



LESSONS FROM THE CCZ-REMP

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Workshop for developing a framework for REMPs for polymetallic sulphide
deposits on mid-ocean ridges
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OUTLINE

- Lessons from the process towards the establishment of the CCZ-REMP
- Lessons from the review of the implementation of the CCZ-REMP
- In order to address the urgent need to develop regional plans in mineral provinces with exploration activities (PS/CRFC). No exploitation yet. Essential for policy and operational frameworks for site-specific management activities. Key priority areas for PS=MAR, Indian Ocean triple junction ridge. Methodology for REMPs.
- In order to collate scientific data and give more ownership to countries in each region, particularly the developing countries.
- In order to develop processes with specific management objectives for contractors in the planning and monitoring of activities, particularly where multiple activities in the same maritime zone.

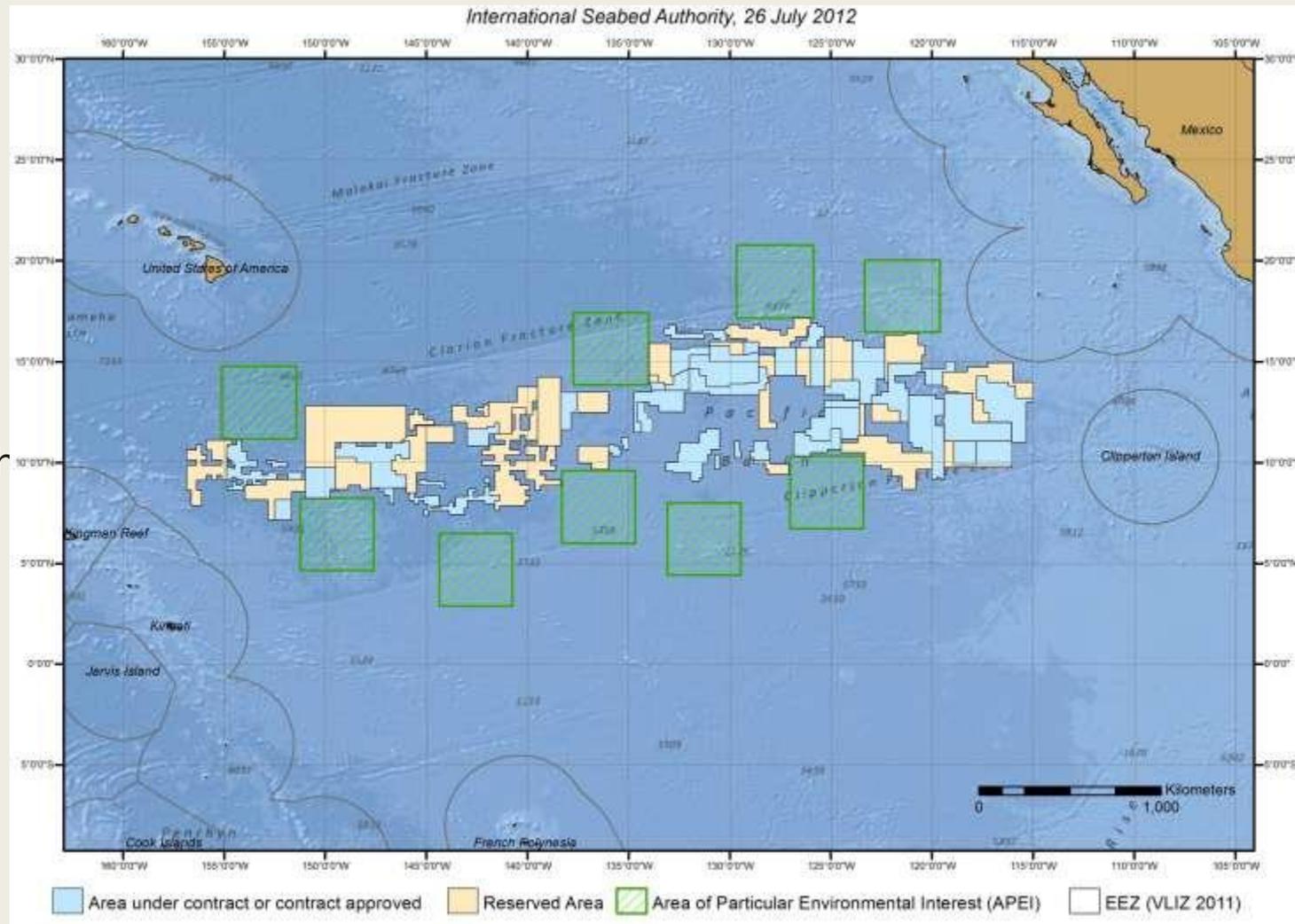
I - Lessons from the process towards the establishment of the CCZ-REMP

- Project-based environmental management for the operator and for the ISA to manage at a global and regional scale.
- CCZ most intense activity (in 2012, 9 Contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules in CCZ; 7 more afterwards); more than 30 yrs. Research; Context in 2012, 3 sets of RPEN; UNGA resolutions; BBNJ process.
- Development of the plan through an expert consultative process under the auspices of the International Seabed Authority: I2002 workshop; Kaplan project (2002-2007); 2007 workshops and 9 guidelines; LTC in 2011 and Council in 2012 (ISBA/18/C/22)
- Robust scientific case for the design of a network of biogeographically representative protected areas; robust scientific case also for the review of the location/size/number of those areas (2016 proposed additional areas)
- Balance of interests, rights of Contractors: no APEI in contract area and in reserved areas. Administration of CHM. Resource development and environmental management.
- Contractors' activities and location of the network of nine APEIs where no mining will occur; main feature of the plan is APEI but also highlights one of the main flaws of the plan: data are needed to get a better knowledge of the regional env.
- Only data collected are those by Contractors in areas out of their contract areas
- Need for independent scientific research scientific in APEIs, with participation of ISA and developing country scientists, only then review possible/decisions for the future. In 2018, Council supported the expansion of the breadth and depth of strategic partnerships with relevant organizations and researchers
- Need for cooperation; in 2018 the Council encouraged further outreach and consultation with stakeholders, including contractors and research organizations, in order to collect and analyse environmental data; cumulative environmental impact assessment?

- Environmental management objectives derive from article 145 : prevention, reduction and control of pollution and other hazards; necessary and appropriate measures to protect and conserve the natural resources of the Area and to prevent damage to flora and fauna. Through Regulations, Contractors' own environmental management and monitoring plans; through REMPs.
- A policy matter: article 162 (ISA Council on recommendations of the LTC under article 165)
- Consistency of the REMP with the obligations, responsibilities, rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, that are imposed on sponsoring States, contractors and the Authority
- First, and to date only, REMP created by the Authority. Approved by the Council at its eighteenth session and implemented over an initial period of three years. The plan included the designation of a network of 9 APEIs. Subject to periodic external review by the Commission every two to five years. No mining in the APEIs as of to date.
- Guiding principles in ISBA/17/LTC/7.
- Three prominent features: APEIs, IRZ/PRZs, other environmental management measures, including completion of a cumulative impact assessment.
- On an ad hoc basis. Need for adaptation in the context of PS? The definition/elements/objectives? How to develop REMPs for PS on mid-ocean ridges.

A representative network of APEIs (200x200km; 1.6 million sq.km; 25%PA)

■ such



9 guidelines for the design

- Those guidelines were prepared at a follow-up in 2007 in order to finalize the recommendations that were presented to the LTC in 2008.
- Design and implementation to fit into the existing legal framework of the ISA
- Interests of stakeholders to be incorporated into the design process;
- Establishment ASAP so that sound ecosystem-based management principles be incorporated into mining strategies and into the positioning of future claim areas.
- Zone system designed with the following conservation goals: to preserve representative and unique marine habitats; to preserve and conserve marine biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function; to facilitate the management of mining to maintain sustainable intact and healthy ecosystems.
- Productivity driven gradients dividing the CCZ into three east-west and three north-south strata for conservation management
- Straight lines to facilitate recognition by stakeholders
- Core area at least 200 km in length and width in order to maintain minimum viable population sizes for species potentially restricted to a subregion of the CCZ
- Each zone to contain the full range of habitat types
- Buffer zone to ensure the core is not affected by mining plumes

II - Lessons from the review of the implementation of the CCZ-REMP

- The implementation of a comprehensive environmental management plan at the regional level is one of the measures appropriate and necessary to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area
- *Encourages* the conduct of marine scientific research in the 9 APEIs, in accordance with article 143 of the Convention, the full and effective dissemination of the results of such research through the Authority; also for the benefit of developing States and technologically less developed States, including through the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area of the Authority; this is key for a meaningful review.
- Scope of the review: review of APEIs; development of guidelines for IRZ/PRZ; other environmental management measures.
- In 2016, 4 years after the adoption of the CCZ-REMP, its implementation is limited (apart from the creation of the APEIs and 3 workshops on taxonomy).
- Review of 9 APEIs workshop of marine reserve/management specialists: the data and assumptions; determine the scientific validity of the approach; assess existing data; enable the LTC to make a clear recommendation to the Council.

- Further progress. In 2017 workshop in Berlin to develop IRZs/PRZs. Still need to develop guidelines. Designation of IRZs/PRZs by some contractors: Government of India; BGR; DORD; Government of the Republic of Korea; COMRA.
- In 2018: ISA and MIT for a research cruise in the CCZ; ISA to be a partner in the JPIO II European. Under the proposed budget for the financial period 2019-2020 specific work programme for REMP. ISA to collaborate in conducting an international research cruise to gather essential data from APEIs in the CCZ, with scientists from developing countries and representatives of UN-Oceans agencies. Each to nominate two or three trainees from developing States. Maersk Supply Services and DeepGreen for the research vessel.
- During the second half of 2018, a workshop to review the status of implementation of the REMP for the CCZ on the basis of newly available data. One workshop in 2020 to further review the implementation of the REMP for the CCZ.

II A - Number of APEIs where Contractors have collected data (ISBA/22/LTC/12 +updates)

- APEI No. 1: COMRA (2013).
- APEI No. 2: No data available.
- APEI No. 3: European Joint Programming Initiative for Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI-Oceans cruise) (2015); **GSR (2015, 2017); IFREMER (2017)**
- APEI No. 4: COMRA (2013).
- APEI No. 5: No data available.
- APEI No. 6: GSR (2015); European Union managing impacts of deep-sea resource exploitation project (MIDAS) (2015); UKSRL (2015).
- APEI No. 7: COMRA (2013).
- APEI No. 8: the Government of the Republic of Korea (in seven years between 1998 and 2013).
- APEI No. 9: No data available.
- Workshops on APEI (YTBI); on international collaboration to develop the APEIs (in 2018);

II B - Development of the database management strategy and other measures

- ISA to provide guidelines on the assessment and archiving of data and information on baseline studies. Database essential for efficient data management. Significant investments to compile data and identify gaps.
- Working group to facilitate the establishment of environmental databases using data from contractors and selected external sources; data standardization, including taxonomic intercalibration, across contractor datasets; YTBI
- Undertaking cumulative environmental impact assessments; YTBI.
- Assembling the environmental baseline data collected by contractors and their dissemination through publicly available data databases: October 2018.
- Publicly available environmental quality status report: YTBI. In the proposed budget: biannual reporting on the synthesis of environmental data for the public domain (ISBA/17/LTC/7, para. 52). Establishment of scientific curator committees to review incoming data and to ensure validity and accuracy of metadata (ISBA/17/LTC/7, para. 47).
- Development by Contractors of plans to ensure responsible environmental management to enhance the recovery of habitats and faunal communities: YTBI.
- Contractors to apply ISO 14001: reference to standards and guidelines (ISBA/17/LTC/7); Reference to standards and guidelines better in the Regulations and contracts not in REMPs?
- Designation of IRZs and PRZs.

II C– Summary and lessons drawn from the existing CCZ-EMP

- Guiding principles (ISBA/17/LTC/7), implementation methodology, design principles for APEIs; bearing in mind different nature of the distribution of resources and how environmental management objectives will be progressed. Elements in REMPs for each mineral resource.
- Design of REMPs relies on the cooperation of stakeholders as the availability of data is the driver of the development of REMPs, ISA, other IOs, contractors, independent researchers. Identify gaps in science and target research at appropriate scale.
- The plan was to be subject to periodic external review by the Commission every two to five years. Review in 2016 (ISBA/22/LTC/12) and next review in 2021. Is this period for the review satisfactory for future REMPs on ridges?
- Review of APEIs: evaluation of the data available; the scientific validity of the approach; the size, location and number of the APEIs. Is this valid for REMPs on ridges as well?
- So far no modification of the number, space between APEIs, location and size of APEIs, no data available from 3/9 APEIs;

- Relationship between REMP and the Draft Regulations on exploitation: 4 references: DR 2(5); Annex IV (preparation of an EIS in accordance with a relevant REMP, if any; similarly Annex VIII in connection a closure plan. Going forward and in practice REMPs should speak to individual EMMPs and vice versa.
- Proposed strategic plan for 2019-2023 (ISBA/24/A/4): strategic direction 3.2 for the Assembly to approve is the development, implementation and review of regional environmental assessments and management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration is taking place; endorsement in March by the Council of the need to develop a coherent strategy for REMPs (ISBA/24/C/8)
- Definition and elements of REMPs
- For future REMPs: guiding principles; type of network? size? Location and relationship with contract areas? Reserved areas? Relinquished areas?
- Article 143 of LOSC; IA: collaborative approach (identification of gaps); ridges with contracts and ridges with no contract with scientists from developing countries
- Context: development of a future binding implementing agreement

THANK YOU