

Title: Mapping the gaps in the Indian Ocean

Topic submission themes: Coastal and marine technologies supporting management, Capacity development and outreach

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The Western Indian Ocean, as other ocean regions, is scarcely surveyed and mapped. Nevertheless, bathymetric data is widely used amongst a variety of maritime sectors where understanding of the bathymetry and morphology of the seafloor is very important. Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO) to inspire the complete mapping of the world's ocean by 2030. Creating a comprehensive map of seafloor bathymetry is a global challenge that can only be achieved through collaboration and partnership at local, regional, national and international scales. We will present a case study of the status of openly available bathymetry products in the Indian Ocean Region and describe how these products support environmental stewardship, sustainable resource management, spatial planning. We will also show new ways for assessing how much of the WIO has been mapped and discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by the Seabed 2030 Project.