

Keynote Presentations: Building a shared understanding

7th November 2023

11:00 – 12:00

Moderated by: Miranda Naiman

David Obura

CORDIO East Africa

Tackling the triple planetary crisis



David Obura is a Founding Director of CORDIO East Africa, a knowledge organization supporting sustainability of coral reef and marine systems in the Western Indian Ocean. CORDIO takes research to management and policy, builds capacity, and works with stakeholders, managers, and policy makers. David’s primary research is on coral reef resilience and the biogeography of the Indian Ocean. At the boundary between science and action, David works to integrate conservation and development through inclusive blue economy principles and links provided by global sustainability goals and targets. He works from the local scale, through fostering innovative action to promote sustainability, through regional scale alignment and integration, to global scales, bringing knowledge and local-regional practice into decision-making contexts. Recently David has participated in the Earth Commission and co-chairs the IPBES Nexus Assessment and was elected as Chair of IPBES in September 2023.

Aboud Jumbe

Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Zanzibar

Fostering a sustainable blue economy



Dr. Aboud S. Jumbe is the Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Zanzibar, in the United Republic of Tanzania. Dr. Jumbe has been involved in various dialogue and development processes in the implementation of Ocean Governance, Blue Economy & Marine Spatial Planning processes, focusing on the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and the UNEP Nairobi Convention Area. Moreover, Dr. Jumbe has also taken part in programs related to Blue Economy initiatives in the WIO region supported by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), United Nations’ Economic Commission for Africa’s (UNECA), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and UNDP. Under the UNEP Nairobi Convention, Dr. Jumbe has participated in various Marine Regions Forums initiatives, and the aspirations to develop an Ocean Governance Strategy across the Regional Seas Programs – creating an effective and multilateral partnership for a future management of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, especially in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

Minna Epps*IUCN*

Implementing global goals at regional level



Minna Epps is the Head of IUCN's Ocean Program. She has over 20 years of international environmental work experience from field work in Madagascar to global policy work, including IUCN Head of Delegation for ocean related MEAs, as well as from the Marine Stewardship Council, UNEP, WTO and the European Commission. She is currently also the Chair of the Blue Natural Capital funding facility, Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund, strategic advisor to the Blue Action Fund, and most recently part of the Impact Committee of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's newly launched ReOcean fund, a private equity fund dedicated to SDG14. Minna is a marine biologist with studies from Imperial College, School of Oceanography RI and UC Berkeley.

Dixon Waruinge*Nairobi Convention Secretariat*
Regional Ocean Governance Strategy

Dixon Waruinge is the coordinator of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. He is recognised in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and globally for his dedication to strengthening the linkage between science and decision makers, strengthening the involvement of the scientific community in the Nairobi Convention work programme, and making the Nairobi Convention a regional platform for dialogue between governments and key players in the marine and coastal environment in the WIO. Dixon has managed several projects in the Western Indian Ocean region and with a comprehensive understanding of international environmental law and governance, has developed cooperative agreements with global NGOs such as WWF and IUCN, Regional Economic Commissions such as the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and research associations such as WIOMSA. He also developed collaborative programmes with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Heritage Convention on Sites of Universal Value.