

UN
environment



**United Nations Environment
World Conservation Monitoring Centre**

VISION FOR ENHANCING MARINE AND COASTAL DATA

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Recap of outcomes: priority features

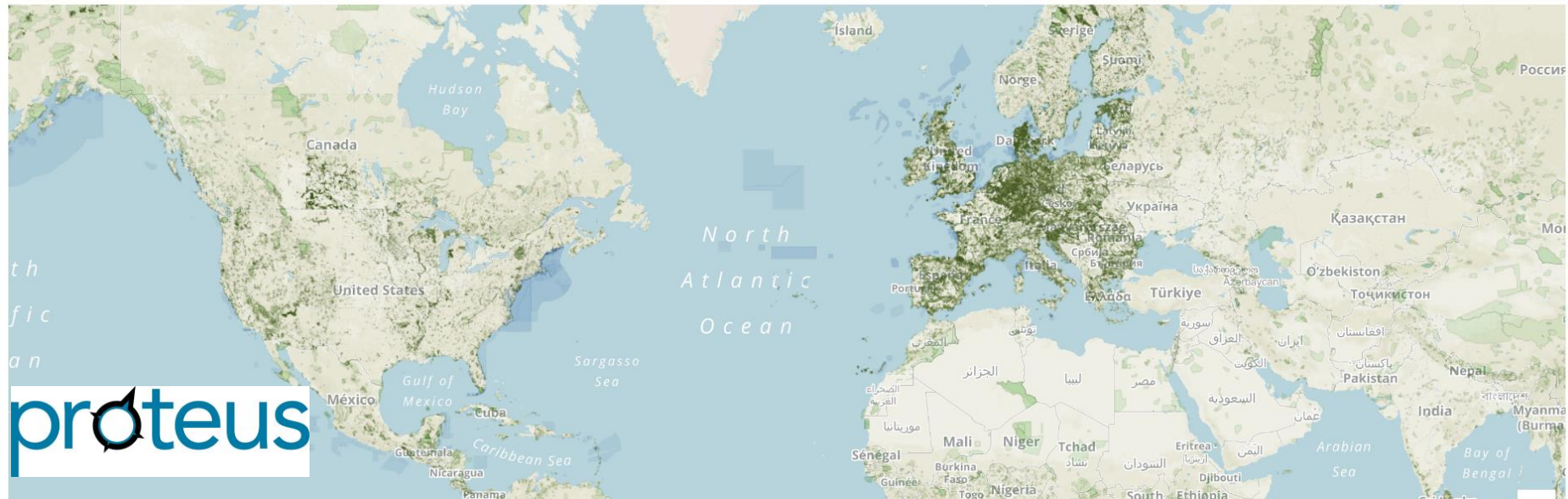
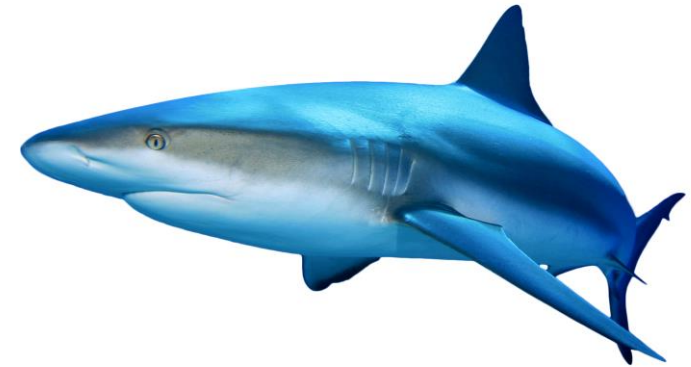
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Designated areas | Marine Critical Habitat | Coral reefs |
| Marine mammals | Mangroves | Saltmarsh |
| Sea turtle feeding + nesting sites | Seabirds | Fish (benthic) + fisheries |
| | Migratory routes | |
| Fishing grounds | Dive centre locations | Seagrass |
| Estuaries | Cold corals | Biodiversity indices |
| Shipping intensity | | |
| | Marine ecoregions + Pelagic provinces | |

Recap of outcomes: priority thematic areas

Data quality	Usability	Workflow
Temporal and spatial resolution, and age	Linking to national/local databases	Cross-sector data sharing (e.g. shipping)
Reliability and uncertainty communicated	Integration with IBAT	“Quick-look” (presentations + rapid assessment)
Need to address “true” and “false” absences (i.e. why wasn’t occurrence captured?)	Training helpful – high-level input for users.	Showcase opportunities/benefits of data sharing
Need scaling for reliability (e.g. intensity of information-gathering effort; high/medium/low confidence)	UNEP-WCMC GIS focal point (Kerstin)	Guidance/template for data sharing

Drawing from experience

While taking an innovative approach, we are not recreating the wheel...



Surveys of users' needs



Marine spatial planning

Education

Environmental impact assessment and screening

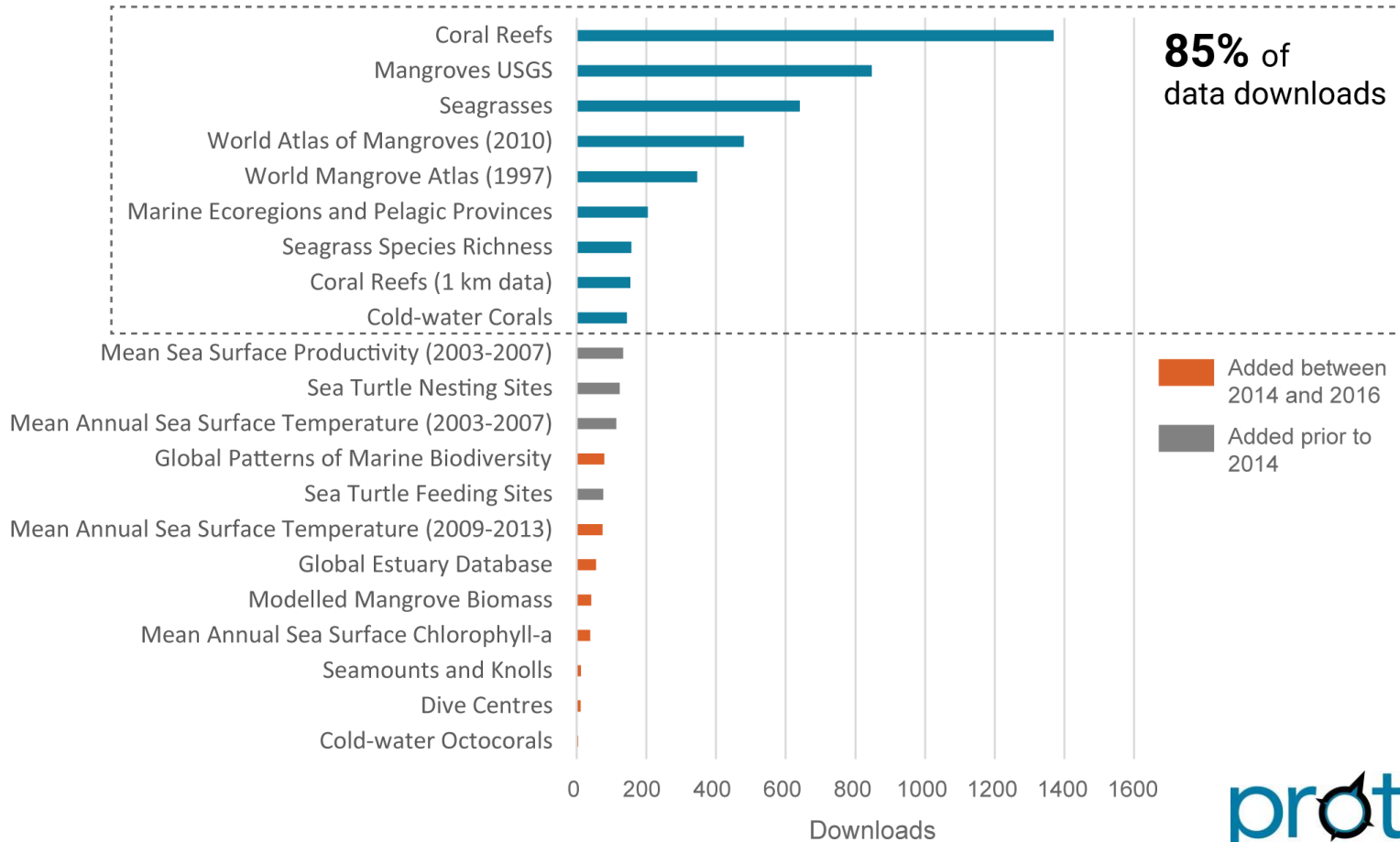
Ecosystem valuation and natural capital

Ecosystem health and assessment

Icons (NounProject): Ivan Colic, Gan Khoon Lay, Julie Reyes Villalta, Trevor Dsouza, Numero Uno

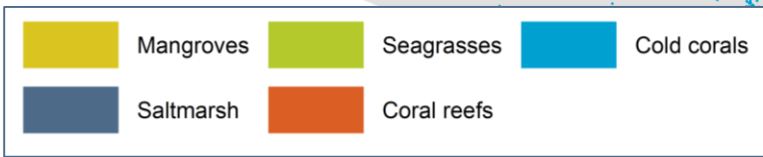
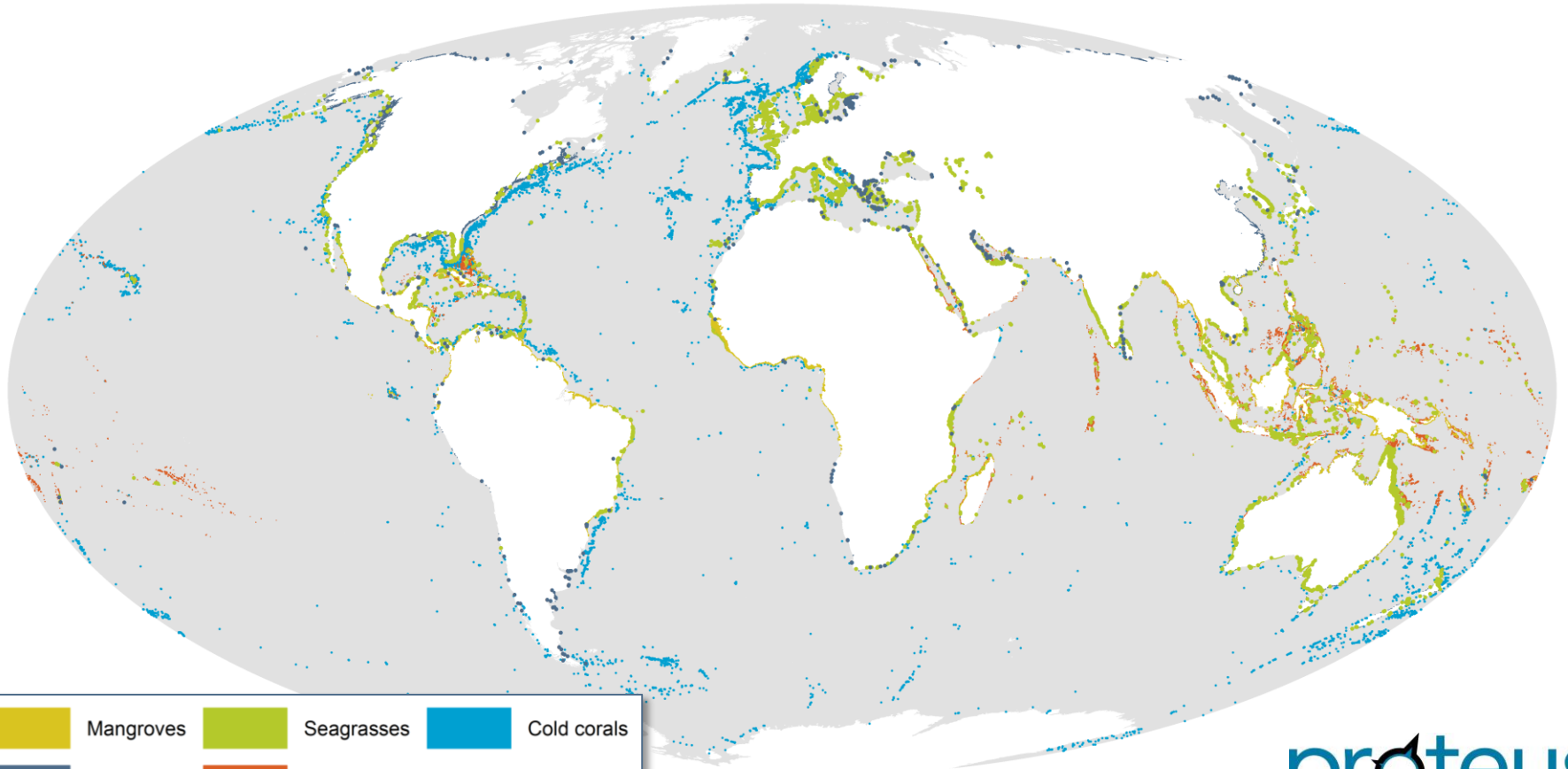


Targeted data?





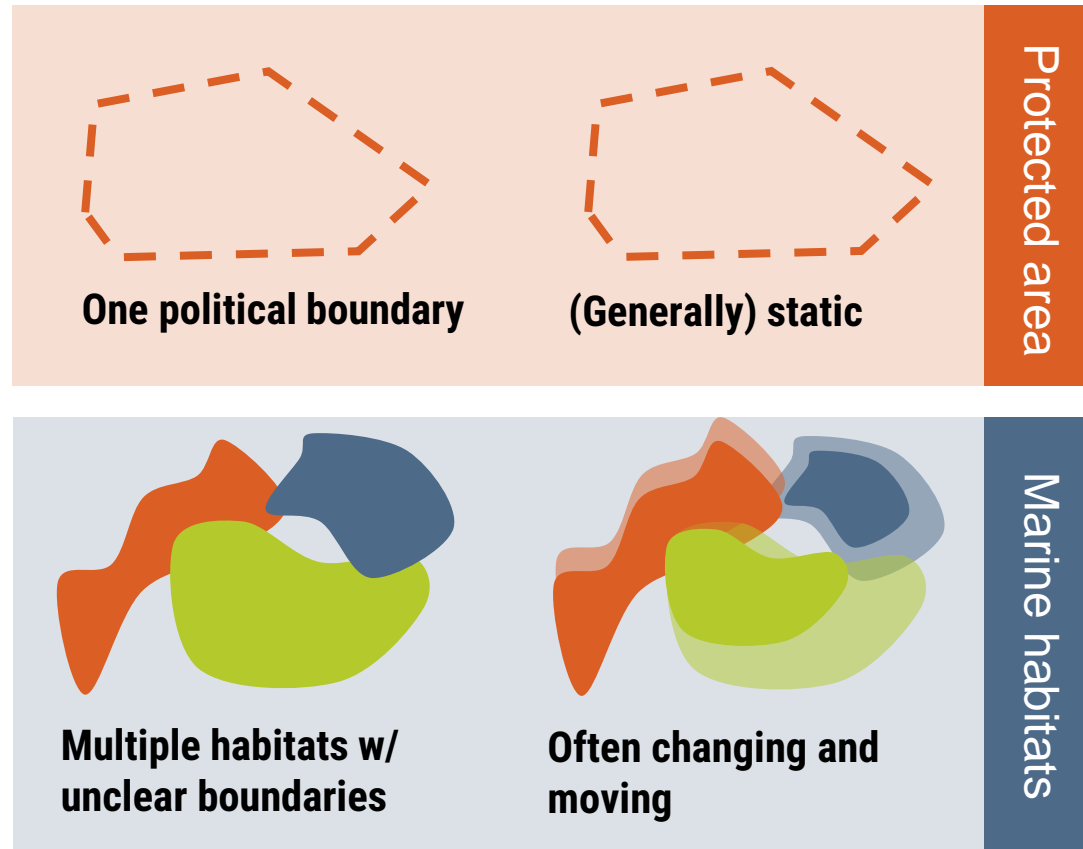
Marine and coastal habitat datasets *we curate*...





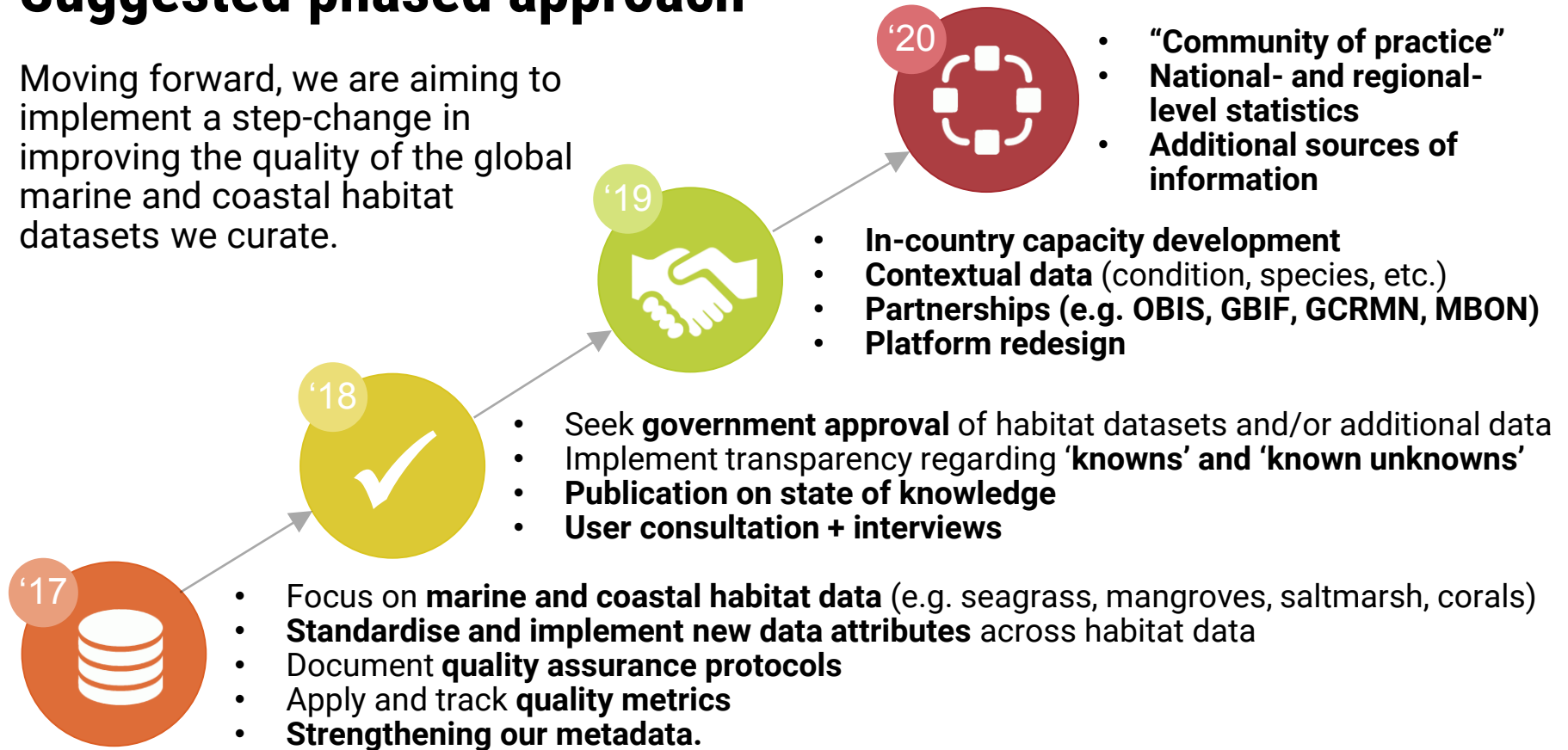
Protected areas vs. marine habitats?

However, there are some differences between tracking protected areas and tracking marine and coastal habitats...



Suggested phased approach

Moving forward, we are aiming to implement a step-change in improving the quality of the global marine and coastal habitat datasets we curate.



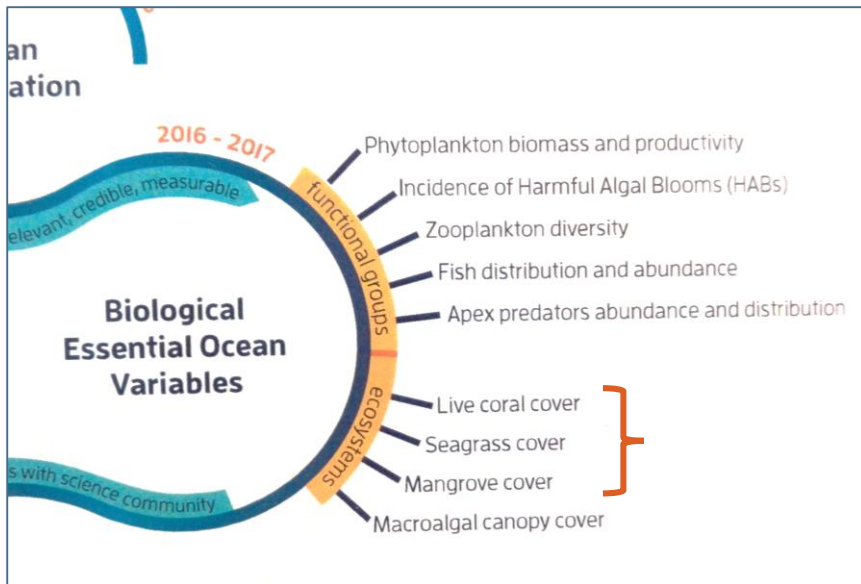
Credit (slide style): You Exec. Icons: icons8 (ICONSDB.COM)

Contextual information on habitats (species, condition)

Establish formal partnerships with global networks, such as GBIF, OBIS, GOOS, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, Protected Planet, and the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network.



Habitat	Observations
Seagrass	454,656
Mangroves	60,195
Corals	429,312
Saltmarsh	17,968



Habitat	Observations
Seagrass	20,523
Mangroves	1,432
Corals	80,448
Saltmarsh	359

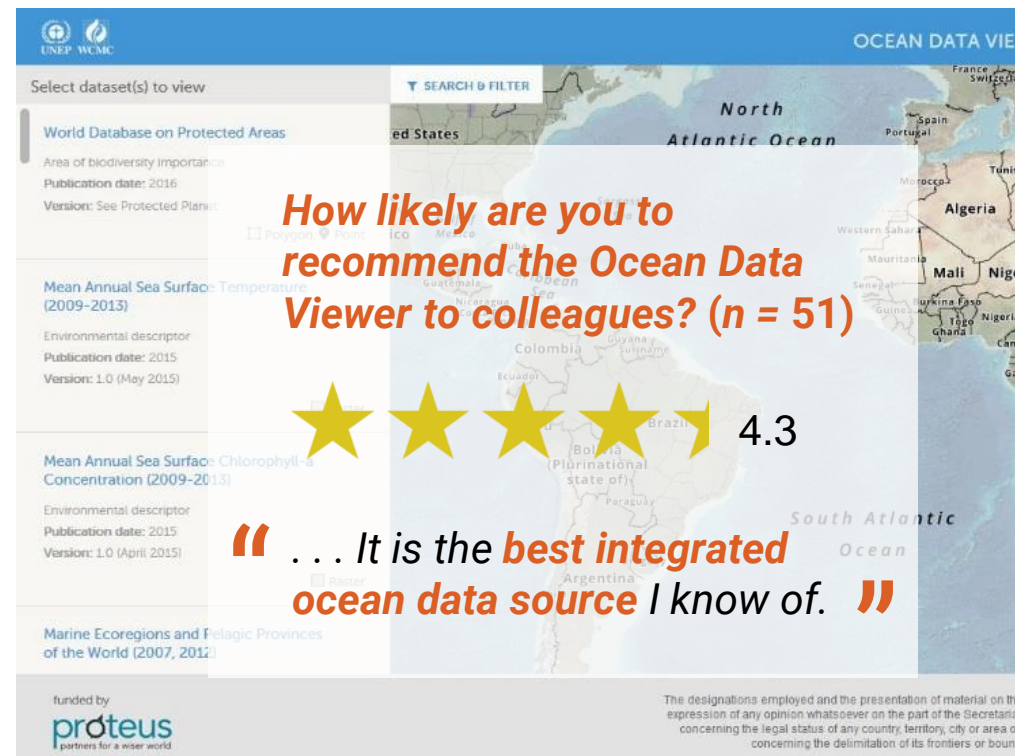
Thornton H, Weatherdon LV. (2017) Extracting coastal and marine habitat data from international open data infrastructures. *Internal document*. UNEP-WCMC.



What about the Ocean Data Viewer?

“To what extent would you find the following features useful/very useful?”
(n = 50)

- Interactive data visualisations (43);
- Information on overlap between protected areas and habitats (42);
- Download multiple datasets at once (41);
- Summary statistics (e.g. known extent of habitats) (41);
- National-level information on data availability (39);
- Downloadable PDFs/infographics with country-level information (38);
- Subscription to updates (34).



How likely are you to recommend the Ocean Data Viewer to colleagues? (n = 51)

★★★★★ 4.3

“ ... It is the **best integrated ocean data source** I know of. ”

UNEP WCMC OCEAN DATA VIEWER

Select dataset(s) to view SEARCH & FILTER

World Database on Protected Areas
Area of biodiversity importance
Publication date: 2016
Version: See Protected Planet

Mean Annual Sea Surface Temperature (2009-2013)
Environmental descriptor
Publication date: 2015
Version: 1.0 (May 2015)

Mean Annual Sea Surface Chlorophyll-a Concentration (2009-2013)
Environmental descriptor
Publication date: 2015
Version: 1.0 (April 2015)

Marine Ecoregions and Pelagic Provinces of the World (2007, 2012)

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The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Bottom line?

By the end of 2017, we will have:

- **Higher quality marine and coastal habitat data**, with
 - a. *Standardised attributes* across saltmarsh, mangrove, cold- and warm-water coral, and seagrass data;
 - b. *Implemented quality metrics* that will allow tracking of improved quality over time;
- **Detailed manuals for each**, similar to the WDPA manual.

By the end of 2018, we will have:

- **Identified national focal points** through a call for data via the CBD and other policy mechanisms; and
- **Greater transparency with regards data coverage** and available information;
- **Received governments' approval for some of our data**, and additional data to improve other regions.

Bottom line?

By the end of 2020, we will have:


- **Implemented a systematic approach to updating the marine and coastal habitat datasets we curate;**
- **Established formal partnerships** with global biodiversity monitoring networks and national focal points;
- **Integrated contextual information**—such as habitat condition, species, and alignment with protected areas—through these partnerships;
- **Redesigned the Ocean Data Viewer** to reflect changes in our approach, providing national- and regional-level information via an online “community of practice”; and thereby
- **Strengthened the quality, coverage, and governmental approval of our marine and coastal habitat datasets globally.**



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