

The modern relevance of Fridtjof
Nansen's values and ideals:

Past, Present and Future Role of
the “Nansen Programme” in
Fisheries and Development

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Outline

- ▶ Fridtjof Nansen's achievements as inspiration for international development and cooperation
- ▶ The Nansen Programme Concept
- ▶ Evolution of the Nansen Programme
- ▶ Main achievements and contribution to fisheries management in developing countries
- ▶ Looking ahead

Fridtjof Nansen inspires international development and cooperation

- ▶ Love and respect for nature
- ▶ Respect for people living in harmony with nature
- ▶ Enduring and forward looking
- ▶ Companionable
- ▶ Humanitarian, concerned about the well-being of the weak
- ▶ Voice of the voiceless
- ▶ Undertook simple but bold ventures



“TO RETREAT” WAS NEVER AN OPTION
(*Fram*)

“Fridtjof Nansen inspires support for fisheries in developing countries”

- ▶ Appropriately, a Norwegian fisheries programme to support the developing world was associated with Fridtjof Nansen’s ideals –
 - ▶ Supporting the poor and disadvantaged
 - ▶ Science for development
 - ▶ Innovative and adventurous
 - ▶ Promoting international cooperation
 - ▶ Responding to a call for help

”The Dr Fridtjof Nansen Survey Programme”

▶ Proposed in 1963

- To support newly independent States to develop their fisheries
 - Insufficient information is impediment to development of fisheries
 - Systematic marine research was necessary to assess the magnitude of the resources
- A research vessel at the disposal of developing nations (with Norwegian crew and core scientific team and advised by FAO)
 - Decoupled from Norwegian fishery interests, flying the UN-flag as sign of neutrality

R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen Sets Sail to the Arabian Sea (1974)

- In 1975 –the fisheries resources and environment surveys started
- Exploration of fisheries resources for development, and assessments



R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen (1)
ready to sail out of Bergen, 1974

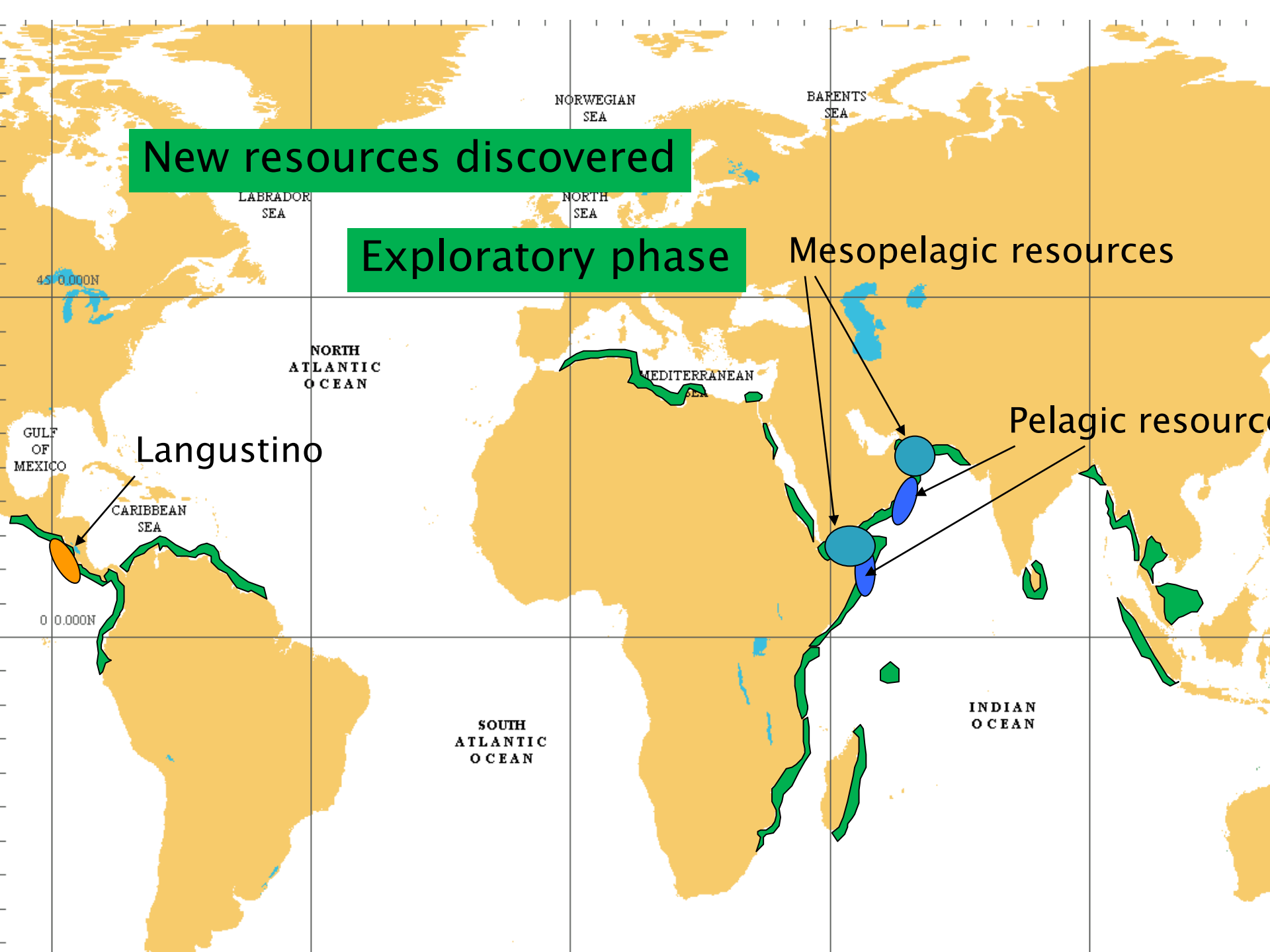
New resources discovered

Exploratory phase

Mesopelagic resources

Pelagic resources

Langustino



1975 – 1993

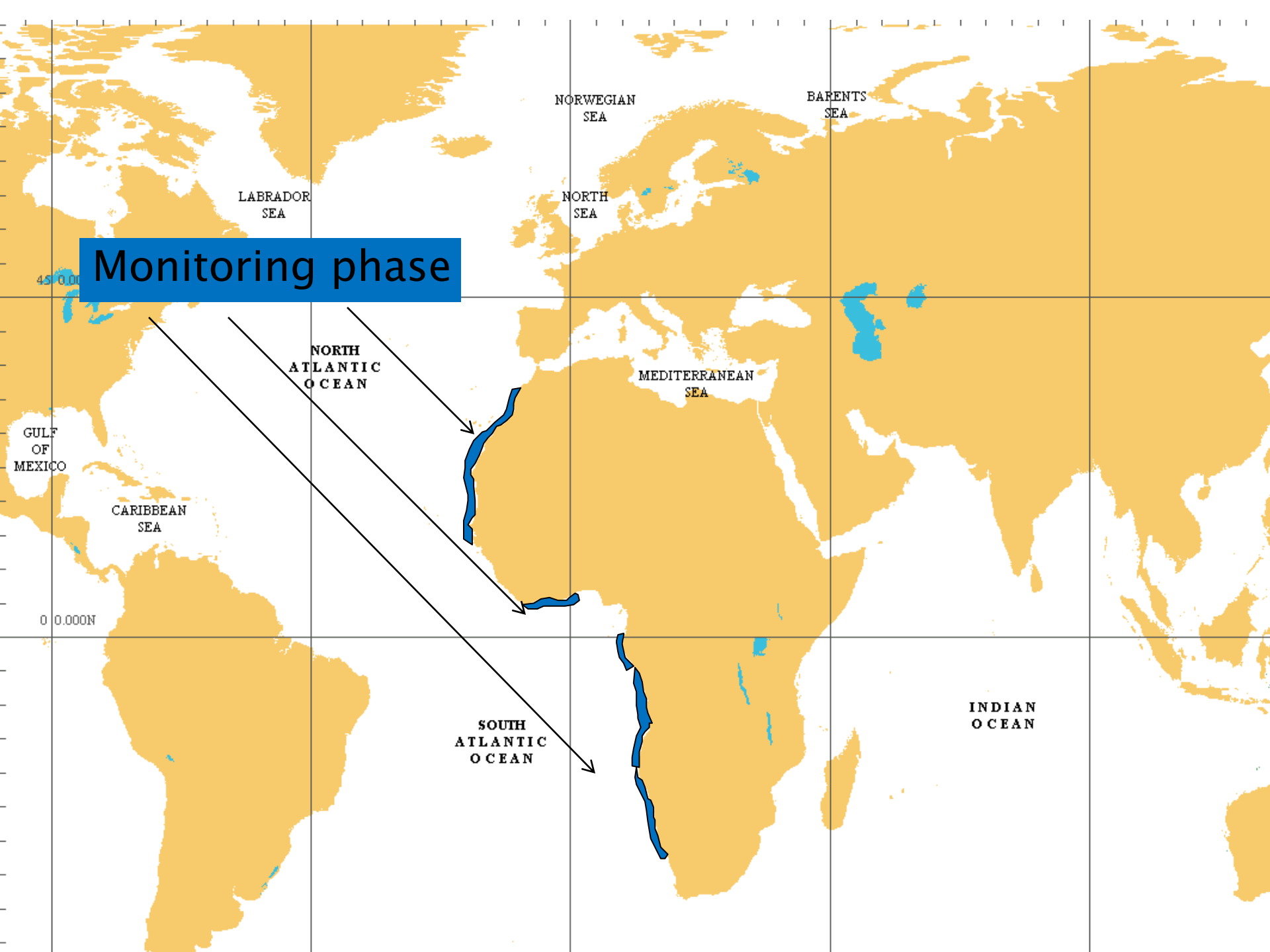
- ▶ 162 cruises
- ▶ 155 Survey reports
- ▶ Nearly 350 local scientists and technicians involved



Achievements in Exploratory Phase

- New resources found
- Providing such knowledge and information was novel
- Advice on fisheries development (investment in resource-poor areas)

Monitoring phase



LABRADOR SEA

NORWEGIAN SEA

BARENTS SEA

NORTH SEA

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

GULF OF MEXICO

CARIBBEAN SEA

SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

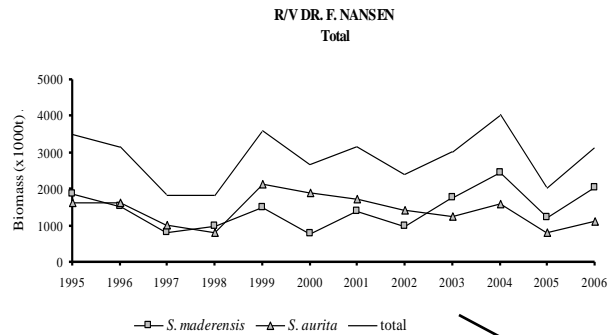
INDIAN OCEAN

45° 0.00'

0° 0.000'

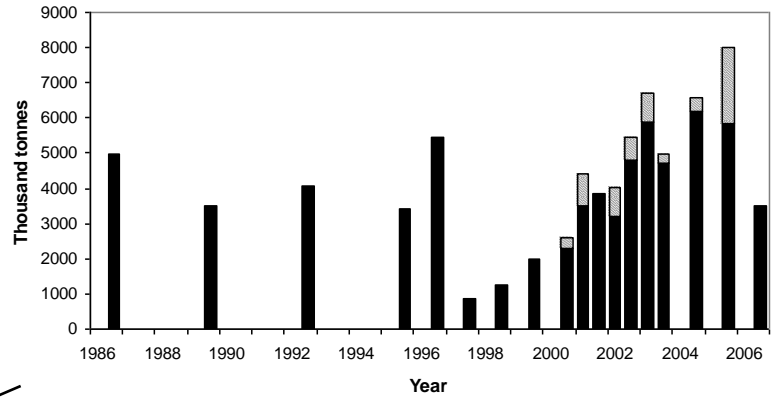
Monitoring fish stocks

Sardinella 1981-2006

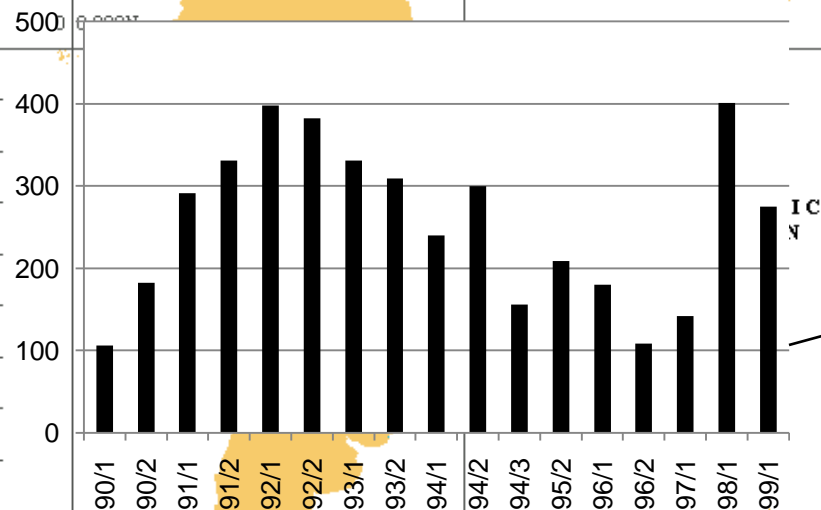


Sardine 1983-2006

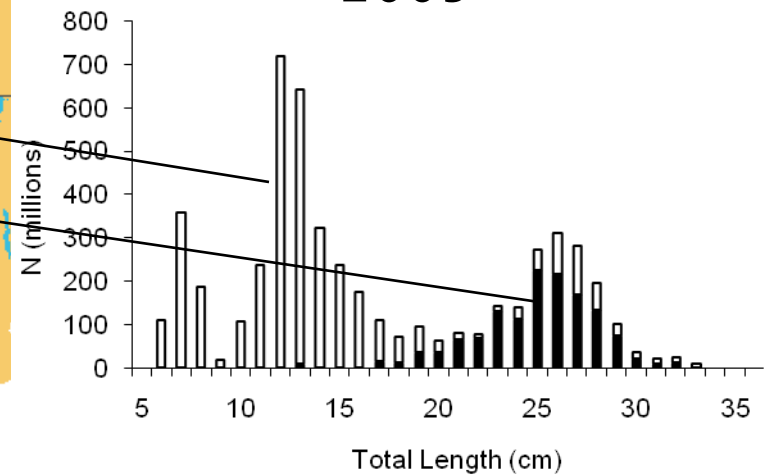
Cape Juby - Cape Blanc



Hake 1990-99



Shared sardinella Angola-Gabon 2005



Expanding from Monitoring to Institutional Capacity Building

Outcome of 1991 Evaluation:

- The survey data were used in preparation/revision of fisheries development plans
- The quality of the scientific work and reporting was high.
- The evaluation, however, noted a shortcoming to the programme: an insufficiency in the follow-up work.

Recommendation:

- Place emphasis on institutional support and management
- Include environmental issues of relevance to fisheries and
- Concentrate effort in fewer countries

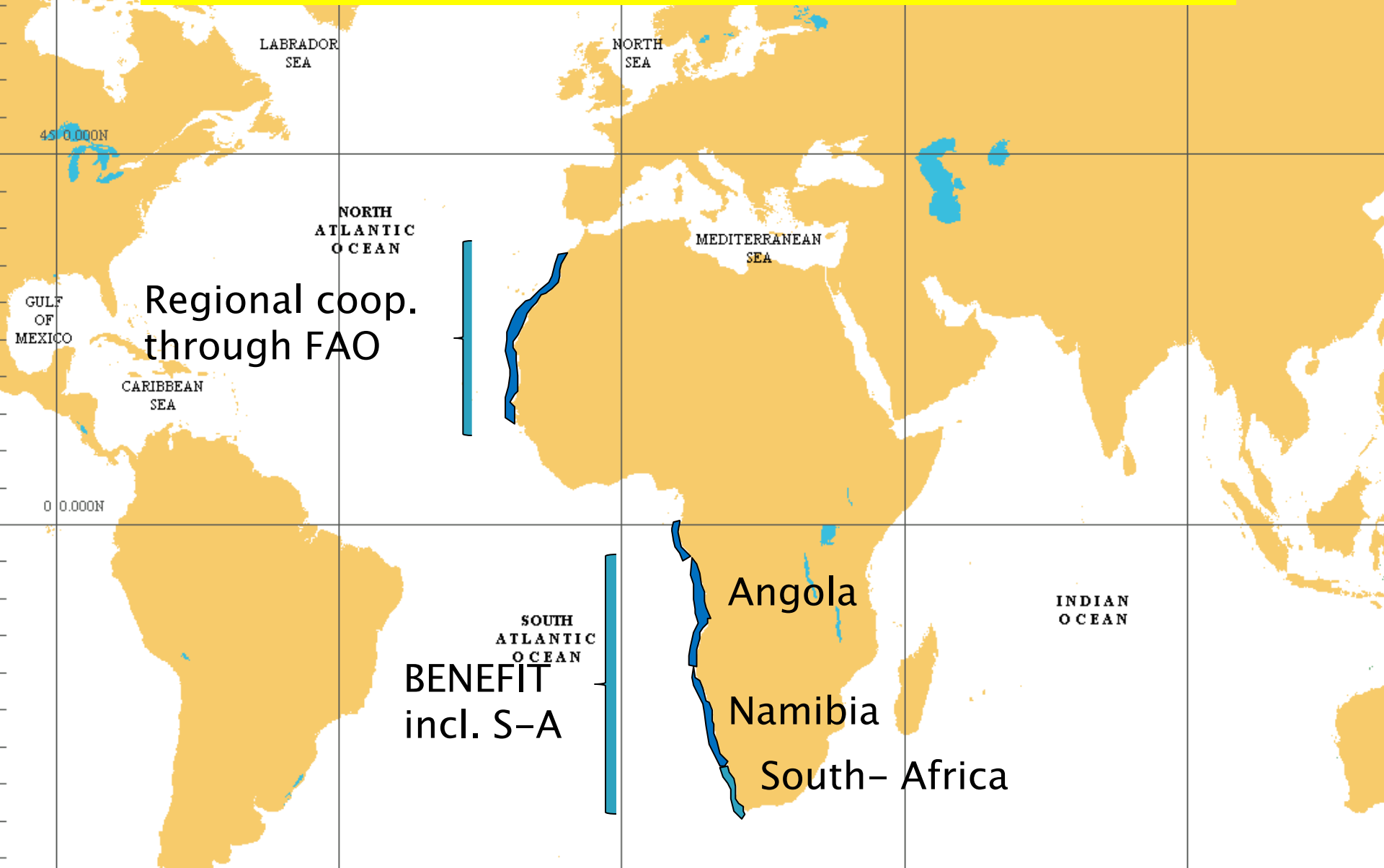
A new phase was launched with two extended aims:

- To strengthen capacity in fisheries management
- To improve information base for monitoring the marine environment
 - Emphasis on Regional cooperation
- A new vessel

R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen (2)



Institution building phase 1994–2006



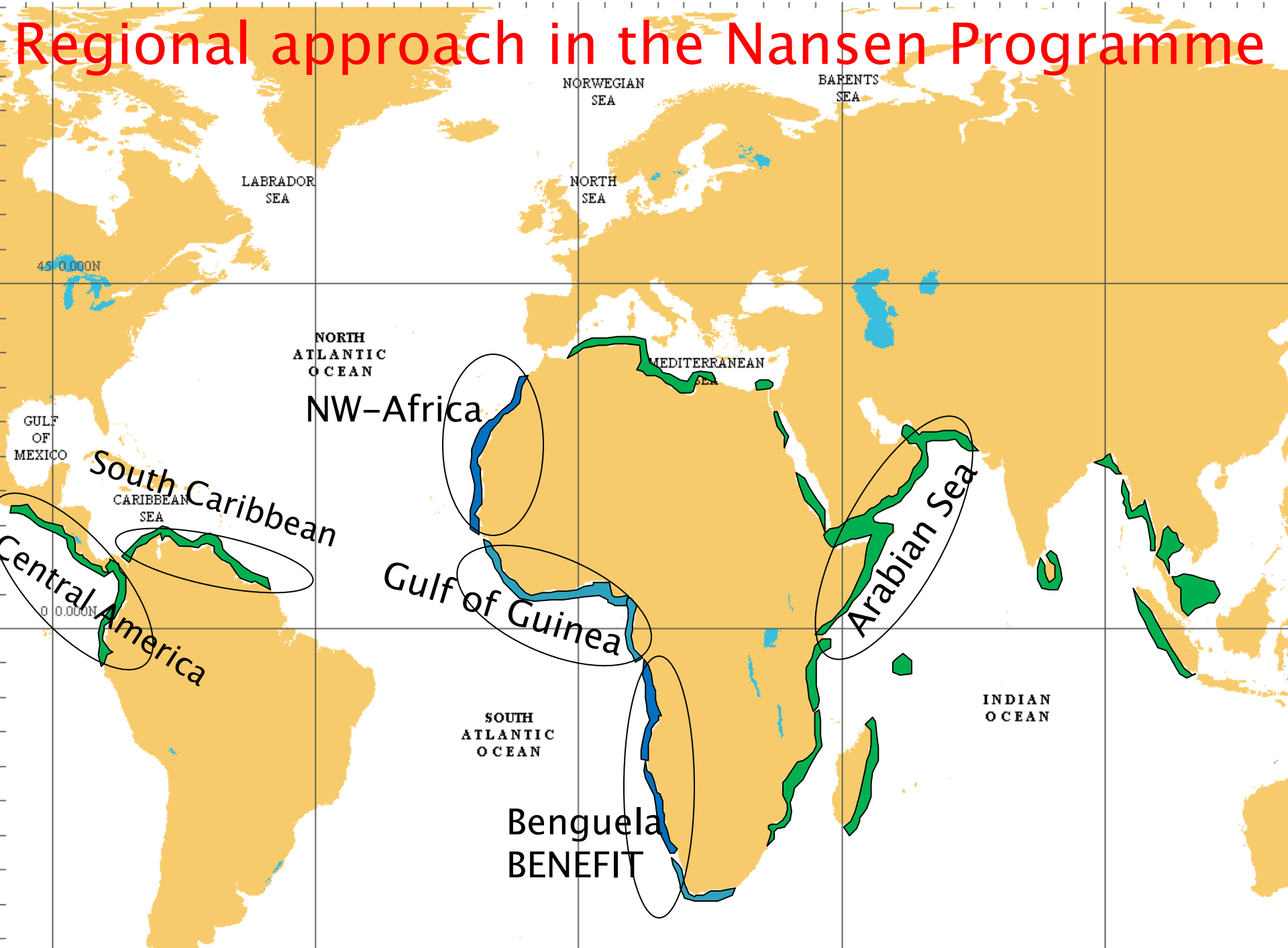
Namibia, a success story

- ▶ Substantial Norwegian assistance to Namibia after independence (fisheries research and management, MCS, and education of scientists and sea-going officers)
- ▶ *R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen* was the main research vessel
- ▶ Placement of scientist and technical advisors working at the local research institute over a period of time

Today Namibia has well-established monitoring programmes for fish stocks and environment



Regional approach in the Nansen Programme



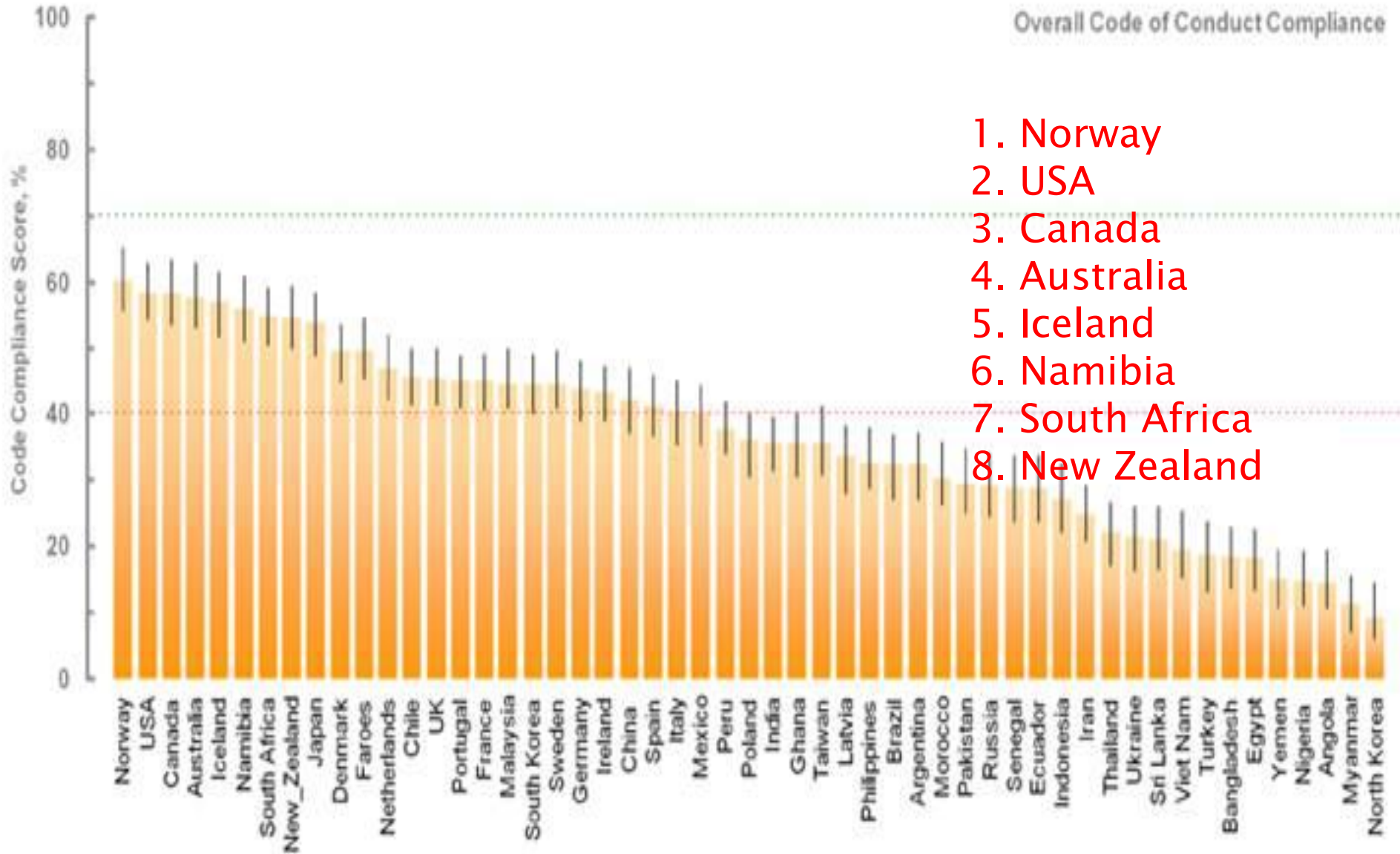


Benguela Environment and Fisheries Training Research Programme– BENEFIT (1997–2007)

- ▶ A regional science programme on the resources, the environment and linkages
- ▶ 3 years (1994–96) of surveys and workshops to prepare the grounds
- ▶ The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem project
- ▶ Benguela Commission



Position of South Africa and Namibia due in part to the contribution made by the Nansen Programme



Dr. Fridtjof Nansen surveys 1975-2007

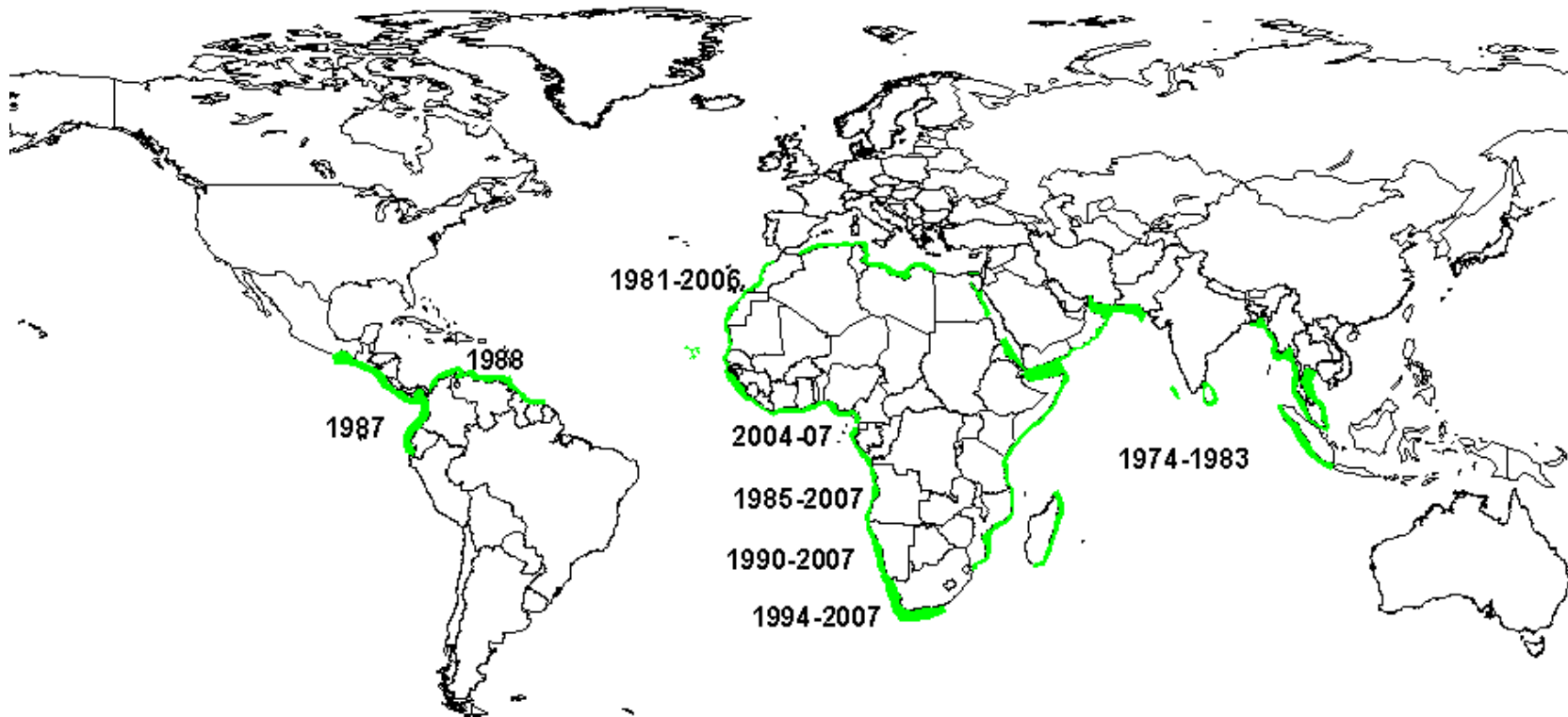




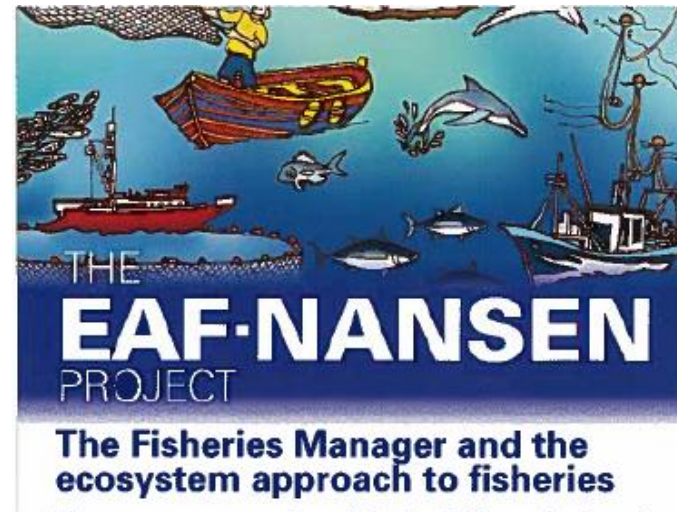
Photo: Oddgeir Alvhelm

Hands-on training gives scientists and technicians experience with marine field-work and research methodologies.

Award to Norwegian development assistance in fisheries

The world looks at Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management (2003)

- ▶ FAO's work in the development of the framework for EAF
- ▶ Nansen Programme's >25 years of operation in developing countries
- ▶ The combined experience considered to provide a strong foundation for a new phase of the Nansen Programme to deal with the new management challenge



Present: The EAF–Nansen Project

Assisting developing countries to adopt and implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management

- To help staff of the fisheries institutions (research and management) in the participating countries obtain additional knowledge on their ecosystems and on EAF principles for planning and management

Initial focus on AFRICA

- ▶ EAF–Nansen project is engaging with 32 countries in Africa; population of nearly 600 million
- ▶ 75% of the people live on less than US\$2.00 per day
- ▶ In Ghana, 8–10% of population derives livelihood from marine fishing and related activities
- ▶ In Mozambique, 1 out of every 400 people residing in the coastal zone is engaged in marine fishing.
- ▶ Considering average dependency ratio of 7–10:1, consequences of stock collapse are far reaching



Project components:

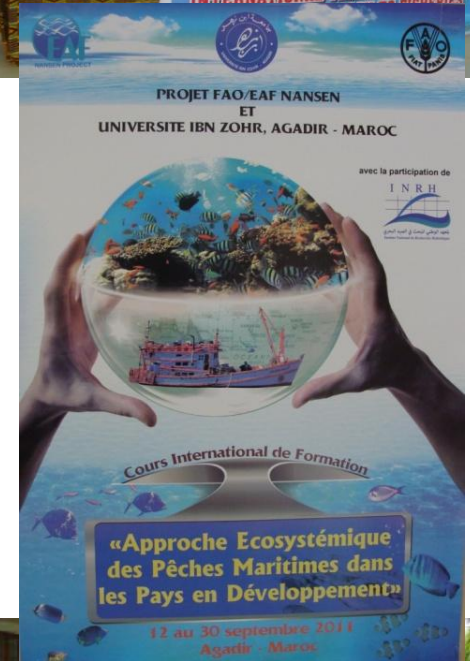
- ▶ Support policy formulation at national and regional levels
- ▶ Support fisheries managers to take EAF considerations into account in management
- ▶ Ecosystem assessments and monitoring
- ▶ Capacity Building
- ▶ Support to regional research vessels
- ▶ Dissemination of lessons learnt

Some achievements

- Capacity building for EAF management, surveys, assessment Working Groups, etc
- Preparing fisheries management plans with National Task Groups
- Institutional aspects of EAF
- Helping to set EAF implementation baselines
- Support to and partnering with GEF and World Bank–funded LME and Regional Fisheries projects
- Stock Assessment Courses
- Survey Data Analysis/Nansis Workshops

Mainstreaming EAF training in University education

- ▶ FAO/University of Ghana EAF Course, Ghana, 2010 (30 participants from 19 countries)
- ▶ FAO/Rhodes University/SWIOFP EAF Course, South Africa, 2011 (17 participants from 8 countries)
- ▶ FAO/Université Ibn Zohr course, Morocco, 2011 (36 participants from 17 countries)



Achievements acknowledged by our Partners

- ▶ The Nansen Programme has contributed significantly to institutional strengthening through:
 - training and capacity building of hundreds of researchers and technicians that are currently playing major roles in science and in the management of African fisheries (MScs, PhDs).
 - knowledge has been transferred to Africa in areas such as trawl and acoustic survey design and biomass estimation, fish taxonomy, hydrography, survey report writing,
 - Preparation of fishery management plans including setting broad objectives for management

- ▶ The R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen has become a symbol for the sustainable development of fisheries:
 - It provides reliable survey platform
 - Database is the main source of fisheries-independent data to inform fisheries management in many African coastal states
 - It promotes both North-South and South-South cooperation in marine scientific research
 - Provided opportunity for scientists and technicians in the developing world to work together, both at sea and on land



Training in EAF and EAF management planning through NTGs and RTGs

► In-Country projects

- 14 countries in 5 clusters implementing 7 projects supported technically and financially by the EAF–Nansen project
- 5 of the projects directly address livelihoods of fishery communities (of which 3 are on small scale fisheries; 2 impact on small scale fisheries; 2 look at institutions and monitoring of EAF implementation)



Important accomplishments

- Assessments
 - Survey results of 1970s and 80s still cited for management decisions
- Nansis database – systematic recording, archiving, retrieval for analysis by scientists – is still "industry standard"
- Capacity building for science and management

Climate Change and the Future Nansen Project

- How will climate change affect the distribution and abundance of marine species and communities?
- Where are sensitive areas or hotspots of change?
- What tools are available to us – especially in developing countries – to answer such questions



Developing countries and climate change

- Climate change is global and special needs of developing countries (the obvious victims) need to be addressed
 - Where from this help?
 - Will Nansen lead the way?
- The new EAF–Nansen project can support the weak
- Help establishment of baselines for monitoring

Consolidation, replication and up-scaling

- ▶ Continue building capacity for fisheries management
- ▶ Assist with institutional strengthening for EAF implementation
- ▶ Contribute to global climate change programme – monitoring the oceans around developing nations providing a UN platform for marine work



Conclusion:

- ▶ Have we lived up to the Nansen spirit and adhered to his values (adventurer, explorer, humanitarian, upheld the rights of small nations)?
- ▶ Have we broken new grounds?
 - International development cooperation
 - Empowerment
 - Knowledge to understand and manage fishery resources

- ▶ Nansen's legacy of scientific rigour, research, sense of discovery and call of duty live on in **FAO's Nansen Programme**.
- ▶ Other projects are learning from us – World Bank-funded SWIOFP and WARFP, SIDA-funded NFFP, GEF-funded LME projects, EU-funded ACP Fish II project



← ROYAL VISIT

Amidst
GHANAIAN HOSPITALITY →





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION