

UNIVERSITY of
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Knowledge, power and the blue economy: breaking down barriers

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Session 7, Day 2





Key Message: Progressing an **innovative** blue economy is empowered by a **functional local** knowledge system



Photo: Kelly Hoare

Background

Efficient and sustainable resource use

- Efficient and sustainable energy
- Efficient and sustainable water use
- Sustainable land use
- Material use efficiency

Sustainable use of coastal and ocean space

- Access to basic services and resources
- Gender balance
- Social equity
- Social protection

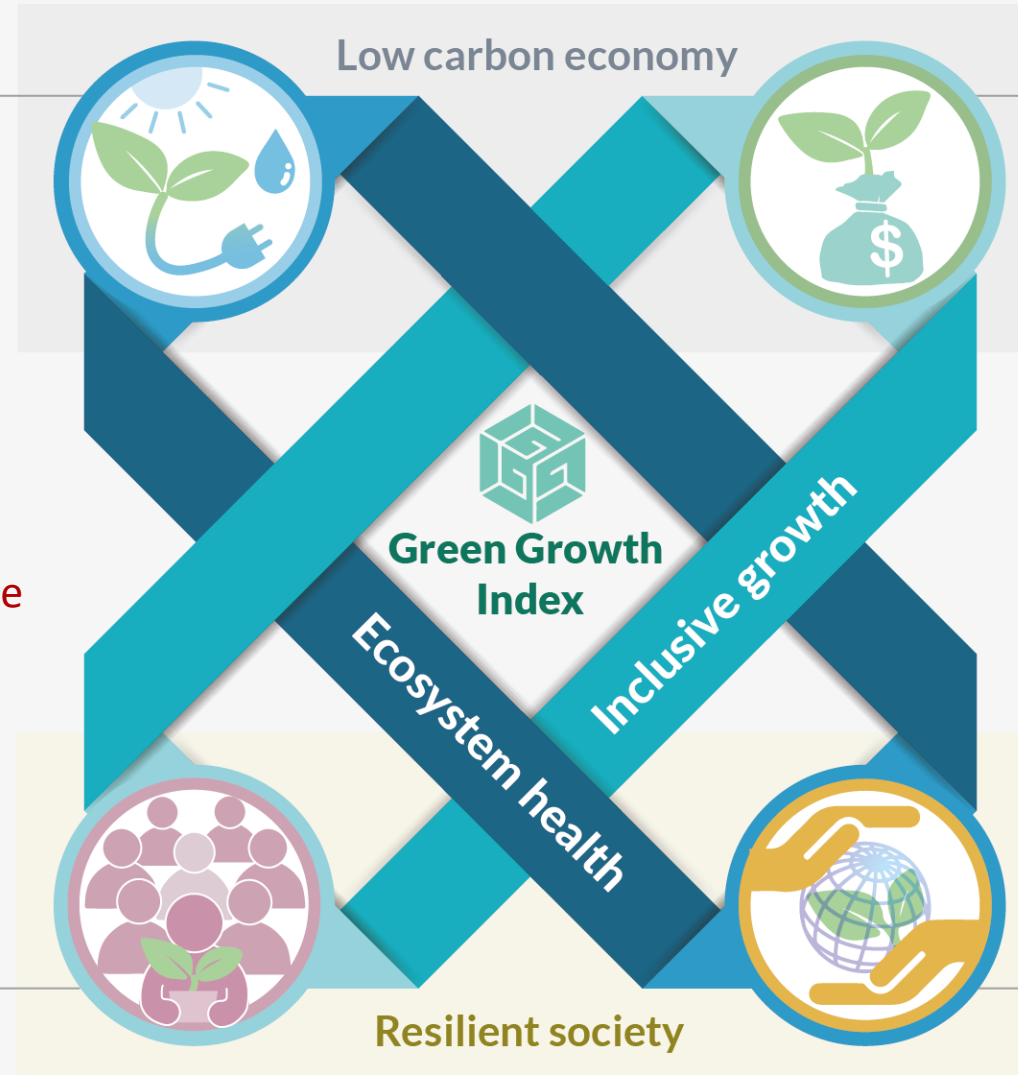
Social inclusion

Green economic opportunities

- Green investment
- Green trade
- Green employment
- Green innovation

- Environmental quality
- GHG emission reductions
- Biodiversity and ecosystem protection
- Cultural and social value

Natural capital protection



Credit: Global Green Growth Institute 2022, Acosta et al. 2020

Figure: Conceptual framework of the Green Growth Index (based on principles of sustainable development)

A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY:

Restores, protects and maintains the diversity, productivity, resilience, core functions, and intrinsic value of marine ecosystems — the natural capital upon which its prosperity depends.

Is based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows to secure economic and social stability over time, while keeping within the limits of one planet.

Provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations by contributing to food security, poverty eradication, livelihoods, income, employment, health, safety, equity, and political stability.



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Knowledge of the seen and unseen

Who influences development?

Who generates knowledge?

How is that knowledge shared and accessed?

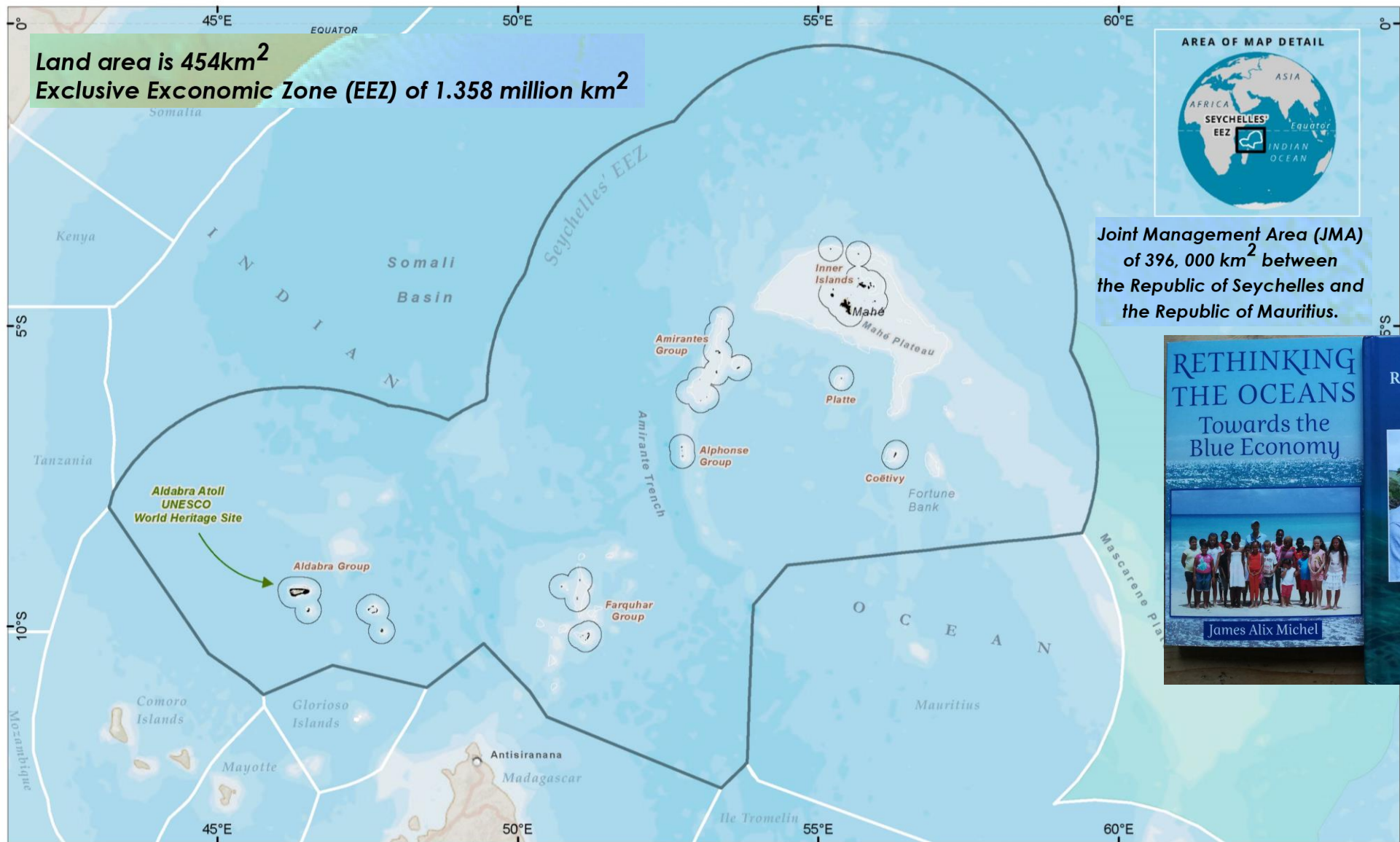




Research Approach

Photo: Kelly Hoareau

Seychelles



FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
 Prepared for: Seychelles MSP
 Prepared on: 16 Nov 2016
 Prepared by: Spatial Support Systems, LLC
 Scale: 1:9,100,000
 Map projection: Cylindrical Equal Area
 Datum: WGS84
 Data Sources: Seychelles Government, MEEC Geodatabase, The Nature Conservancy, ESRI

- Seychelles' Exclusive Economic Zone
- Other Exclusive Economic Zone
- Territorial Sea Boundary (12 nautical miles)
- 200m Depth Contour

Exclusive Economic Zone and Territorial Sea

Image credit: Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Initiative (adapted)

The Knowledge System

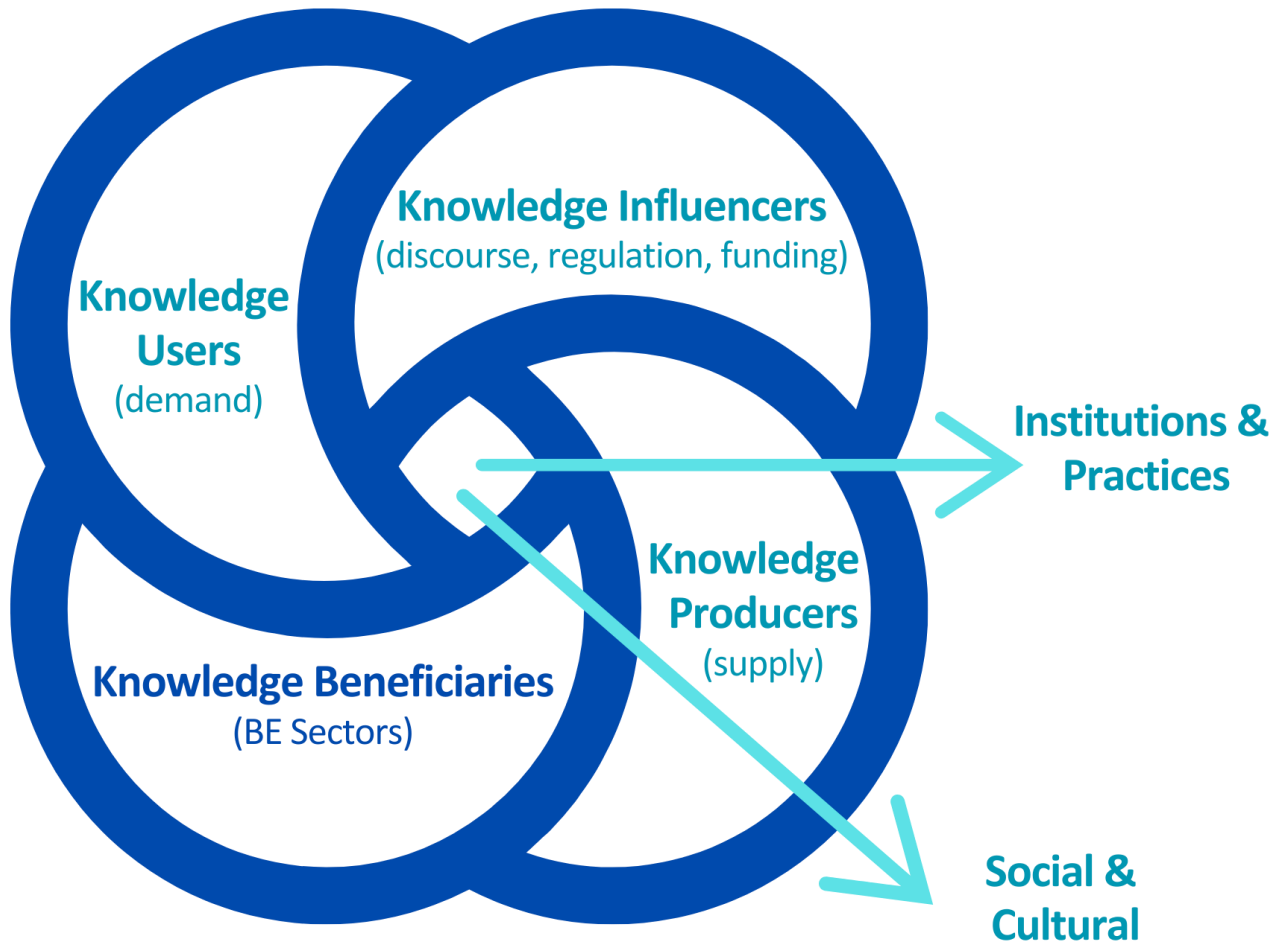
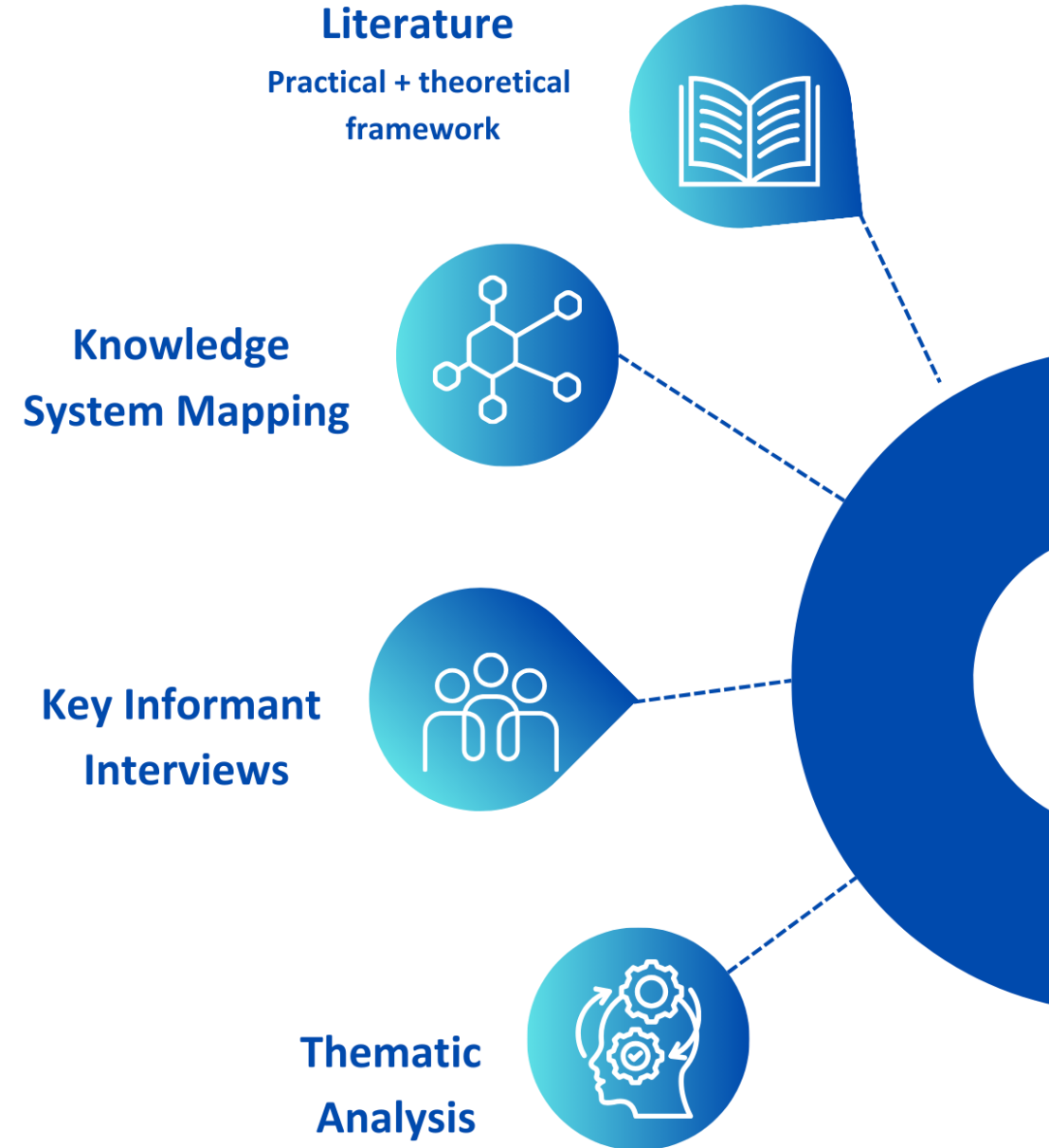
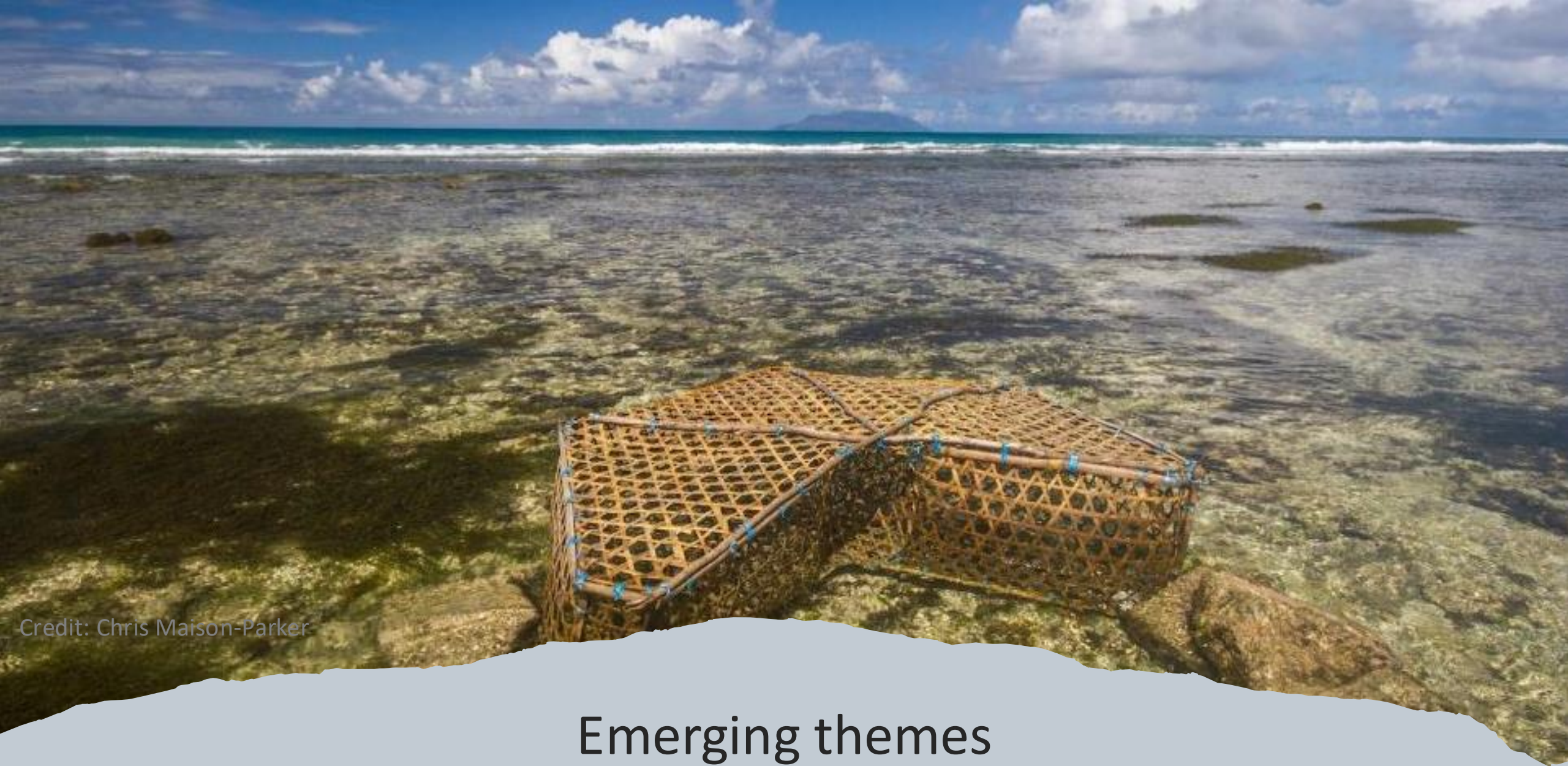


Image influenced by Hertz et al. 2020 and Oliver et al. 2021





Credit: Chris Maison-Parker

Emerging themes

1. Government

Played a leading role in design of BE, **weak knowledge system** has disempowered & **slowed innovative progress**

“
But we should think outside the box for blue economy much more than we're doing now
”

“
...we have too many policies, we need now to implement them... synergies... promote sustainable practices
”

“
If we want to actually expand on the blue economy concept and how we will go in the future, science based evidence is quite key for us to move ahead
”

2. Local Community

Concept of the BE remains vague, but **NGOs & ocean champions are progressing the BE**, no coordinated knowledge of innovation

“...there are some pretty wonderful things happening, business startups, NGOs ...”

“You can't develop a blue economy, with just the government. Everybody needs to be involved in it”

“Blue economy in Seychelles, sometimes I think it's already a big thing. But in a way it is still small, because the actors are not really showing it's happening”

3. Local BE Agenda

A functional local knowledge system can empower government to proactively drive innovative development of a local BE agenda that is **not driven by external priorities & pressure**

“ ... what happens when you leave, like, we need funding to analyse the data and to interpret it ”

“ ...funders have all said that the blue economy, people champions played a big role in them putting money in Seychelles ”

“ ...the direction of the blue economy then becomes driven very much by where people are willing to put their money ”

4. Financing and Entrepreneurship

An accessible and formal knowledge system can enable a **more certain economic future** for ocean entrepreneurs wanting to **take risks**

“ There are many more doors for research that would include investors, and entrepreneurs, and innovators ”

“ No, that’s not exactly the case, we’ve got a few species that are flourishing, but most of the others that you mentioned, do not exist here ”

“ ...our data revealed just how scared blue economy entrepreneurs were to actually take a risk and start a venture in the blue economy ”

Youth, culture and early career ocean professionals

Emerging Themes

“...on islands if we are troubled, we don't go see a therapist. We're gonna sit by the sea and the ocean speaks to us. And when you leave the problem is still there, but you feel better”

“You won't have a sustainable blue economy without the youth because they are the driving force of it ...youth is the driving force of everything”

“When I talk about technology I'm always very interested, and I'm always a bit like, skeptical because it has to be useful and low carbon ...”

“...they are not speaking to the generation of tomorrow. They are speaking to the generation of now. You cannot look at a young person in the eye and say I am speaking for future generations.”



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Thank you

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