

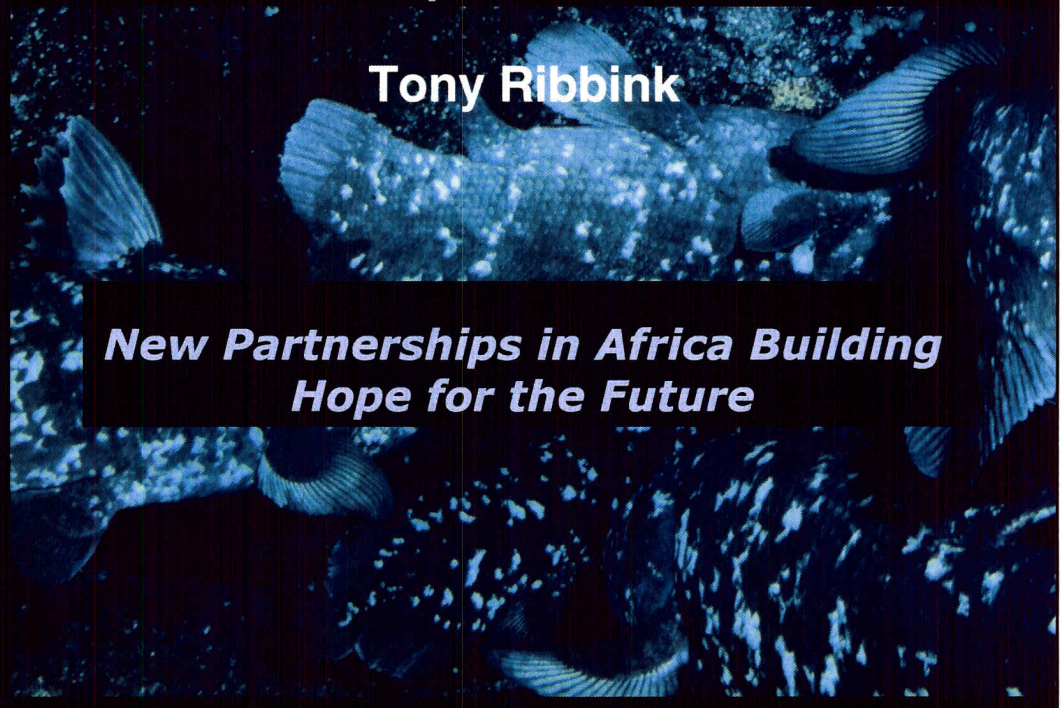


# African Coelacanth : window to the past, door to the future

Tony Ribbink

*New Partnerships in Africa Building  
Hope for the Future*

**African Inspiration: Global commitment**

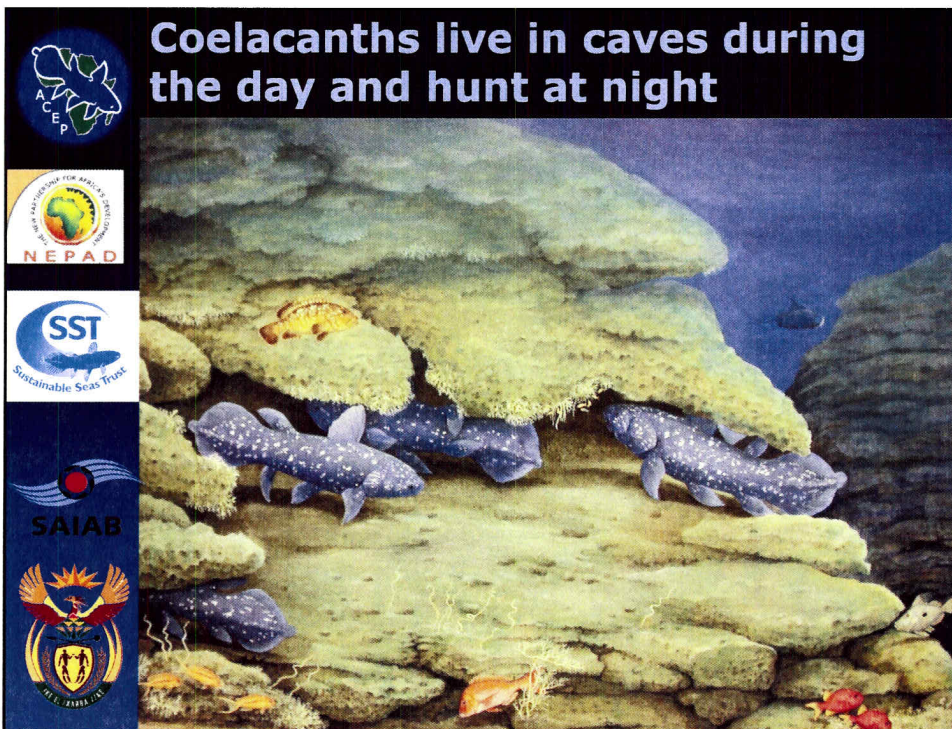
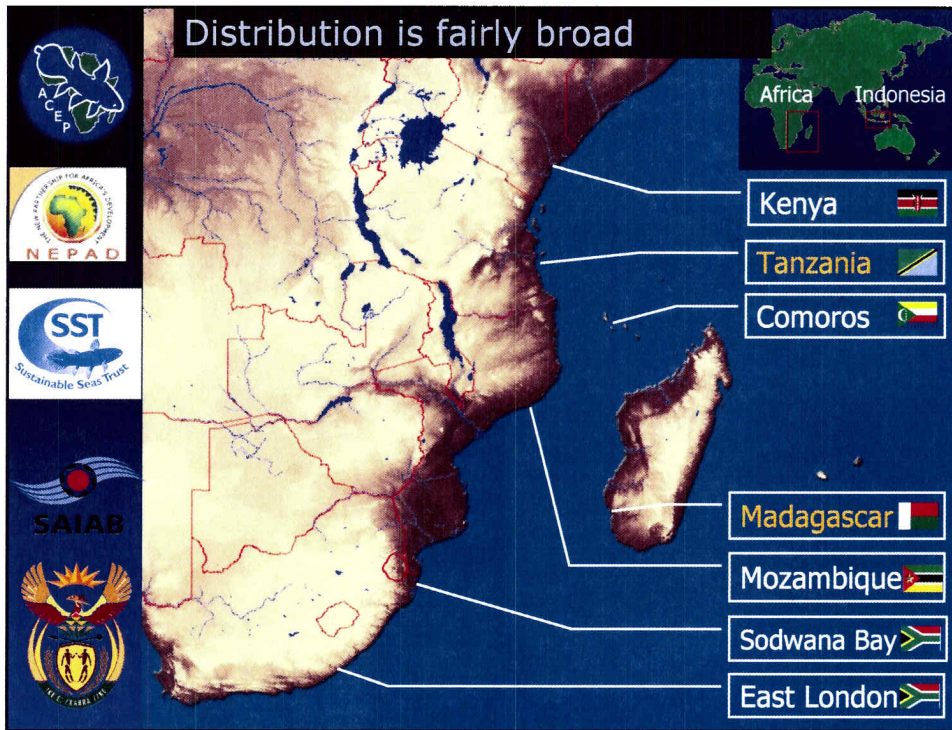


**Living fossils: unchanged over enormously long periods of time**

The image is a collage illustrating living fossils. On the left side, there is a vertical strip of logos: ASEP (Association of Southeast Asian Fisheries Education Program), NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development), SST (Sustainable Seas Trust), and SAIAB (South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity). The main content includes a dinosaur skeleton with a vertical arrow pointing upwards, a large blue fish (Coelacanth) in its natural habitat, and a scene with a dinosaur and a mammoth with a horizontal arrow pointing from the dinosaur to a fossilized fish in a rock.

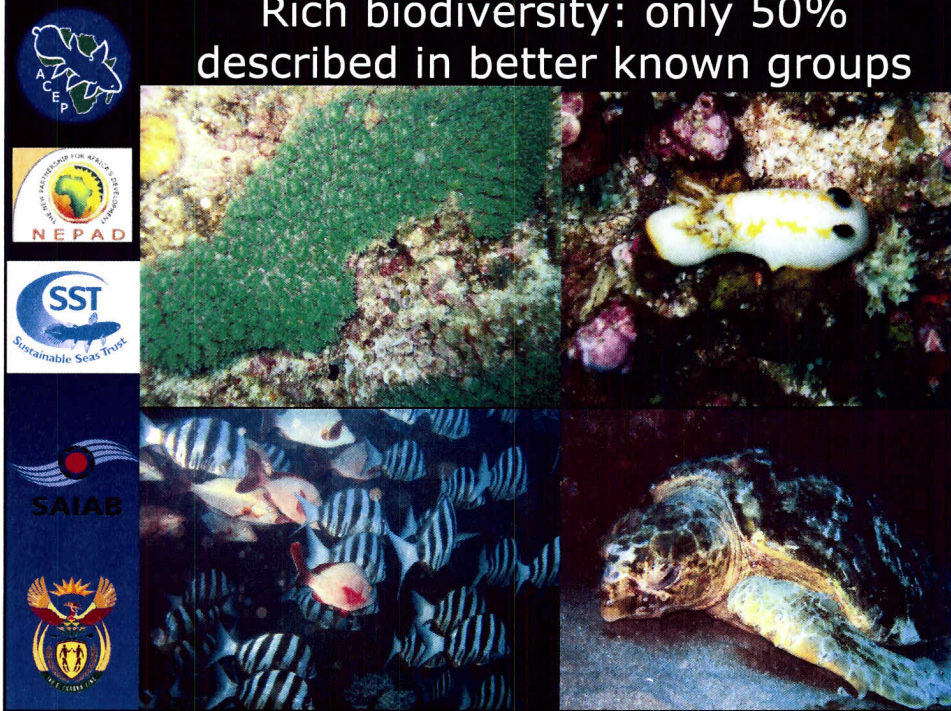
**Did "Old Fourlegs" give rise to tetrapods?**

The image is a diagram illustrating the evolutionary question of whether "Old Fourlegs" (coelacanths) gave rise to tetrapods. It features a large coelacanth, a question mark, and a sequence of illustrations showing the evolution from a fish to a modern human.

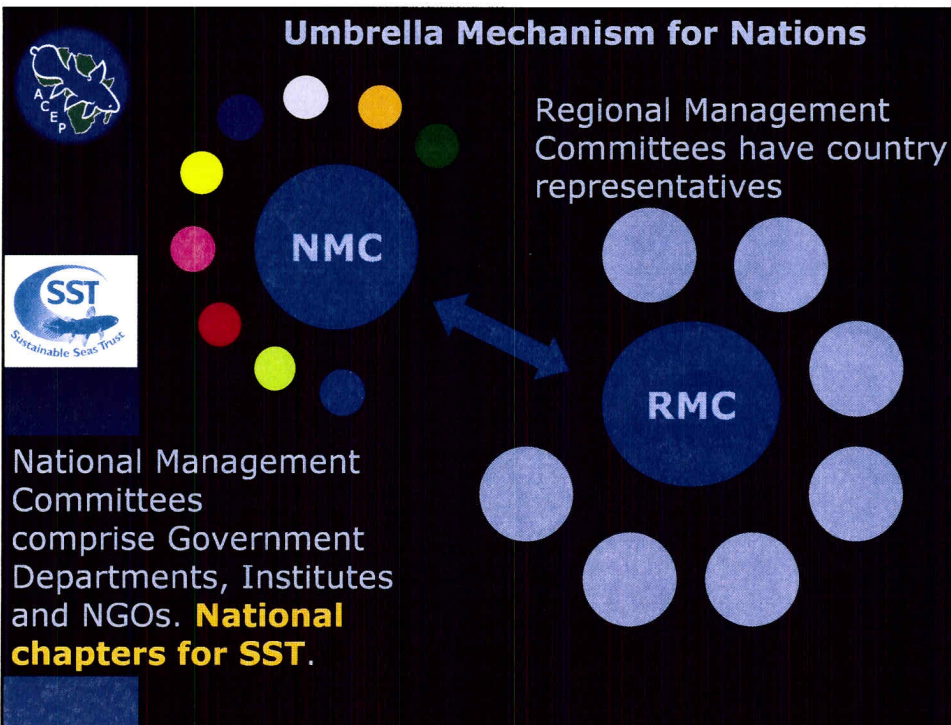








Rich biodiversity: only 50% described in better known groups

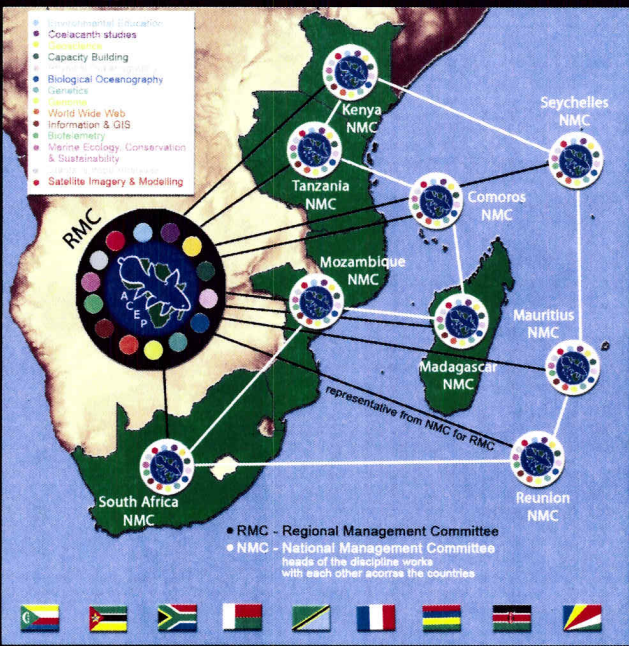


### Umbrella Mechanism for Nations



## Existing and incipient partnerships



**Legend:**

- Environmental Education
- Coastal studies
- Conservation
- Capacity Building
- Biological Oceanography
- Genetics
- Coastlines
- World Wide Web Information & GIS
- Biotechnology
- Marine Ecology, Conservation & Sustainability
- Satellite Imagery & Modelling

**Map Labels:** Kenya NMC, Tanzania NMC, Mozambique NMC, Madagascar NMC, South Africa NMC, Comoros NMC, Seychelles NMC, Mauritius NMC, Reunion NMC

**Legend:**

- RMC - Regional Management Committee
- NMC - National Management Committee

*heads of the discipline works with each other across the countries*

*representative from NMC for RMC*

## NEPAD a wonderful new opportunity for conservation in Africa






### NEPAD in ACTION

(New Partnerships for Africa's Development)









**NEPAD CRUISE TRACK**




**Locations:** Dar es Salaam, Comoros, Nossi Be, Maputo, Bassis da India, Richards Bay, East London, Cape Town


**Indian Ocean**

**Operational partners doing what needs to be done**







## Agulhas Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLMEs)

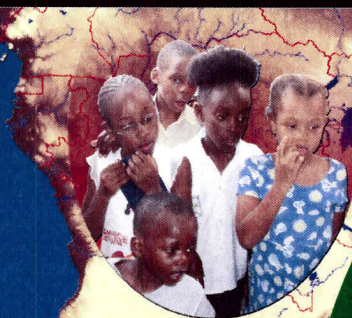
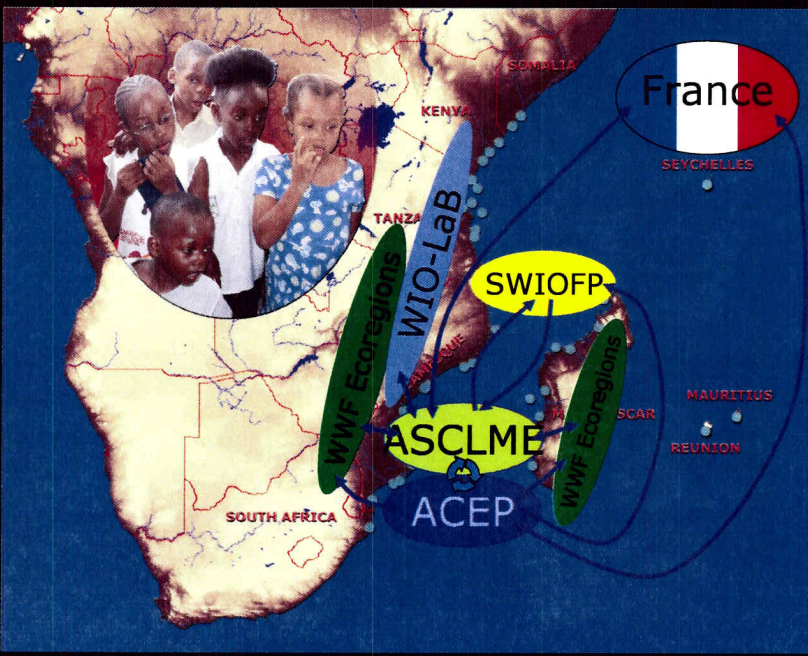







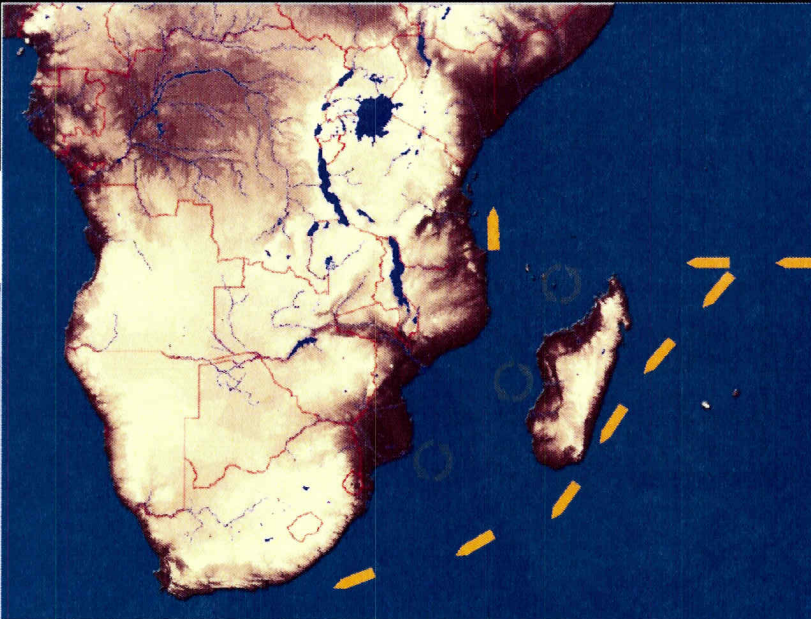


## Programmatic approach and partnerships.

## Currents work southwards in eddies




Logos on the left side of the slide:

- ACEP
- NEPAD
- SST Sustainable Seas Trust
- ASCLMEs
- GEF
- South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP)

## Capacity building takes centre stage with coelacanths

- Four imperatives of capacity building: attain, train, retain, sustain.
- Public awareness



Logos on the left side of the slide:

- ACEP
- NEPAD
- SST Sustainable Seas Trust
- SAIAB
- South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP)





**Student training**

**Floating research Facility for all countries needed**

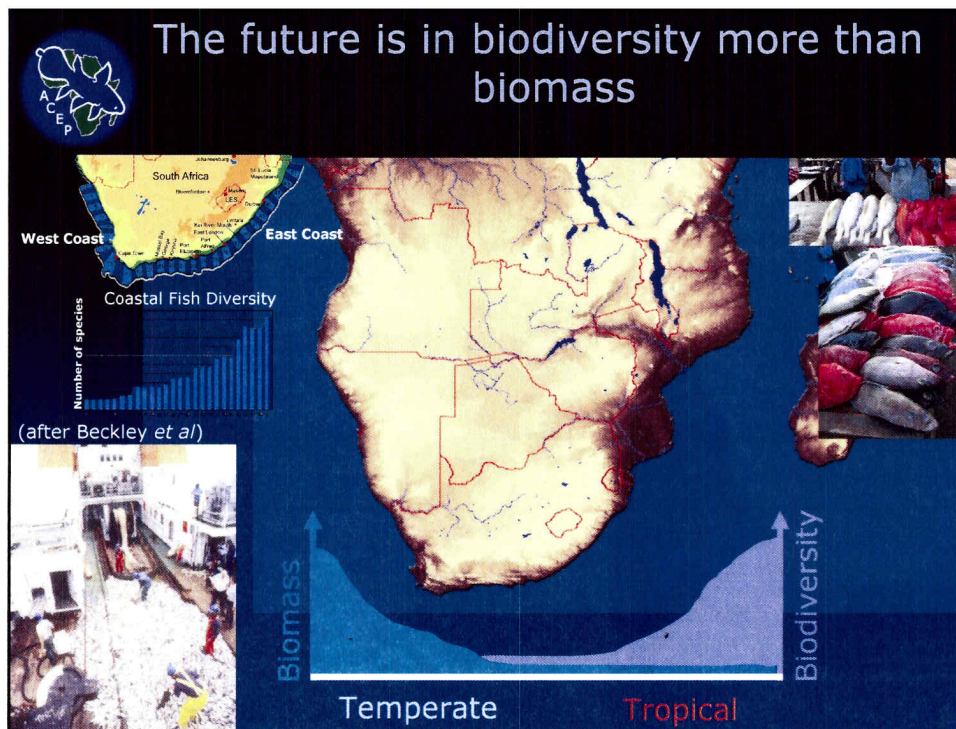
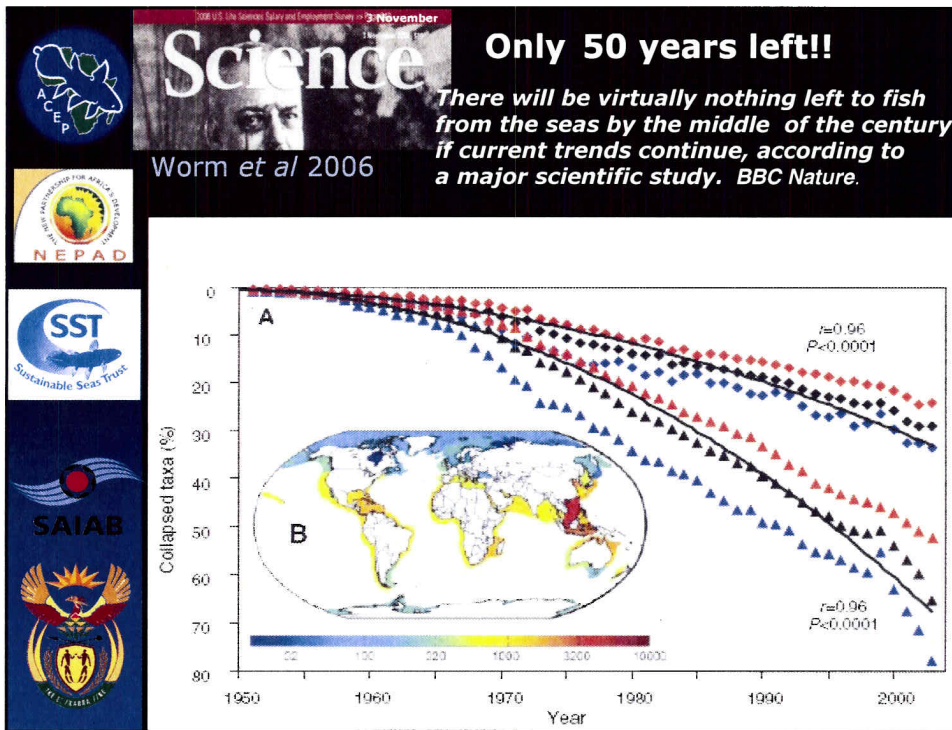
The collage features logos for ACEP, NEPAD, SST (Sustainable Seas Trust), and SAIAB. The photos depict students in a laboratory setting, a man operating a camera, and a group of people on a ship's deck.






**A pressing imperative**

Africa has a vision of a better future.

Did you read Science?

The graphic includes logos for ACEP, NEPAD, SST, and SAIAB. It features a map of Africa where the landmass is composed of numerous small photographs of diverse African people, set against a background of a starry night sky.

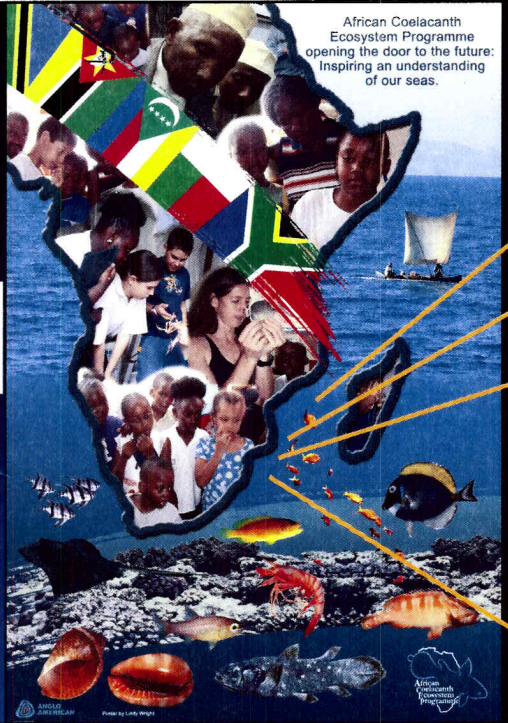












African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme opening the door to the future: Inspiring an understanding of our seas.

**Typical trawl data**

- 1.5kg 8 species
- 14kg 61 species
- 6kg 17 species
- From our own and other sampling cruises.
- Our best 600kg 52 species

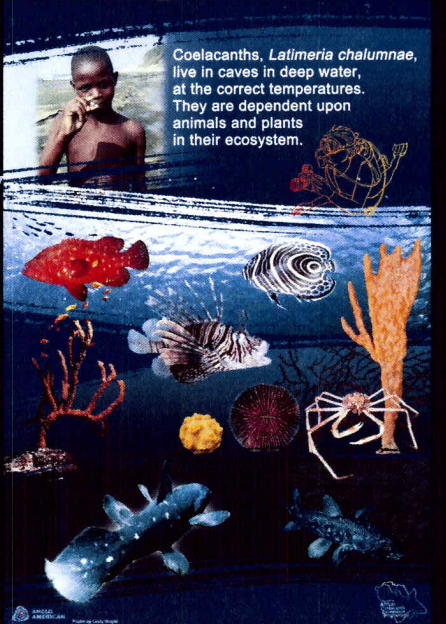



**Relying on investments in fisheries alone is short sighted**

**Economic growth should focus on rich biodiversity, MPAs and sustainability.**

**Trawling shows that trawling should not take place**

Coelacanth, *Latimeria chalumnae*, live in caves in deep water, at the correct temperatures. They are dependent upon animals and plants in their ecosystem.



**Biggest challenge**  
Providing the power of choice

ACEP

NEPAD

SST  
Sustainable Seas Trust

SAIAB

**High demand**






ACEP

NEPAD

SST  
Sustainable Seas Trust

SAIAB

## Growing human population depends upon diminishing resources






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## Coastal areas are becoming heavily populated

**140 million people in WIO countries**

**56 million people along coasts and islands**

Country	Population Growth Rate
Kenya	5.0%
Tanzania	6.7%
South Africa	7.2%

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**Developing a Sustainable Economy for those who Depend upon the Sea**






**World's biggest transfrontier natural resource management/conservation area. Share a vision.**

**Helping to realize the pledges made by countries**



# Parks Network must reach the children of the world: information, games and electronic manipulation of the environment



# The choice

Act now while the resource has resilience and actions are affordable



Measure the cost of not doing anything!





## African Inspiration: Global commitment Some conclusions (messages)



**Economic investment needs to be geared to a region that is rich in biodiversity, but not biomass.**

**NEPAD in action**



**Regional development of a new vehicle for caring for the people of the western Indian Ocean who depend upon living resources**

**Capacity building is of paramount importance**



**The time to act is now**

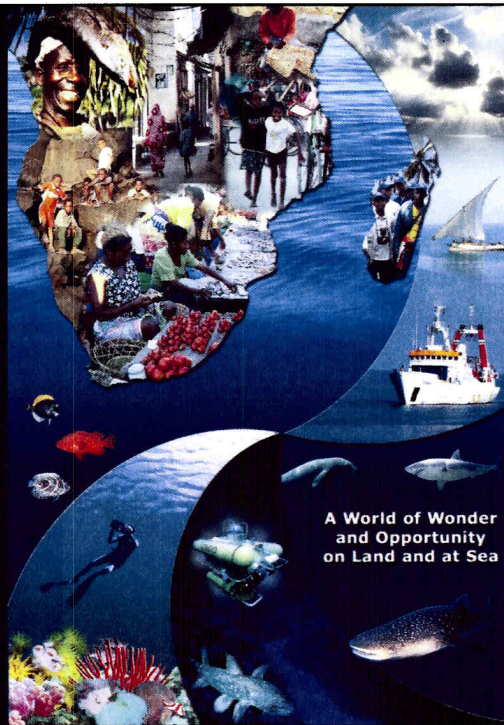
**New partnerships are desirable because**



**Together we can do more**



**A reality check**



**A World of Wonder and Opportunity on Land and at Sea**