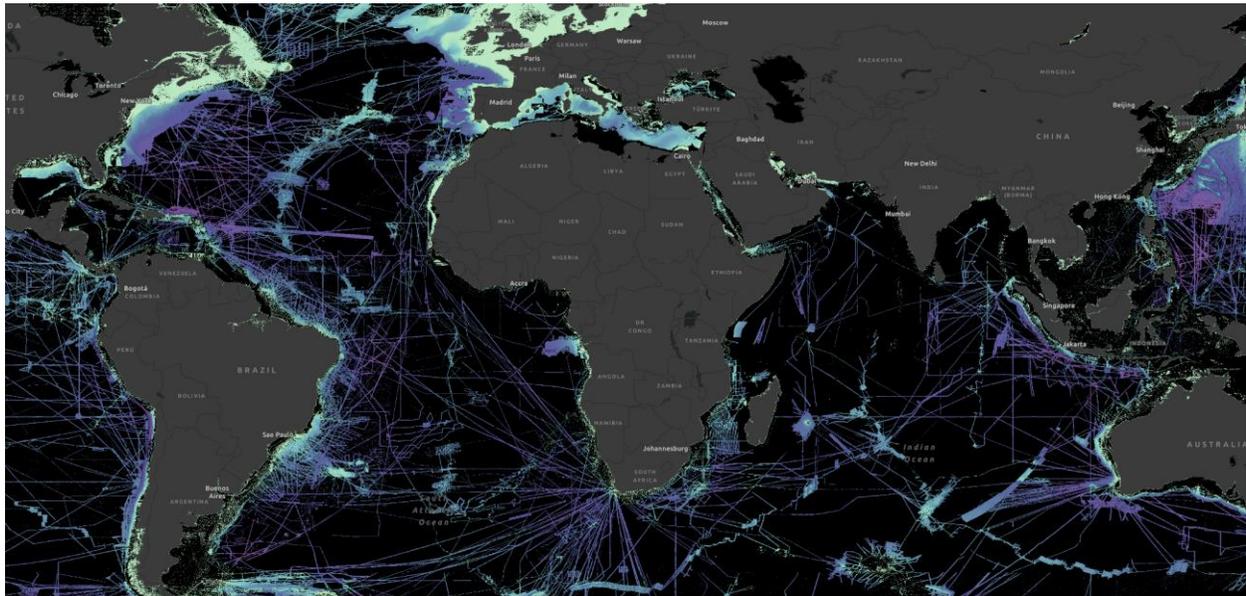




Following welcoming remarks from the Director of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, introductory comments from the Seabed 2030 Project Director described the overall goals, approach and progress of the project. The Head of the Regional Center then highlighted progress achieved within the Atlantic and Indian Oceans over the past 5 years thanks to collaboration and cooperation of individuals and organizations across the maritime sector. Data Managers from the team described the approach used to assemble the regional bathymetry grid and corresponding metadata for the region, and presented increases in coverage 2014 and an overview of how to visualize areas of the ocean that are supported with direct measurement, to better identify remaining data gaps. Even with tremendous progress that has been made, and the contributions of data from organizations and individuals in 39 nations, major portions of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean seafloor remain unmapped (Figure 2).



*Figure 2: Extent of data coverage in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans region as of GEBCO 2022. Portions of the ocean represented in black are considered “unmapped.”*

Community presentations on the first day emphasized the need to optimize both data acquisition mechanisms and access to scientific data gathered during survey campaigns and transits. Publicly available tools and efforts to leverage transits to acquire mapping showcase advantages of this approach and serve as a reminder of the importance of acquiring data whenever possible, and the value of coordinating to strategically map gaps in coverage. There are many opportunities

to leverage existing initiatives and projects that are advancing the field of seafloor mapping, and to work together to tackle funding and personnel challenges. Other mapping capabilities that were presented during the session include Crowd-Sourced bathymetry and Satellite Derived Bathymetry. The key messages from technical discussions focused on the opportunity for the community to improve skills and capacity using diverse tools and platforms that are available, the value of starting collaboration, and the importance of sharing data to advance seafloor mapping in the region.

Community presentations on the second day of the meeting focused on use cases of bathymetric data that highlight the importance of seafloor mapping and regional global efforts to share and integrate data. Presentations and updates were provided by Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry/Seabed 2030 Coordinators from several Regional Hydrographic Commissions efforts which represent commitments of many governments around the region to coordinating and sharing data. Communication of planned data collection activities, coupled with innovations in sharing and accessing data are positively impacting our collective efforts and are a pillar of the global quest to map the ocean floor by 2030.

The Atlantic and Indian Ocean Regional Center would like to thank all participants who contributed to the Regional Mapping Community Virtual Meeting, and to our ongoing efforts to collaboratively create a complete map of the seafloor by 2030. The team looks forward to convening another meeting in the coming year. The recording of the sessions are available [here](#).