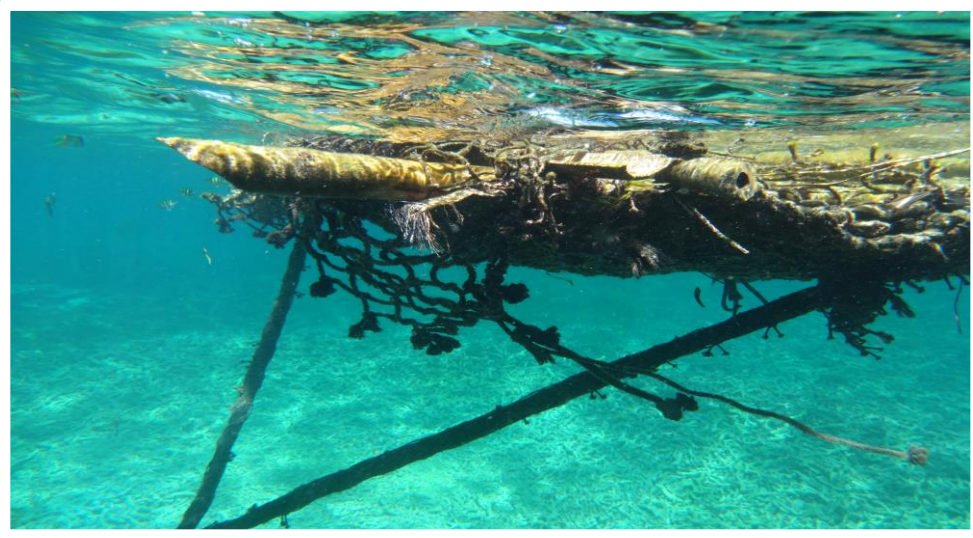




TURNING THE TIDE ON FAD BEACHING

2ND SESSION OF THE JOINT-RFMO FAD MEETING, SAN DIEGO, CA US, 8-10 MAY 2019



THE PROBLEM

- Most industrial tuna purse seine fisheries rely heavily on the use of Fish Aggregating Devices to catch tropical tunas (over 60% of the total catches of tropical tunas by purse seiners made on FADs)
- Most FADs consist of a floating structure plus an underwater structure which are commonly built using synthetic materials
- While most FADs are equipped with devices that allow their tracking some are appropriated by other parties, sink, or drift to areas that made them irretrievable to the vessels that set them and may end up beaching
- Recent estimates indicate that around 10% of the FADs that are set may end up beaching in coastal waters
- FAD beaching may have adverse impacts on marine habitats, e.g. through contribution to marine debris, increased bycatch mortality through entanglement in hanging nets, or damage to sensitive marine habitats such as coral reefs

CASE STUDY: THE SEYCHELLES FAD-WATCH PILOT: A) WHY ?

THE OBJECTIVE:

- Prevent FADs from the OPAGAC fleet from beaching in Seychelles

BACKGROUND

- Surveys carried out by the Island Conservation Society of Seychelles in several islands identify FAD beaching as an issue in the Seychelles, with results published at the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch in 2015



CASE STUDY: THE SEYCHELLES FAD-WATCH PILOT: B) WHO ?

PROJECT PARTNERS

- OPAGAC contacts ICS and other parties in Seychelles in order to explore ways to addressing the issue:
 - Island Development Company (IDC)
 - Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)
- OPAGAC and ICS sign an MOU

COLLABORATING AGENCIES

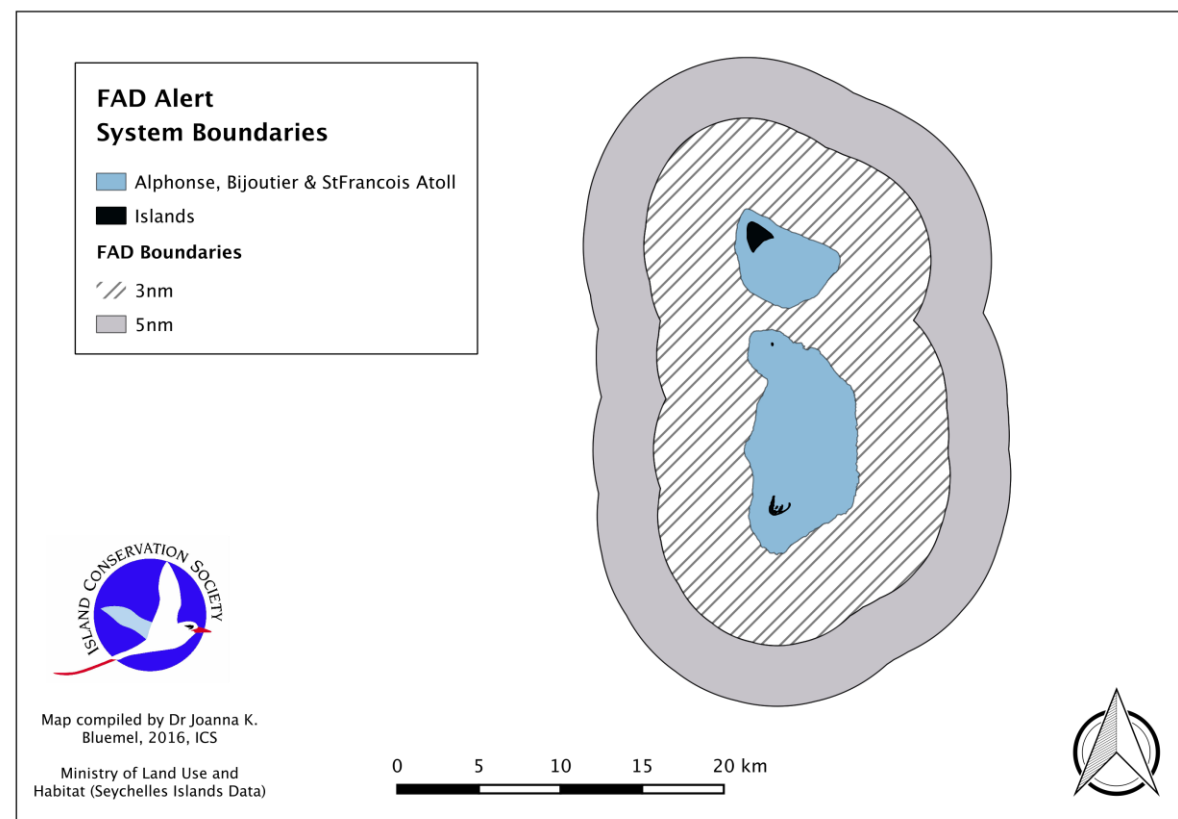
- AZTI
- World Wide Fund for Nature
- Buoy service providers: Satlink & Nautical



CASE STUDY: THE SEYCHELLES FAD-WATCH PILOT: C) HOW ?

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Selection of islands of operation of the FAD Watch
- 5NM and 3NM buffer areas established
- Satlink & Nautical facilitate geolocation of FADs at risk of beaching and setting up of alarm system
- ICS Monitors FAD whereabouts and coordinates the Project on the Field
- ICS Field office staff retrieves the FADs at risk of beaching



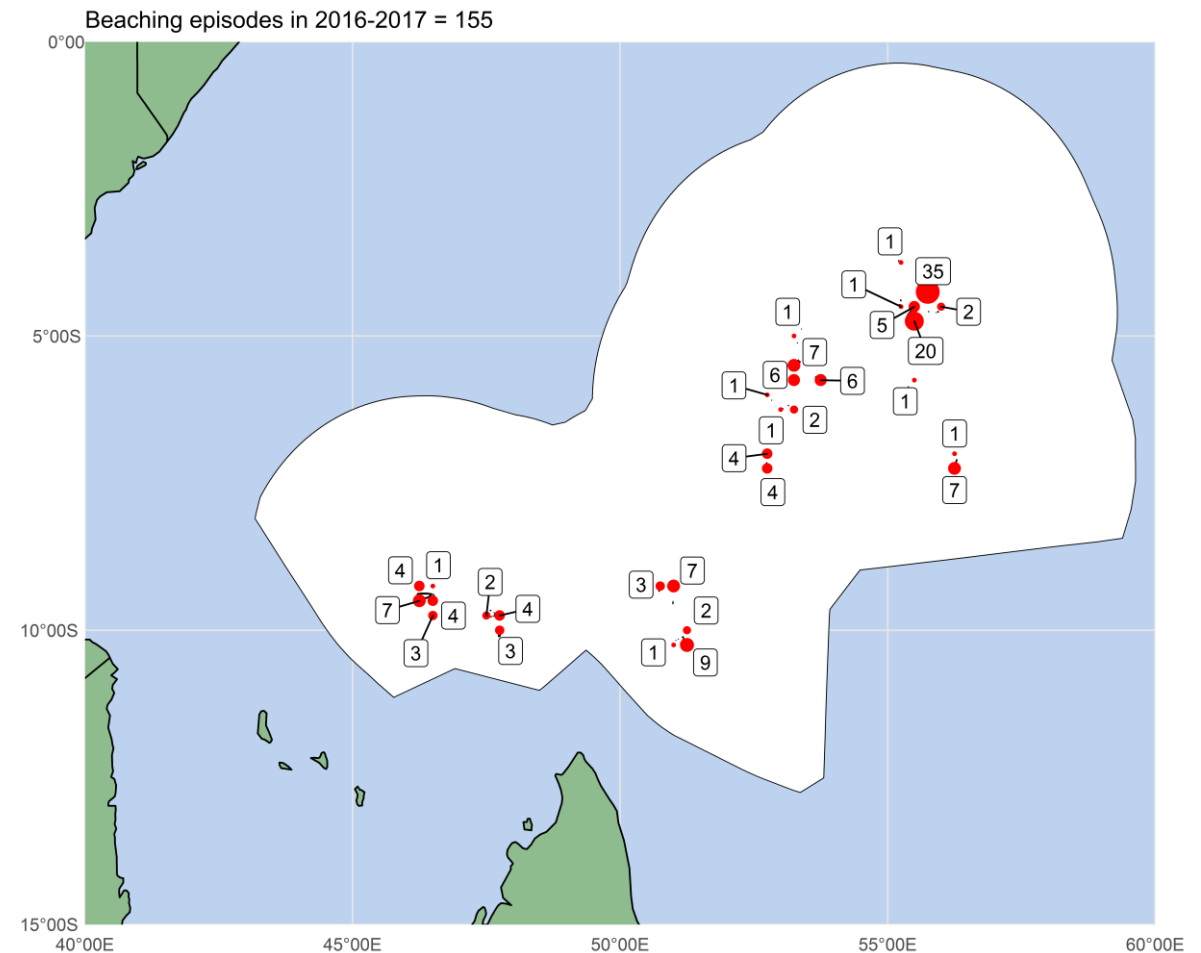
CASE STUDY: THE SEYCHELLES FAD-WATCH PILOT: D) RESULTS

RESULTS:

- Implementation was successful although it required addressing some issues
- Lower number of FAD beaching events than expected

THE FUTURE:

- All EU, Seychelles and Mauritius flagged vessels have joined OPAGAC into the Pilot
- Options to extend the Pilot in Seychelles are under consideration
- BIOFAD Pilots in the three oceans may assist in reducing/eliminating impacts



A ROADMAP TO FAD-WACTH INITIATIVES

SCOPING

Request from Coastal Country
Risk Analysis



PRIORITIZATION

Coastal Ecosystems & Biodiversity
Interactions with other coastal activities



PROJECT DESIGN

Design of the Project



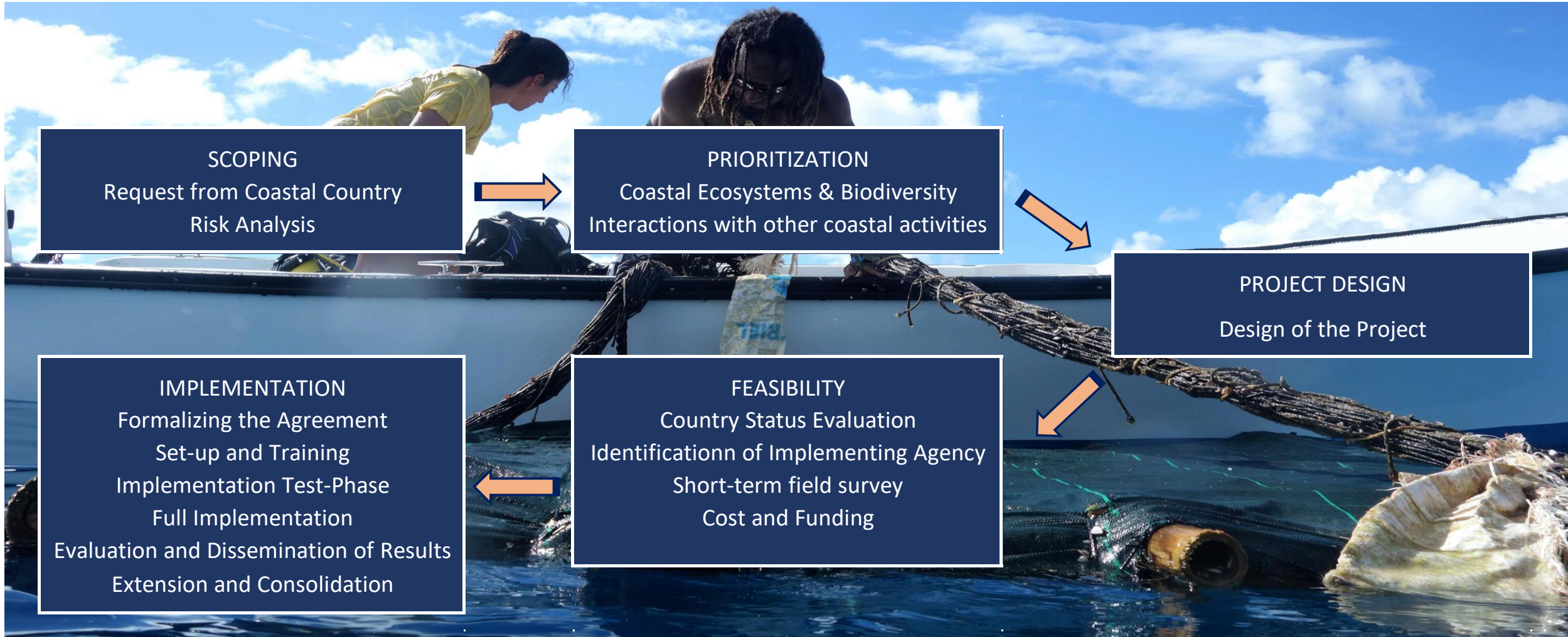
FEASIBILITY

Country Status Evaluation
Identification of Implementing Agency
Short-term field survey
Cost and Funding



IMPLEMENTATION

Formalizing the Agreement
Set-up and Training
Implementation Test-Phase
Full Implementation
Evaluation and Dissemination of Results
Extension and Consolidation



LESSONS LEARNED

- Each country is different
- FAD-Watch has to be tailored to each case
- Risk analysis should be carried out using as much data as possible
- Recovery of lost FADs may be expensive
- The best solution to FAD beaching and reduction of marine debris is probably moving towards non-entangling biodegradable FADs
- The BIOFAD pilots currently ongoing are key to assist in resolving this issue



THANKS FOR
YOUR
ATTENTION

