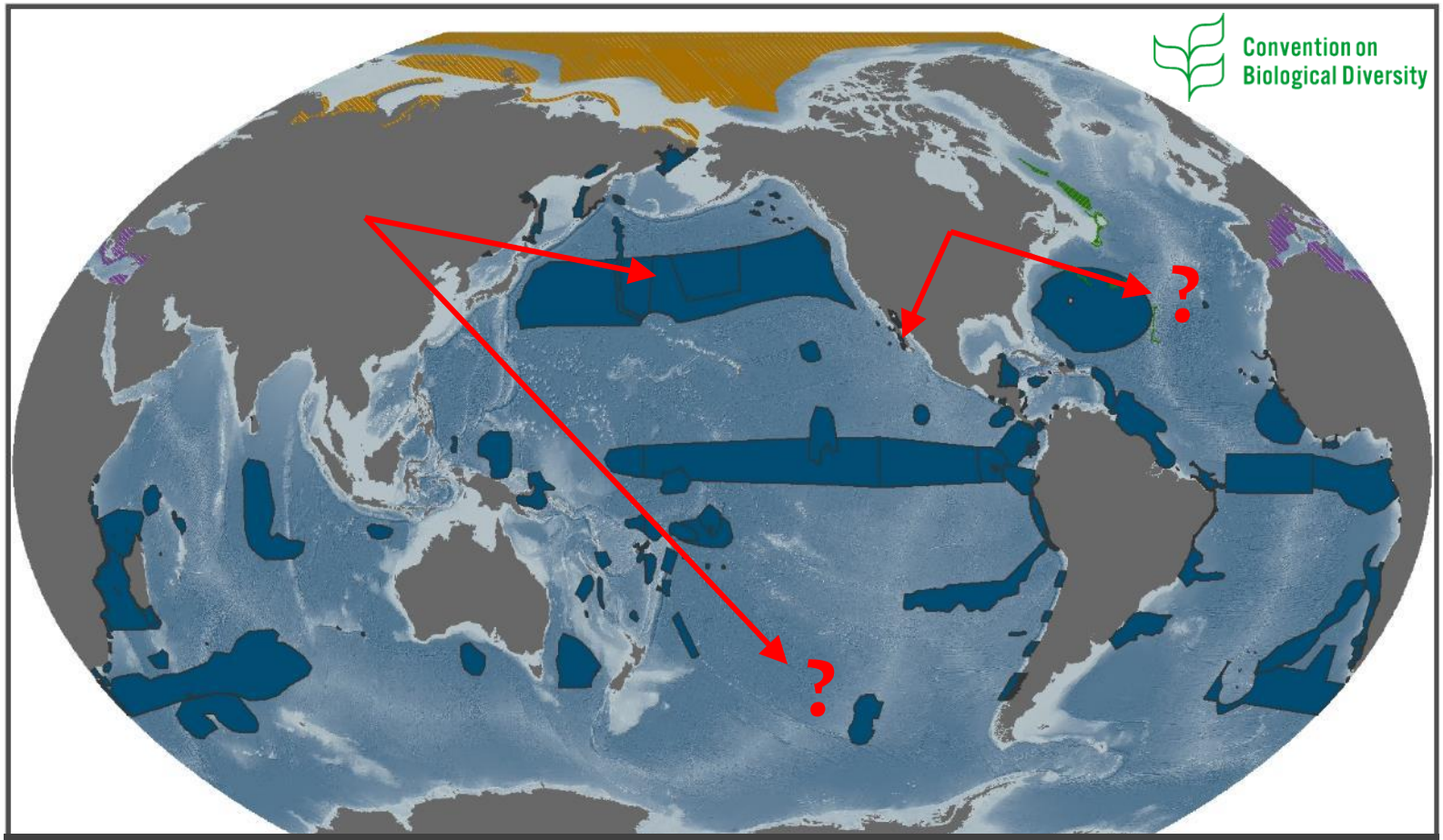






Fixed *vs.* dynamic features defining EBSAs

Is this representative?



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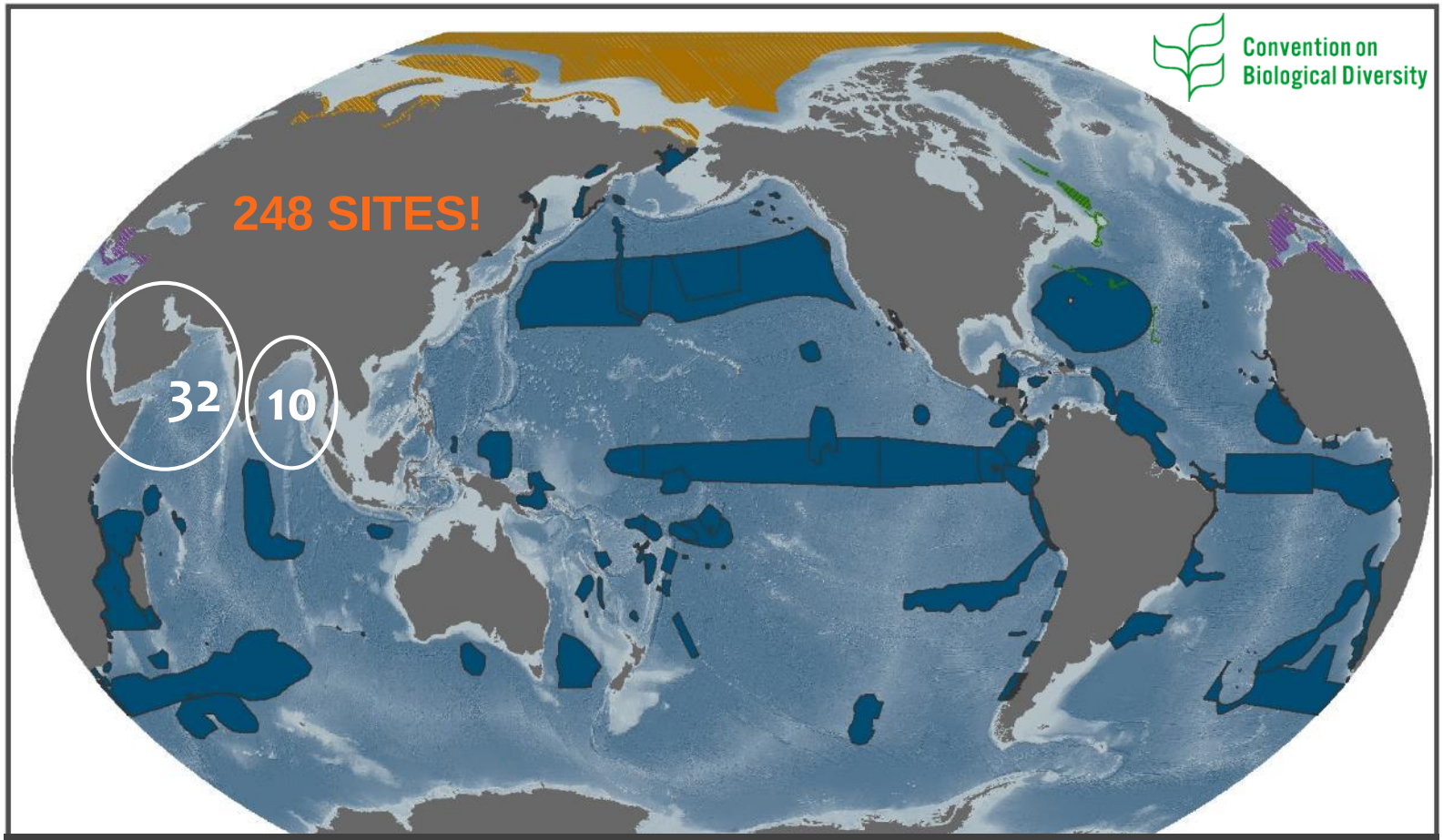
Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University (2014)

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



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The history of the CBD EBSA process

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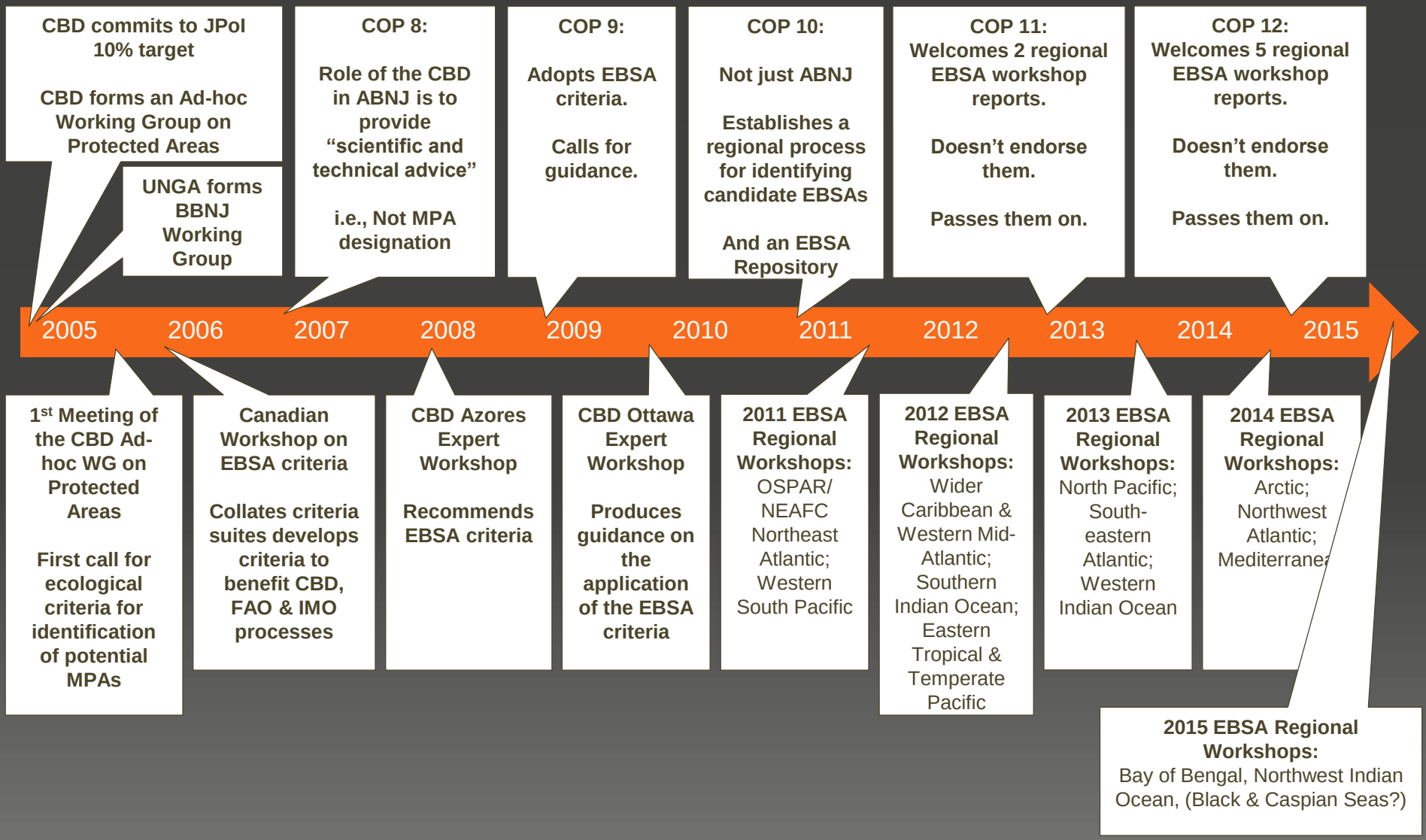
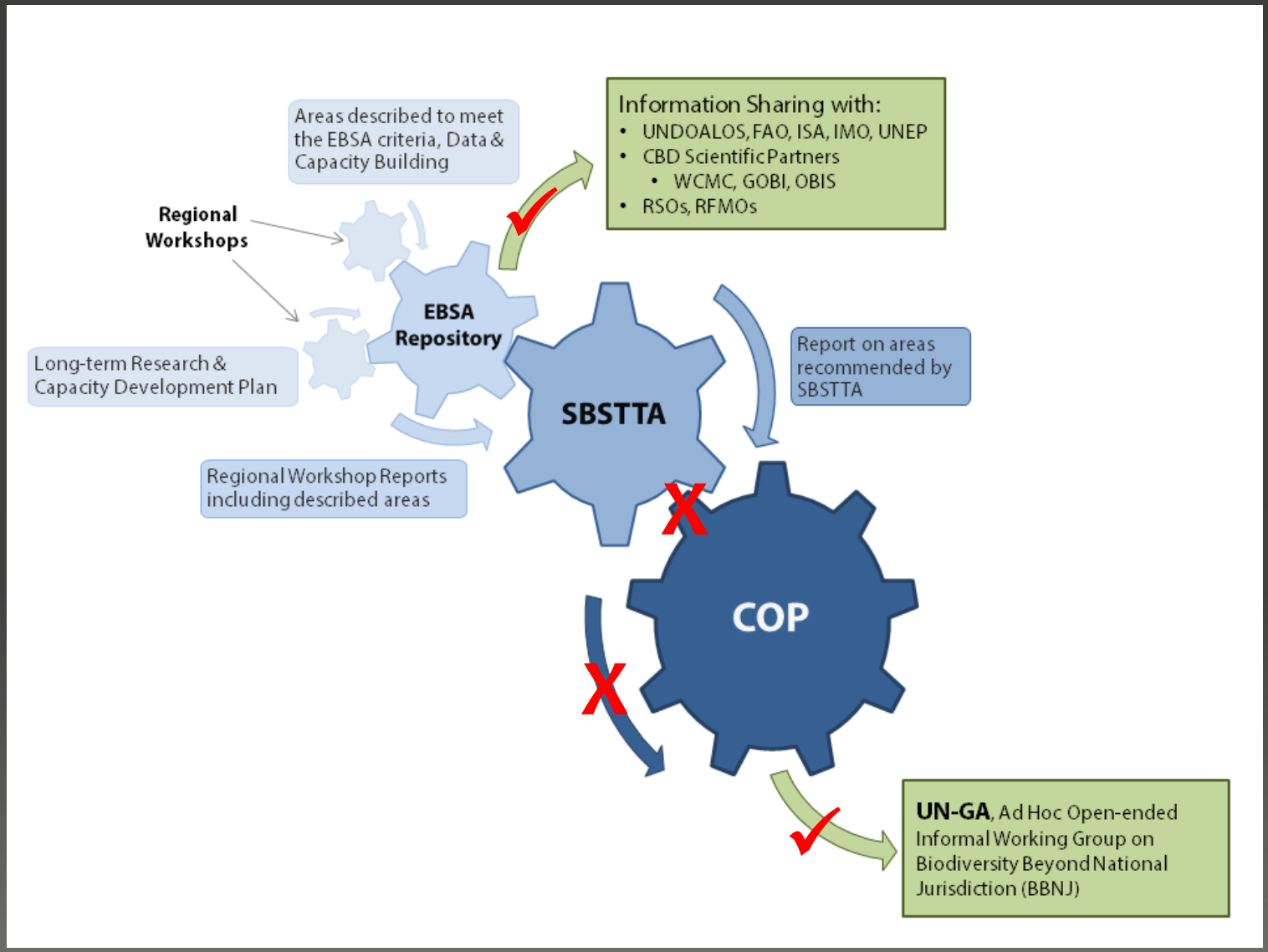


Who endorses the science?



Dunn, Ardron et al. 2014

So, what exactly is the EBSA process?

- An outcome of a non-systematic, non-comprehensive, 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.

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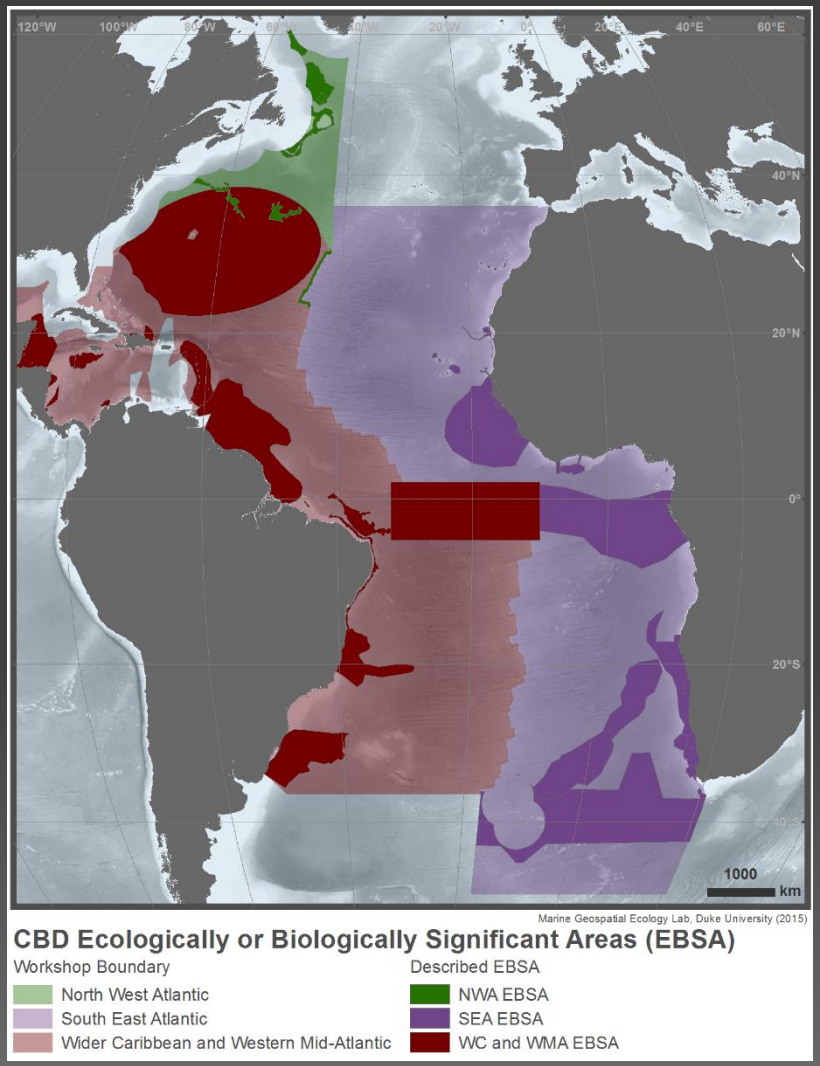

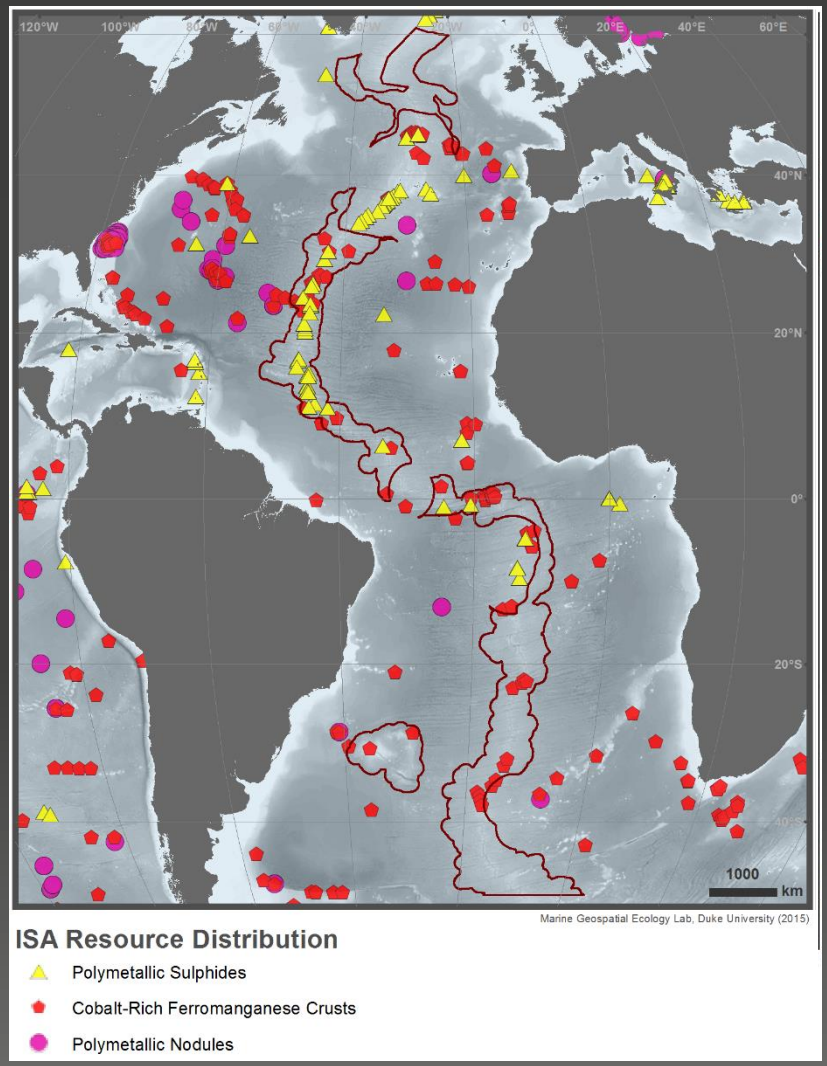

Lessons Learned

- 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

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2015

Thanks!

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