

Panel discussion: Inclusivity and innovation in ocean governance

8th November 2023

16:00 – 1:30

Moderated by Miranda Naiman

Samantha Petersen

WWF



Samantha currently holds the position of South West Indian Ocean Regional Seascape Leader for WWF. In this role she leads WWF's oceans related work across five countries – South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Madagascar. She has over 18 years of relevant work experience including managing large teams, developing, and implementing highly impactful initiatives and strategies to tackle some of society's most intractable social and ecological challenges. Her roles have ranged from conservation scientist, programme manager, conservation director and strategic advisor. She has worked across 34 countries including 13 in Africa. At present she lead WWF's work across the South West Indian Ocean. Her work to date has focused on enabling the effective implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, coastal community led conservation, sustainable blue economy and delivery of the global biodiversity framework.

Samantha holds a PhD (UCT) in Ecosystem based Fisheries Management and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Faculty of Law at UCT on complexity theory, systems transitions and behaviour change. She has published over 40 papers, reports and book chapters on subjects ranging from seabird ecology, ecosystem effects of fisheries to behaviour change and systems transition. Her work has been recognised by the UN Convention on Migratory Species in 2008. She was awarded 'Most Promising Young South African' and was a finalist in 'South Africa's most influential women' and was awarded recognition by Oprah Winfrey for her work in conservation.

She is passionate about conservation, cares deeply about humanity and wholeheartedly believes in a future where people and nature prosper.

Valerie Hickey
ENB, World Bank



Valerie Hickey is the Global Director of Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy (ENB) at the World Bank. Valerie takes this role having worked as the manager for Advisory and Operations in the Climate Change Group, where she oversaw the implementation of the World Bank’s commitments on climate change, climate mainstreaming and climate finance, and before that the Practice Manager for ENB in Latin America and the Caribbean where she managed a cross-sectoral team that supported countries and communities on issues related to climate change, sustainable forest management, integrated conservation and development, integrated coastal zone management, fisheries, pollution management and environmental health, environmental economics and environmental risk management.. Valerie holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy from Duke University.

Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy
IUCN



Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy is a passionate advocate for small-scale fishers and has expertise in stakeholder engagement through collective intelligence approach. She served as the National Coordinator of MIHARI - Madagascar’s Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network for 6 years and she was elected President of the board of the Network in November 2020. As the spokesperson of Madagascar’s 500,000 small-scale fishers, she won the Whitley Award in 2019 for her work in enabling those communities to exchange experiences and enhancing their resource management capacity. After successfully bringing stakeholders together to ensure the sustainable management of Madagascar's marine resources, Vatosoa put her coordination skills at the service of the Malagasy think-tank INDRI with the task of building on existing conservation knowledge to safeguard Madagascar's unique marine and terrestrial biodiversity. In 2022, she founded Beolobe, Madagascar’s first platform that brings together the island’s community-led conservation initiatives to mobilize investments and resources to prioritize indigenous and local communities’ well-being and their guardianship of natural resources. She is currently the Regional coastal and governance Manager for IUCN, leading the organization's blue planet pillar and continuing support for LMMA and MPA advancement in the WIO region.

Lorna Inniss
IOC ARIBE UNESCO



Dr. Lorna Inniss is the Head IOC-UNESCO Regional Secretariat for IOCARIBE. She has also worked as the Coordinator, UN Environment's Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. A national of Barbados, Dr Inniss has over 25 years of experience in the management of coastal ecosystems in the Caribbean. She was the Acting Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit in Barbados for four years, and Deputy Director for the 10 years prior. She served as the first elected Chair of the UN Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Caribbean Tsunamis and Coastal Hazards Warning System from 2008-2012. She also chaired the Advisory Board of the Regional Sub-Commission of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOCARIBE) and was one of two Joint Coordinators of a Group of Experts established by the United Nations General Assembly to deliver the first Integrated Global Ocean Assessment.

Jacqueline Uku
*Kenya Marine and Fisheries
Research Institute*



Jacqueline is a Senior Research Scientist based at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Mombasa, Kenya. Nationally, she has contributed to the development of the National Environmental Policy as a member of the National Steering Committee. She has also served as a technical member of the National Blue Economy Technical Committee. She is the current National Coordinator for Marine Spatial Planning in Kenya.

Jacqueline is the immediate former President of the WOMSA Board of Trustees. She is the recipient of the 2019 NK Panniker Award for capacity building from the IOC-UNESCO General Assembly. She has also served as the Co-chair of the Editorial Board of the 2nd Edition of the Global Ocean Science Report.

Jacqueline is also a co-opted member of the Executive Committee of the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research (SCOR). She has recently become the Chair of the Africa Ocean Decade Taskforce and an expert in the Ocean Literacy Group of Experts under the IOC-UNESCO. She is also contributing as a Lead Expert in the Ocean Panel Expert Group in the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy.