

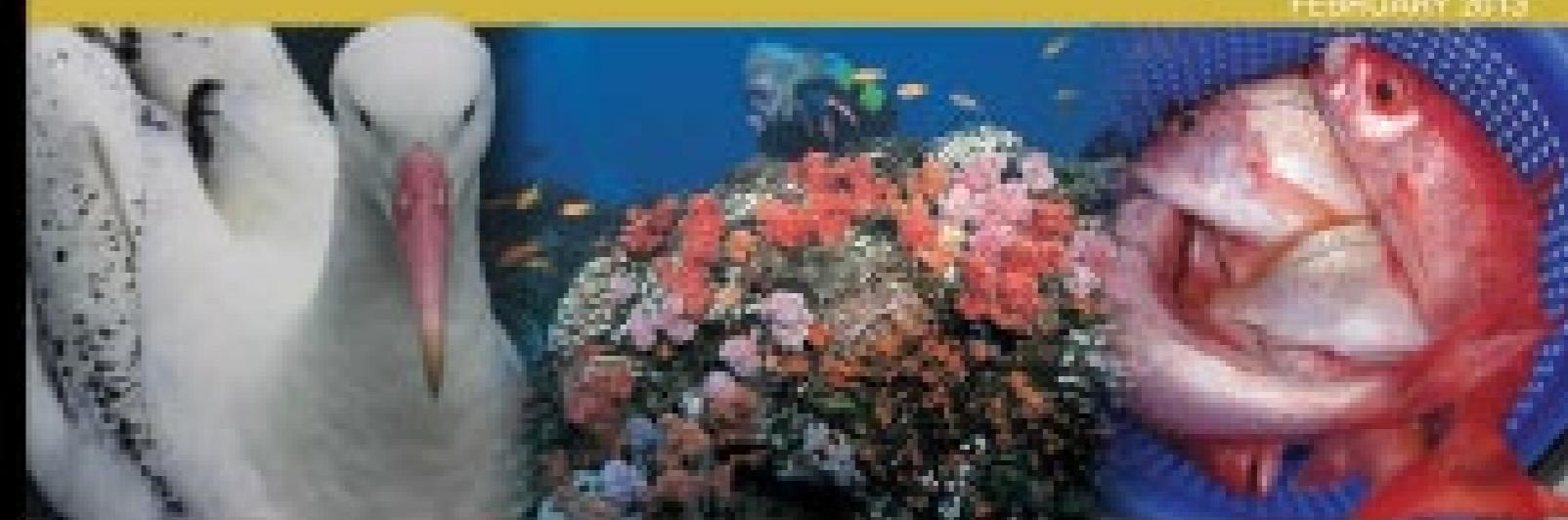
# Results

and ACHIEVEMENTS from the ASCLME Project

ASCLME



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## Towards a sustainable future

by David Mousley

The ASCLME Project and the GEF-GFP commenced at a time when there was still a lack of baseline of existing knowledge for the western Indian Ocean region. Results from scientific studies were not easily accessible after being published in technical reports and scattered in national fisheries, NGOs and project websites. Data and information from international studies were not routinely repatriated to host countries, leading to local loss, or at least reduced benefit of international investment in marine science in the region.

We are proud today that in the past five years, this scenario has changed considerably thanks to the efforts of a number of agencies. For example, initiatives such as INCOISAR have funded and promoted the development of marine science programmes, and projects such as IOC-MAPICA have supported the development of regional information networks and the repatriation of data. The ASCLME Project, and the GEF-GFP have encouraged these efforts and supported detailed studies by FAO information and capacity units. Moreover, as a result of GEF funding, with UNDP and World Bank support – and the partnerships with a host of regional and international agencies – detailed coastal and offshore observations have helped a wealth of information on the role of current patterns, ocean-atmosphere interactions, habitat and species distribution, and their impacts on the sustainable functioning of coastal communities. Importantly, the scientific body ownership of this data and its systems have been established in areas that it is accessible and useful to them.

Today, the countries of the WHO have a baseline from which to measure changes within the ecosystem and predict the likely impacts on marine resources.

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) described on page three is a comprehensive and innovative tool that prominently documents the status of the Large Marine Ecosystems of the western Indian Ocean and analyses the threats to their long-term sustainability. It was developed through a partnership between the ASCLME Project and the GEF-GFP, further also recognizing and valuing, as appropriate, inputs from the UNDP-WHO-Led Project as well as the FAO-UHOP Seamount Project and represents a major output of both projects.

Significantly, the TDA provides the technical basis for the development of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP), a process that is now well underway. We look forward to the forthcoming endorsement of the SAP by the countries of the region and to securing funding for SAP implementation.

In the following pages, we have highlighted some of the many activities funded and supported by the ASCLME Project since 2008. All of these activities have required time, energy and commitment from the countries of the western Indian Ocean and a wide range of partners and stakeholders who have collaborated with the Project to promote enhanced understanding and sustainable use of the abundant resources and treasures of the western Indian Oceans. Thank you all for your excellent work, and hope that the activities highlighted here will make you deservedly proud.

David Mousley  
Chairman, ASCLME Project

