

# Importance of Deep Seabed Exploration to Support the Development of National Blue Economy

Aliyu Hamza Danagalan, PhD

Assistant Director-Maritime Boundaries Department

National Boundary Commission, Nigeria

# Disclaimer

- The views expressed herein are those of the author and does not necessarily reflect the views of the National Boundary Commission.

# Presentation Outline

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# Introduction

- The African continent is the second largest continent in the world.
- It has 39 coastal states each with varying lengths of coastline.
- Most of them have been known to have proven offshore resources-both living and non-living.
- They equally possess greater potentials located in their continental shelves-by extension their ABNJs.

# Some Basic Definitions

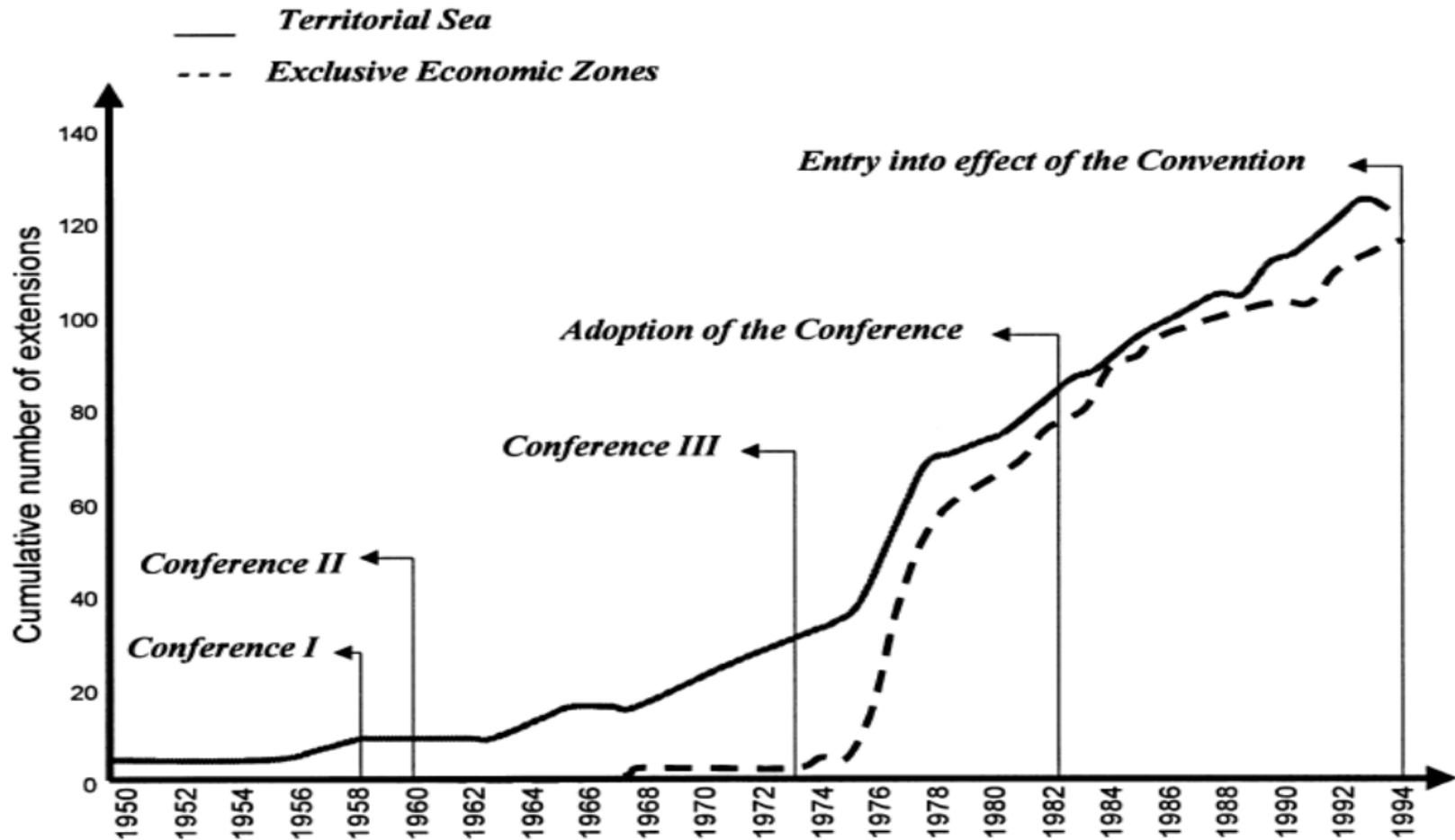
- **ABNJ aka 'The Area'**: defined as the sea-bed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- **Blue Economy**: defined as sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.
- **Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)**: an ecologically rational units of ocean spaces characterised by distinct bathymetry, hydrography, productivity and trophically interdependent populations.

# Evolution of the Law of the Sea

- The formation of the ICES in 1905 led to the establishment of joint biological and hydrographical researches in the North Atlantic, the North sea and the Baltic sea.
- Several other studies cutting across various institutional, national, regional and international scales followed as a result of specific need to appportion control over coastal and marine resources.
- From 1950s, the UN held some conferences on legislations regarding the resources of the seas and its uses.
- This culminated into UNCLOS III in 1982-which came into effect in 1994- thereby extending coastal states' jurisdiction to 200nm-an extension known as Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Lauck et al., 1998).

# The evolution of the law of the sea-

Contd. Garcia & Hayashi, 2000.



# The Delimitation of the Ocean Space into LMEs

- Delineated based on the concept of addressing function and structure of marine living communities on regional basis, thereby creating distinct units for resource assessment, monitoring and management.
- Over 95% of the world's marine fishery biomass is produced around the boundaries of the 64 globally delineated LMEs located around the coastal margins of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans.





## Some African LMEs

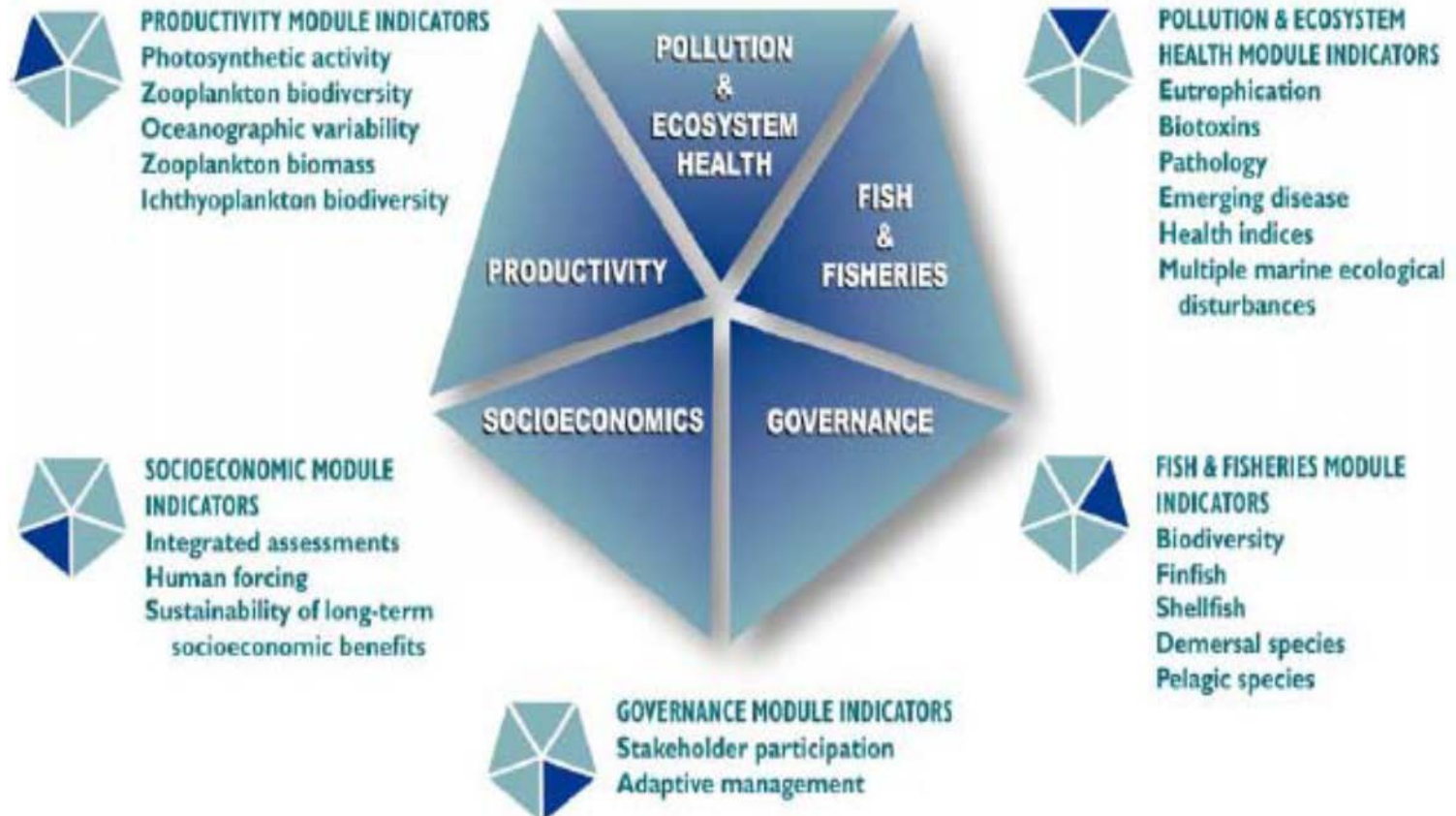


**The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem-Source:**  
Danagan, (2015)

# The Assessment and Management of the LMEs

Source: Sherman et al., (2005)

## Modular Assessments for Sustainable Development



# Assessment and Management of LMEs Contd.-Sizes-Source: Danagan, (2015)

| GCLME Countries              | EEZ in Km <sup>2</sup> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Angola                       | 330,000                |
| Benin Republic               | 27,100                 |
| Cameroun                     | 15,400                 |
| Congo                        | 60,000                 |
| Cote d'Ivoire                | 104,600                |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 1,000                  |
| Gabon                        | 213,000                |
| Ghana                        | 218,100                |
| Equatorial Guinea            | 283,200                |
| Guinea                       | 71,000                 |
| Guinea Bissau                | 156,500                |
| Liberia                      | 229,700                |
| Nigeria                      | 210,900                |
| Sao Tome & Principe          | 160,000                |
| Sierra Leone                 | 165,700                |
| Togo                         | 2,100                  |

# Contribution of LMEs (Blue Economy) to the Global Economy

- The LMEs are believed to produce goods and services valued at over \$12 trillion annually to the global economy (Sherman et al., 2005; Sherman, 2006 & Danagalan, 2015).

# Importance of Deep Seabed Resources to National Economies

- Contribution to GDPs
- Convenient Avenue for Economic Diversification
- Strengthening of Relevant Private Sector Enterprises
- Curbing IUU Fishing
- Preservation of the Marine Environment
- Increased Security Through Surveillance Due to Activities Initiated Around The Area

# Knowledge and Skills gap

- The Exploration of the Deep Seabed Resources of the Area-
- **Involves The Use of Sophisticated Machinery and equipment-Does it exist currently in Africa?**
- **Involves The Deployment of Sophisticated skills-Does Africa Possess the Relevant Skills Necessary For the Exploration in the Area?**
- **Involves High Level of Security Deployment Along the Area-Does That Capacity Currently Exist on the Continent?**

# Conclusion

- There is a clear understanding and appreciation of the issues at stake in relation to coastal and marine resource management (Including Deep Seabed Exploration) in Africa theoretically.
- Practical Skills, Machinery and Equipment Appears to be Lacking Currently for the Optimum Deep Seabed Resources Exploration in The Area.
- Skills Development Initiatives and Sustainable Partnerships Between Local and Foreign Entrepreneurs Will Greatly Help in Addressing Such Challenges.



Thank you for listening