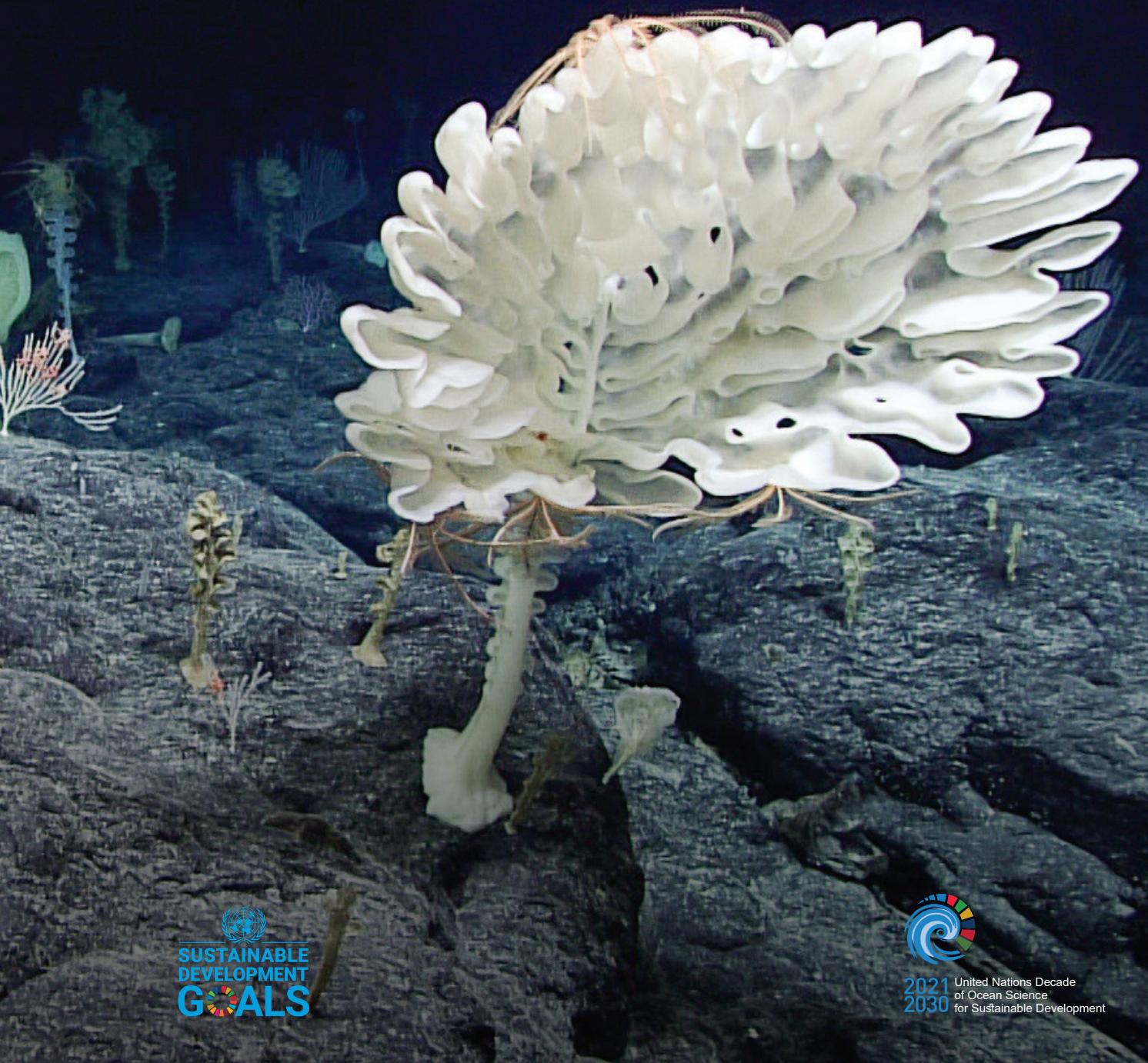




Sustainable
Seabed
Knowledge
Initiative



2021-2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative

The Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI) of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) aims to transform our understanding of the planet's largest ecosystem, the deep sea. Through generation of new knowledge, and innovation in the availability and flow of data and expertise, SSKI will strengthen the scientific foundation for effective protection and management of the deep sea in the international seabed area (the Area).

Launched in 2022, SSKI will describe over one thousand new species from the regions of the Area that are currently being explored for mineral resources and may be targeted for future exploitation. The initiative and the new knowledge it will generate will enable scientists to create maps of life on the seafloor and help us understand and manage the possible effects of anthropogenic activities on deep-sea ecosystems.

New genomic and image libraries, combined with artificial intelligence and app-based field tools will be developed for assessing deep-sea biodiversity. Along with building capacity, SSKI will create a lasting legacy of knowledge of the deep sea and the deep seabed, benefiting humankind as a whole.

DID YOU KNOW?



653
species

30%
new species

The Area covers more than **50%** of the world's seabed

ISA contractors are currently exploring regions of the seabed corresponding to about **1%** of the total Area

As of 2022, **653** animal species have been identified in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (Pacific Ocean) in the Area

Nearly 30% of species are new, formally described in the last 20 years.⁶⁶ Of these new species were described in 2019 alone

- ISA compiles and shares all environmental data collected by its contractors in the Area in its DeepData database

- In 2021, ISA became a node of the Ocean Biodiversity Information System of IOC-UNESCO

SSKI and the UN Decade of Ocean Science

SSKI is ISA's new flagship initiative to support the implementation of the ISA Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and its six strategic research priorities, adopted by all **168 Members in 2020**.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES

01



Advancing scientific knowledge and understanding of deep-sea ecosystems, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions, in the Area

02



Standardizing and innovating methodologies for deep-sea biodiversity assessment, including taxonomic identification and description, in the Area

03



Facilitating technology development for activities in the Area, including ocean observation and monitoring

04



Enhancing scientific knowledge & understanding of potential impacts of activities in the Area

05



Promoting dissemination, exchange and sharing of scientific data and deep-sea research outputs and increasing deep-sea literacy

06



Strengthening the deep-sea scientific capacity of ISA Members, particularly developing States

Project scope and expected outputs



SSKI Partners

SSKI brings together leading experts and institutions in deep-sea biodiversity research, monitoring and management to develop new methods and knowledge, creating an unprecedented framework for sustainable development of activities in the Area.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



OCEAN BIODIVERSITY
INFORMATION SYSTEM



mABIK
NATIONAL MARINE BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF KOREA

WoRMS
World Register of Marine Species

The International Seabed Authority

Made up of 167 Member States and the European Union, ISA is mandated under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to organize, regulate and control all mineral related activities in “the Area” for the benefit of humankind as a whole. In so doing, ISA has the duty to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep seabed related activities. ISA also has the exclusive responsibility to promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area and to coordinate dissemination of the results.

The Area

Under UNCLOS, States have exclusive economic zones extending 200 nautical miles from their coasts in which they have exclusive exploitation rights to all natural resources. The “Area” refers to the seabed and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. It covers more than half of the global ocean. Under UNCLOS, the Area and its mineral resources are designated as the common heritage of humankind.

International Seabed Authority
14 - 20 Port Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica
isa.org.jm

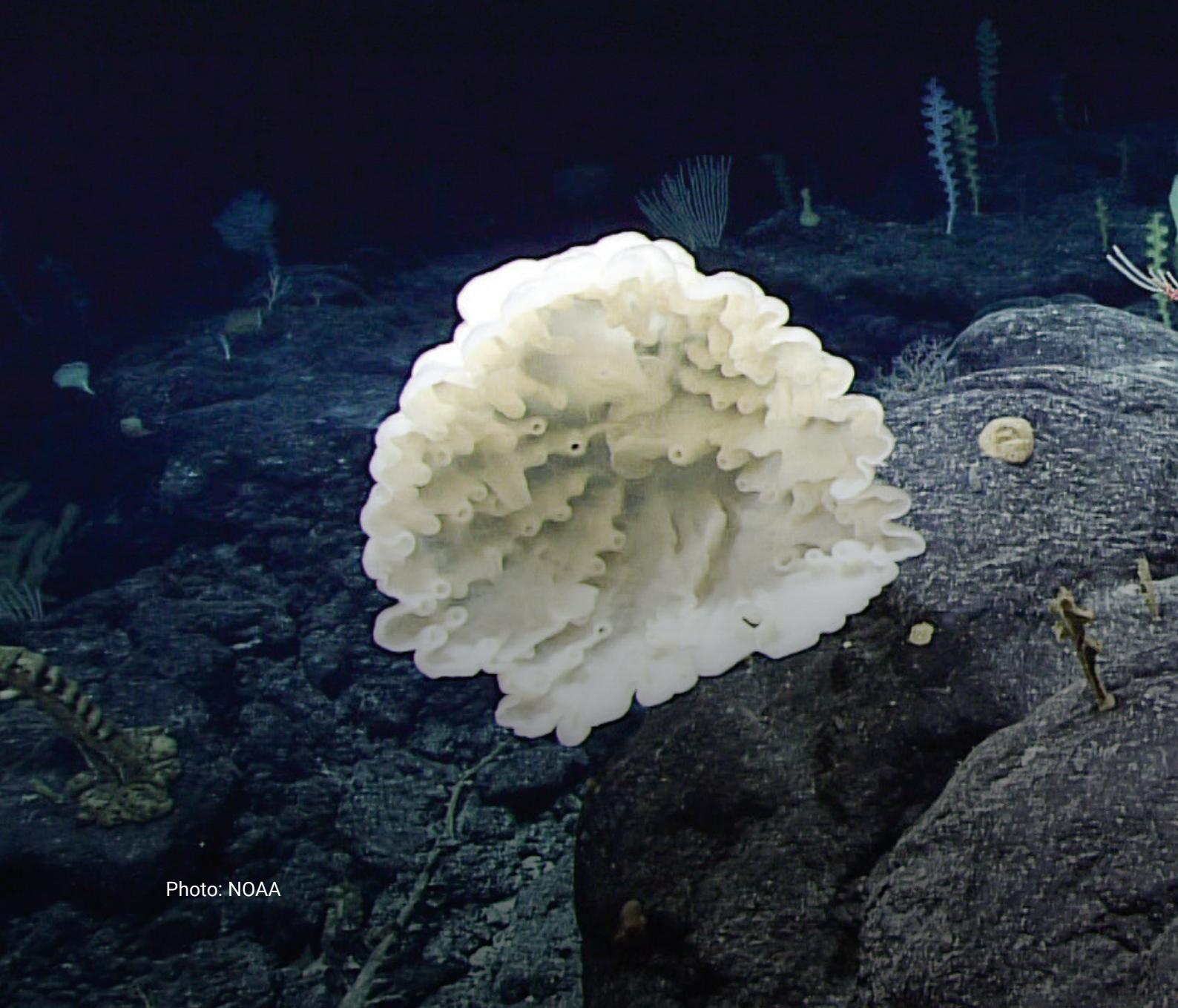


Photo: NOAA