



VEMA Seamount

A UNIQUE ECOSYSTEM

Vema is located around 1,000 kilometers off the coast of South Africa in the southeast of the Atlantic Ocean. Its slopes rise from a depth of more than 4,000 meters and it reaches up to 20 meters below the surface.

Deep-sea mountains of the high seas are oases of life: in the vastness of the sea they exhibit a unique biodiversity, some species live permanently on the seamount while others pass it on their migrations through the oceans.



Humpback Whale

Humpback whales cover the longest whale migrations. Deep-sea mountains are important landmarks on their journey through the oceans.



Kelp

Huge kelp forests cover Mount Vema. This alga creates a unique habitat: it provides hiding places, oxygen and food for many animals.

Black Seabream and Yellowtail Amberjack

These fish find excellent living conditions on the flat plateau of the deep-sea mountain.



Long-Line Fishing

This type of fishing is one of the biggest threats to sharks, sea turtles and others. About 20 percent of all sharks are said to be threatened with extinction by longlines alone.



Dusky Dolphin

They live in schools of up to a hundred individuals. Characteristic is the conspicuous blue-black to light-gray coloring.



Black coral

Black coral forests cover the plateau of Mount Vema. They are home to and refuge for hundreds of fish.



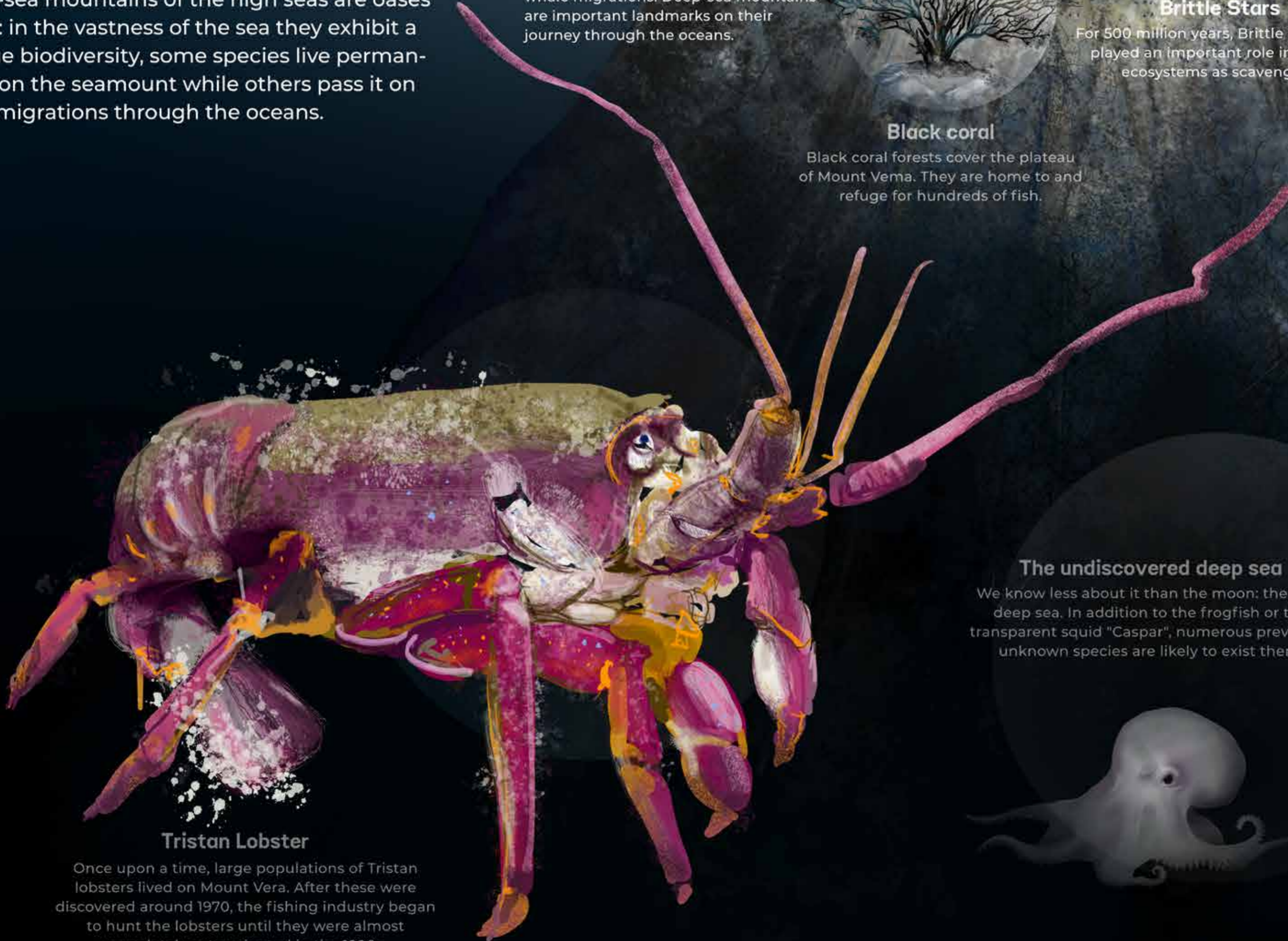
Brittle Stars

For 500 million years, Brittle Stars have played an important role in marine ecosystems as scavengers.



Sea Turtles

Since the time of the dinosaurs, sea turtles have been crossing the world's oceans. After many years of migration, they return to the beach where they were born.



Tristan Lobster

Once upon a time, large populations of Tristan lobsters lived on Mount Vera. After these were discovered around 1970, the fishing industry began to hunt the lobsters until they were almost completely exterminated in the 1990s.

The undiscovered deep sea

We know less about it than the moon: the dark deep sea. In addition to the frogfish or the transparent squid "Caspar", numerous previously unknown species are likely to exist there.



Hammerhead Shark

They live mainly in open sea areas but can also be found in shallower regions and on deep-sea mountains.



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