



MARINE
REGIONS
FORUM

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PROTECT ONE OCEAN

MARINE REGIONS FORUM 2023

NAVIGATING OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY IN
THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN AND BEYOND

DAR ES SALAAM - TANZANIA
7TH – 9TH NOVEMBER 2023



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The Marine Regions Forum is coordinated by:



The Marine Regions Forum is co-funded by:



**Co-funded by
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Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of Climate and Enterprise



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



The Marine Regions Forum 2023 Conference is co-hosted by:

The United Republic of Tanzania in collaboration with the Republic of Seychelles



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WELCOME NOTE

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Marine Regions Forum 2023, co-hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Seychelles, as we navigate sustainability in the Western Indian Ocean and beyond. The Marine Regions Forum 2023 provides an opportunity for informal exchange between leading scientists, decision-makers, and stakeholders, all seeking to catalyse the transformation of ocean governance through regional actions and initiatives. With the goal of developing innovative ocean governance solutions, this programme offers a range of sessions that aim to facilitate joint learning between regional stakeholders from different parts of the world and explore the role of marine regions in the various global governance processes.

Regional actors and institutions need to play a vital role: providing platforms for cross-sectoral cooperation that forge links between local stakeholders, national governments, and international institutions; bringing together scientists and policymakers to identify effective responses to pressing challenges; and ensuring a transparent process of accelerated implementation.

We are indebted to our partners – the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, session co-chairs, Advisory Board and Steering Group members, and countless others that have worked tirelessly to make the Marine Regions Forum 2023 possible. We would like to thank the European Union, the Swedish Ministry for Climate and Enterprise and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, for their invaluable partnership and financial backing. It has been our honour to work with you all and to receive your generous support.

It is thanks to your participation that the Marine Regions Forum can become a thriving platform. The Marine Regions Forum consortium look forward to interacting with you in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



CONFERENCE VENUE

The three-day in-person conference will be physically hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania, in collaboration with the Republic of Seychelles from the 7th – 9th of November 2023.

For more information about the host country Tanzania, please visit www.tanzaniatourism.go.tz

CONFERENCE APP – “MRF2023”

To promote a minimum waste approach to the conference, we are not printing the programme. However, as we want to make sure all our participants are aware of all the sessions and activities planned for the conference, we have set up a conference app – **MRF2023**.

MRF2023 is designed to enhance your conference experience and simplify communication with organisers and participants. With **MRF2023**, users can access the conference programme (including times, locations, descriptions, and speakers), organise bilateral meetings, connect with other attendees, post on the social wall, vote in the photo competition, and much more. All registered participants will receive an email with information on how to access the app prior to the conference.

OUTLINE OF MARINE REGIONS FORUM 2023 CONFERENCE

CONCEPT AND VISION

The Marine Regions Forum 2023 conference will provide a space outside of formal governance arrangements where stakeholders engage in discussion as individual experts, rather than representatives of organisations, and focus on activities at the regional level. By bringing diverse stakeholders from the Western Indian Ocean region and beyond together for exchange, joint learning, and showcasing of existing collaborative efforts, the Marine Regions Forum 2023 aims to support the development of governance solutions that catalyse action towards the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean. The conference will draw on the latest developments in the global policy framework to explore what this means for marine regions and how regional action can contribute to global processes, in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) and other relevant policy processes.

This second edition of the Marine Regions Forum conference has been organised in cooperation with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and a range of partners from the Western Indian Ocean region, and from other marine regions and organisations. The two host countries of the Marine Regions Forum 2023, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Seychelles, represent mainland and island states in the region and their collaboration is indicative of the importance of an inclusive regional approach to ocean governance. The conference focuses on action and implementation and is supporting ongoing ocean governance efforts in the Western Indian Ocean region.

The Marine Regions Forum 2023 builds on the outcomes achieved and lessons learned from the first [Marine Regions Forum conference in 2019](#). It strives to strengthen ocean action at three different scales: supporting progress within marine regions, advancing dialogue among marine regions, and giving regional ocean governance a voice in global processes.

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The long-term vision of the Marine Regions Forum is to facilitate transformations towards integrated ocean governance for marine regions. It aims to advance ocean dialogue and action by:

- **Connecting people:** Engaging diverse decision-makers and stakeholders from non-governmental organisations, industry, government, and the scientific community.
- **Strengthening regional governance:** Supporting regional efforts to improve marine management that have a long track record of success and play a critical role in facilitating cooperation but are often overlooked and underfunded.
- **Co-developing solutions:** Working together to find effective and scalable responses to pressing ocean sustainability challenges.
- **Providing informal and inclusive spaces:** Offering a space outside the constraints of formal governance arrangements and political negotiations where stakeholders can speak freely and equally as experts.
- **Linking knowledge to policy:** Providing an interface between science and policy, developed by independent research institutes and think tanks together with a network of experts, and in dialogue with decision-makers and civil society.



Vision of the Marine Regions Forum

DAILY THEMES AND TOPICAL STRANDS

The Marine Regions Forum 2023 conference will be a dialogue-oriented conference with a mix of workshops and plenary discussions, rounded up by a side program that aims to provide a creative space for open and productive exchange.

The participants will address specific problems in various plenary sessions and in workshop sessions of the topical strands, aiming to develop concrete and actionable recommendations and tangible outcomes. The topical strands are designed to foster active engagement and maximise interactions between participants, with clear outcomes and goals. Each day will run under a key theme, providing an additional lens under which the topical strands will be discussed and presented in the parallel workshop sessions:

- 7th November: Inclusivity.

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- 8th November: Innovation.
- 9th November: Implementation.













The theme of **Inclusivity** on Day 1 sets the tone for exploring diverse perspectives, promoting equality, and fostering a welcoming environment for all participants. It encourages dialogue on topics such as diversity, accessibility, and social justice, highlighting the importance of creating inclusive spaces. On Day 2, the theme of **Innovation** fuels exploration into ground-breaking ideas, technologies, and solutions. Participants are encouraged to share innovative projects and approaches that have the potential to drive transformation. Finally, Day 3's theme of **Implementation** shifts the focus towards practical application and action. It encourages participants to discuss strategies for turning ideas into action, overcoming challenges, and implementing initiatives. It aims to prompt regional exchange on ensuring that the knowledge shared during the event translates into tangible outcomes and results.

Workshop-style sessions will be offered along four parallel topical strands, addressing specific issues within the strands:

7 th November Inclusivity	8 th November Innovation	9 th November Implementation
<i>Four topical strands will run in parallel across the three days:</i>		
1. Tackling the triple planetary crisis		
2. Fostering the sustainable blue economy		
3. Implementing global goals at the regional level		
4. Regional Ocean Governance		

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

	Monday 6th Nov 2023
17:00 - 19:00	Early bird registration and ice breaker 

	Tuesday 7th Nov 2023	Wednesday 8th Nov 2023	Thursday 9th Nov 2023
08:00 - 09:00	Registration  with welcome coffee		
09:00 - 10:00	Registration continues	Funders and hosts press photo	
10:00 - 11:00	Welcome to the Marine Regions Forum	Parallel topical strand workshops including coffee break 	Parallel topical strand workshops including coffee break 
11:00 - 12:00	Plenary 1 Building a shared understanding		
12:00 - 12:30	Group photo	Lunch 	Lunch 
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch 		
13:30 - 14:00		Parallel topical strand workshops	Parallel topical strand workshops
14:00 - 15:30	Parallel topical strand workshops including coffee break 		
15:30 - 16:00		Coffee break 	Coffee break 
16:00 - 17:30		Plenary 2 Inclusivity and innovation in ocean governance	Plenary 3 Shaping the path ahead
17:30 - 18:30	Early Career Professionals' catch up	Early Career Professionals' catch up	
18:30 - 22:00	Conference Dinner 	Evening Reception and Launchpad 	Farewell Barbeque 

PLENARY SESSIONS

The plenary sessions that are offered on each of the conference days aim to inspire the dialogue among participants and infuse new ideas and ways of thinking. It is hoped that audience-led conversations will allow for a broader and more diverse multi-stakeholder exchange. The table below provides an overview of the plenary sessions:

7th Nov 2023 10:00 – 11:00	Welcome to the Marine Regions Forum The welcoming plenary sets the stage for the Marine Regions Forum 2023, providing a unique opportunity to hear from the host countries, funders, and the coordinating team. This session aims to highlight the key objectives and priority outcomes of the conference, inviting active participation from all attendees.	Speakers Mary Ngelela Maganga – Permanent Secretary of Environment, Tanzania Denis Matatiken – Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Environment, Seychelles Charlina Vitcheva – Director-General of the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission Dixon Waruinge – Coordinator of Nairobi Convention Secretariat Barbara Neumann – Marine Regions Forum
7th Nov 2023 11:00 – 12:00	Plenary 1: Building a shared understanding The first plenary session is designed to launch the conference and set the tone for the following days. Following the welcoming messages, keynote speakers will introduce the four topical strands that will guide the conference discussions, thereby facilitating a shared understanding among participants regarding the thematic trajectory of the event.	Moderation Miranda Naiman, Empower Keynote speakers David Obura – Founder of CORDIO East Africa Aboud Jumbe – Permanent Secretary Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Zanzibar Minna Epps – Head of IUCN’s Ocean Programme Dixon Waruinge – Coordinator of Nairobi Convention Secretariat
8th Nov 2023 16:00 – 17:30	Plenary 2: Inclusivity and innovation in ocean governance The second plenary will explore inclusivity and innovation in ocean governance. The panellists, consisting of accomplished professionals and experts in the field, will explore the challenges, achievements, and opportunities in regional ocean governance. The discussion seeks to shed light on the diverse roles to be played in advancing scientific knowledge, promoting sustainability, and driving innovation within the marine science and maritime sectors. It endeavours to explore strategies for fostering gender equity, promoting inclusivity, and creating supportive environments for collaboration and advancement of ocean governance.	Moderation Miranda Naiman, Empower Panel Valerie Hickey – Global Director of Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy, World Bank Lorna Inniss – Head IOC-UNESCO Regional Secretariat for IOCARIBE Jacqueline Uku – KMFRI Samantha Petersen – South West Indian Ocean Regional Seascape leader for WWF Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy – Regional coastal and ocean governance manager for IUCN
9th Nov 2023	Plenary 3: Shaping the path ahead The concluding plenary session of the conference provides an opportunity for	Moderation Ella Naiman, Empower Panel

16:00 – 17:30	representatives from Africa to share their priorities and actions for the future of ocean governance and their perspectives on the deliberations that unfolded during the conference. This session is an opportunity to show how to take ocean governance forward in the future and provide a reflection on what is needed at regional and national levels to implement positive change.	TBC, Tanzania Denis Matatiken – Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Environment, Seychelles Dixon Waruinge – Coordinator of Nairobi Convention Secretariat Abdoulaye Diagana – Coordinator of Abidjan Convention Secretariat Paubert Mahatante – Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Madagascar (<i>video message</i>)
	Closing	Julien Rochette – Marine Regions Forum

TOPICAL STRANDS



1. Tackling the triple planetary crisis

The interconnected environmental emergencies of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution need to be addressed together. It impacts ecosystems, human health, and the global economy while worsening inequalities. This strand examines equitable conservation, cutting-edge innovative solutions, and transformative actions needed to effectively address the crisis in the Western Indian Ocean region and beyond.



2. Fostering the sustainable blue economy

With its global impact on livelihoods, the ocean serves as a lifeline for millions. As countries recognise the ocean's potential for economic growth, it becomes imperative to ensure the blue economy is sustainable, equitable, and inclusive. This strand delves into the responsible utilisation of ocean resources while safeguarding vital ecosystems. Engaging sessions on circular economy, science to policy and society, marine spatial planning, and private sector involvement aim to foster a sustainable and vibrant blue economy.



3. Implementing global goals at the regional level





Despite a troubled geopolitical context, the international community continues to rely on multilateralism to develop new environmental commitments. In recent months, a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and a treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of high seas biodiversity have been adopted. Negotiations for a global treaty on plastics have also started, and States are discussing the future of deep-seabed mining. This strand examines the role of marine regions in achieving global goals and contributing to international negotiations.



4. Regional Ocean Governance

The Nairobi Convention is in the process of developing a Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) for the Western Indian Ocean to contribute to and support the continental process of working towards more effective ocean governance arrangements. In this strand, sessions will explore: What can other regions learn from this process? Who does what, when and how in terms of implementation? And how will this be financed?

DIVING INTO TOPICAL STRANDS

	7th Nov 2023 Inclusivity	8th Nov 2023 Innovation		9th Nov 2023 Implementation	
	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
	14:00–17:30	09:00–12:00	13:30–15:30	09:00–12:00	13:30–15:30
 1. Tackling the triple planetary crisis	1.1. Addressing the triple planetary crisis in local coastal contexts in East Africa: Fostering resilient communities and ecosystems	1.2/ 1.3. Innovation to tackle the climate change-driven triple planetary crisis		1.4. Towards a Global Biodiversity Framework in the WIO and beyond: Achieving conservation outcomes at scale	1.5. Coastal adaptation in the Western Indian Ocean: From theory to practice
 2. Fostering a sustainable blue economy	2.1. Circular economy for a more inclusive sustainable blue tourism in coastal and island destinations	2.2. From science to policy and society	2.3. Articulating MSP initiatives towards the co-creation of regional visions	2.4. Advancing private sector involvement in ocean sustainability and governance in the Western Indian Ocean	
 3. Implementing global goals at the regional level	3.1. Negotiations on deep-sea mining: Where do we stand?	3.2. Fighting against plastic pollution: Progress and challenges in the Western Indian Ocean		3.4. Conservation and sustainable use of high seas biodiversity: What's at stake in the Western Indian Ocean?	3.5. Accelerating coastal and marine restoration in the Western Indian Ocean
 4. Regional Ocean Governance	4.1. Inclusivity in regional ocean governance for collective implementation	4.2. Sharing the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy process with the WIO and beyond	4.3. Information management strategy	4.4. Who does what, when and how?	4.5. Financing and resourcing



STRAND 1: TACKLING THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS

Coordinated by Laura Weiand, Marine Regions Forum

1.1	Addressing the triple planetary crisis in local coastal context in East Africa: Fostering resilient communities and ecosystems	
	7 th November: 14:00 – 17:30	Co-Chairs
<p>Human well-being and marine conservation are two sides of the same coin. There are trade-offs and synergies between policies addressing human well-being and the conservation of natural ecosystems. In the face of the triple planetary crisis (climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss) at local scales, it becomes imperative to recognise these dependencies for the design of nature and people-positive interventions.</p> <p>The equitable access to and distribution of resources is essential for ensuring social justice and reducing vulnerabilities, particularly for marginalised communities who contribute the least to the three crises. Simultaneously, safeguarding species and ecosystem resilience is crucial for maintaining the planet's life-supporting systems.</p> <p>Join us in this session as we delve into local coastal contexts along the shorelines of Western Indian Ocean countries to explore innovative approaches, lessons learned, foster collaboration, and pave the way for transformative actions that promote a sustainable, resilient, and just future for all.</p>		<p>David Obura – CORDIO East Africa</p> <p>Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy – IUCN</p>
		<p>Speakers</p> <p>Jared Bosire – Nairobi Convention Secretariat</p> <p>Mike Roberts – Nelson Mandela University</p> <p>David Obura – CORDIO East Africa</p> <p>Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy – IUCN</p>
1.2& 1.3	Innovation to tackle the climate change-driven triple planetary crisis	
	8 th November: 09:00 – 12:00 and 13:30 – 15:30	Co-Chairs
<p>The aim of this topical strand is to get us to focus on the triple planetary crisis (TPC) with some innovative thinking. The TPC is a terminology and framework adopted by the United Nations system to describe the three intersecting and global environmental crises of: pollution; climate crisis; biodiversity loss and/or ecological crises. These are exacting a heavy toll on individuals, communities, and economies and imperilling life on our planet. Although the scientific community has collectively sounded the alarm on the rapid degradation of planetary resources, manifest ecological overload, as well as the erosion of the ecological foundations of our economies, the international community is still not doing enough to mitigate these impacts either as individual or collective threats.</p> <p>In this workshop we will introduce and highlight the three crises. These talks will hopefully stimulate our thinking on the TPC, and with this state of mind, we then tackle four pre-set questions as a panel-audience collective. The questions are designed to encourage innovative thinking on the potential solutions for the</p>		<p>Mike Roberts – Nelson Mandela University</p>
		<p>Speakers</p> <p>Darcie Anderson – University of Cape Town</p> <p>Francis Marsac – IRD</p> <p>Minna Epps – IUCN</p> <p>Hennie van As – Nelson Mandela University</p> <p>Kenneth Findlay – AfriSeas</p> <p>Steve Mwangi – KMFRI</p> <p>Douw Steyn – PlasticSA</p> <p>Mike Roberts – Nelson Mandela University</p>

three crises. The discussion will be summarised and presented as statement from the WIO community and outcome from this conference, to the upcoming UN-AU Summit Conference scheduled for late 2026. This is a chance to have a say!

1.4 Towards a Global Biodiversity Framework in the WIO and beyond: Achieving conservation outcomes at scale

9th November: 09:00 – 12:00

Co-Chairs

Continued regional and global expansion of Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs) requires adequate investment in human connectivity and financial capacity, without which will likely lead to sub-optimal conservation and social outcomes. How can this be implemented?

ABMT, including marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective conservation measures (OECMS), mainly community-managed areas, are both important tools to achieving the 30x30 target endorsed by countries under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Community-led spatial management or Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and small-scale fisheries management hold the key to securing the goods and services provided by ocean ecosystems and to delivering on the ambitions enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will be critical to the delivery of the global Biodiversity Framework.

MPAs and LMMAs demonstrably achieve many ocean conservation goals at local scales when they are designed and implemented well. A critical component of this is the need to equip MPA managers and communities with the capacities and resources to be effective stewards. To date, much progress has been made to support MPA managers in this regard, but limited attention has been given to establishing the enabling environment to support community stewardship at the scale required. Effectively managed MPAs and LMMAs will require financing proportional to the scale of threats to ecosystems and the benefits they provide to communities. To meet this challenge, new financing models are needed at various scales to help support MPA and LMA networks.

This session will focus on grappling with the challenge of building coastal MPAs and community capacity at scale and seeks to catalyse the establishment of a learning network that can provide the necessary and ongoing support to communities beyond project-level interventions.

Arthur Tuda – WIOMSA
Nirmal Shah – Nature Seychelles
Samantha Petersen – WWF

Speakers

Thomas Sberna – IUCN
Arthur Tuda – WIOMSA
Samantha Petersen – WWF
Nirmal Shah – Nature Seychelles
Purificacio Canals – MEDPAN
(*video message*)

1.5 Coastal adaptation in the Western Indian Ocean: From theory to practice

9th November: 13:30 – 15:30

Co-Chairs

The relationship between ocean and climate was specifically referenced in the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) published in February 2022. However, despite

Louis Celliers – Climate Service Center, GERICS
Judy Beaumont – IOI-SA

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advancements in recent years, there are still numerous opportunities to strengthen ocean-climate action at the national and regional level (WWF, 2022). There is need to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in existing national mandates and work plans. We must transition from ‘making the case for’ to ‘how to deliver’ concrete actions for coastal and marine ecosystems for climate change adaptation.

This session aims to highlight the need for regional and national level planning for coastal adaptation to the impact of climate change. The UNFCCC NAP process supports the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) but the inclusion of coast and ocean adaptation actions in the NAPs are not sufficiently strong for regions such as the WIO in which the Blue Economy is making a substantial contribution to national accounts and to community well-being. The session will present the NAP process, outline the need for coastal adaptation and provide feedback on regional NAP processes. The Marine Regions Forum participants will participate in discussions and activities relating to the identification of priority adaptation actions and stakeholders. Several stakeholders from science will present technology and data streams that can support the NAP process.

Speakers

TBC – VPO Tanzania
Potlako Khati – DFFE
Louis Celliers – Climate Service Center, GERICS
Judy Beaumont – IOI-SA



STRAND 2: FOSTERING A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Coordinated by Angelo Sciacca and Luise von Pogrell, Marine Regions Forum

2.1	Circular economy for a more inclusive sustainable blue tourism in coastal and island destinations	
	7 th November: 14:00 – 17:30	Co-Chairs
<p>The tourism sector is a significant contributor to the global economy, but it also generates negative impacts, for example plastic leaking to the environment. In marine regions, which includes coastal and island destinations, tourism-related impacts are often more acute and exacerbated due to their territorial features (e.g., resource scarcity, endemic ecosystems) and by the extractive economic model. To mitigate tourism impacts, the interest in integrating circular economy models in tourism policies and practices is growing to maximise resource valorisation and minimise waste and pollution. Consequently, in coastal and island destinations, the integration of circular economy solutions is increasingly supported to foster a more sustainable blue tourism economy for local communities and ecosystems. Moreover, circularity is becoming a means to enhance inclusivity in the economy by reshaping value chains and rethinking consumption patterns. This highlights the importance of circular economy models not only to minimise the pressures of tourism activities on the environment, but also to generate social value and innovation.</p>	<p>Chris Whyte – ACEN Foundation Angelo Sciacca – IDDRI & Blue Tourism Initiative Yvonne Waweru - GIZ</p>	
	<h3>Speakers</h3> <p>Angelo Sciacca – IDDRI & Blue Tourism Initiative Yvonne Waweru – GIZ Chris Whyte – ACEN Foundation Daren Moodely – Mauritius Tourism Authority Samson Obiene – CORDIO East Africa</p>	

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Coastal and island destinations face challenges as well as opportunities to a circular economy that should be mitigated and/or capitalised through context-aware policy solutions. This workshop draws on presentations and case studies of destinations that are successfully fostering a circular economy in their tourism sector fostering innovation and inclusivity.		Sibylle Riedmiller – Chumbe Island Coral Park
2.2	From science to policy and society: Co-designing sustainable blue economic development in the framework of the Ocean Decade	
	8th November: 09:00 – 12:00	Co-Chairs
<p>This session will provide a space for dialogue and learning on the importance of working across the science – policy – society interface for sustainable blue economic development. Comprising a keynote intervention, followed by best practices and moderated discussions, it will showcase examples of how co-designed transformative ocean science and knowledge has contributed to building a sustainable ocean economy at the national and sub-national levels, with a focus on Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. The session will identify the potential roles, challenges and synergies of researchers, policy- and decision-makers as well as social actors, such as indigenous peoples and local communities, in advancing sustainable ocean development. It will highlight challenges and opportunities to increase the use of ocean science in the WIO region to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Roadmap for Africa under the Ocean Decade, and the Global Biodiversity Framework. Finally, the session will present the potential role of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a framework to increase the generation and use of co-designed ocean science for sustainable blue economic development.</p>		Edwin Mwashinga – IOC-UNESCO Sven Stoebener – GIZ
		Speakers Vladimir Ryabinin – IOC-UNESCO (<i>video message</i>) Katrin Bornemann – German Embassy Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy – IUCN Kerry Sink – SANBI George Rushingisha – TAFIRI Jacqueline Uku – KMFRI
2.3	Articulating Marine Spatial Planning initiatives towards the co-creation of regional visions	
	8th November: 13:30 – 15:30	Co-Chairs
<p>Marine spatial planning (MSP) has become increasingly important in the context of ocean governance and tightly linked to countries' plans to develop their blue economy strategies. The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region has the goal for an inclusive and holistic MSP process that produces a regional marine spatial plan to support the sustainable management of ocean and coastal ecosystems for all and, while individual countries are making progress in the development of marine spatial plans, both at national and sub-national level, there is still a lot of work to be done within the region to articulate national and regional initiatives. For that, support has been provided through international cooperation mechanisms (e.g., WIO Symphony tool developed with the Nairobi Convention, its Member States and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management as well as international training programs on MSP). Similarly, other marine</p>		Michele Quesada Da Silva – IOC-UNESCO Harrison Ochieng' Ong'anda – KMFRI/ Nairobi Convention's MSP Task Force
		Speakers Harrison Ochieng' Ong'anda – Nairobi Convention's MSP Task Force (<i>video message</i>) Jacqueline Uku – KMFRI Arthur Tuda – WIOMSA Abdoulaye Diagana – Abidjan Convention Secretariat

<p>regions are also working or aiming for such articulation. The session will kick-off with the presentation of lessons learned from the WIO region and then discussions will follow with the audience about the way forward in different marine regions.</p>	<p>Stephen Kirkman – DFFE</p>
<p>Advancing private sector involvement in ocean sustainability and governance in the Western Indian Ocean</p> <p>2.4& 2.5</p> <p>9th November: 09:00 – 12:00 and 13:30 – 15:30</p>	
<p>Ocean health and climate change continue to dominate the global policy agenda. However, the private sector has received less attention in the ocean governance and blue economy discussions and policy processes. The private sector has a profound role in catalysing and accelerating the transition to inclusive sustainable blue economy. In this session, we focus on the specifically of the private sector actors with indirect and direct interest in coastal and marine areas of the Western Indian Ocean region. The aim of this session is to highlight the role of the private sector in advancing inclusive sustainable blue economy agenda in the WIO. More specifically the session will deep dive on understanding current business practices, identifying barriers to their effective contribution to improved ocean governance and innovative solutions to address these challenges. It is expected that this session will present an excellent opportunity for the private sector to enhance their sustainable business practices and position themselves competitively in the growing blue economy space in the WIO region. Studies have shown that business that embrace sustainable practices in their operations have significantly increased their profitability, created more greener/ bluer jobs, reduced their production and operational costs, access to new markets and compliance to the framework condition.</p>	<p>Co-Chairs</p> <p>Edward Kimakwa – GIZ Georges Mba-Asseko – African Union Sophie Masipa – World Ocean Council</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Robin Farrington – GIZ Sibylle Riedmiller – Chumbe Island Coral Park Chris Whyte – ACEN Foundation Fahd Al-Guthmy – Wildlife Conservation Society Sophie Masipa – World Ocean Council Dresy Lovasa – WWF Mai ElAshmawy – Collective Leadership Institute</p>


STRAND 3: IMPLEMENTING GLOBAL GOALS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

Coordinated by Julien Rochette, Marine Regions Forum

3.1	Negotiations on deep-sea mining: Where do we stand?	
	7th November: 14:00 – 17:30	Co-Chairs
<p>Intergovernmental discussions concerning the exploitation of deep-sea mineral resources are gathering pace at the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which is increasingly in the public spotlight. ISA Member States have expressed diverse positions on the development of the Mining Code, and recent ISA meetings have seen increasing calls for a moratorium / precautionary pause. The African Group has regularly highlighted equity issues and stressed the importance of the Common Heritage of Humankind principle. However, the region has been under-represented in the discussions, with many States noting that they face significant capacity challenges. This session will provide an overview of ongoing discussions at ISA and allow WIO stakeholders to exchange on possible future pathways.</p>		Minna Epps – IUCN International Pradeep Singh – RIFS
		Speakers Minna Epps – IUCN Pradeep Singh – RIFS Kirsty Mc Quaid – University of Plymouth / SANBI Kerry Sink – SANBI Robert Kibiwot – Kenya Forbi Perise – SOA Torsten Thiele - Global Ocean Trust Representative of the Seychelles (tbc)
3.2& 3.3	Fighting against plastic pollution: Progress and challenges in the Western Indian Ocean	
	8th November: 09:00 – 12:00	Co-Chairs
<p>Plastic, initially a symbol of innovation, has evolved into a global crisis, impacting the environment, society, economy, and health. The Western Indian Ocean region (WIO), while consuming less plastic per capita, still sees five million tonnes of plastic used annually, with 195 thousand tonnes leaking into waterways and ocean, harming both humans and biodiversity. Some WIO nations have implemented policies like product bans and recycling, but plastic governance faces challenges like inconsistency and industry resistance. In 2022, negotiations have been launched for the elaboration of a new international treaty to combat plastic pollution, covering the entire plastics lifecycle. Africa has been a pioneer in addressing plastic pollution, and this session aims to share success stories, identify obstacles, and explore how the treaty can expedite global efforts against plastic pollution.</p>		Luther Bois Anuker – IUCN, Regional Office Eastern and Southern Africa
		Speakers Nana Touré – IUCN Western and Central Africa Office Minna Epps – IUCN Zaynab Sadan – WWF South Africa Cyrille Barnerias – French Biodiversity Agency Sarah Pima – HUDEFO, Tanzania Chris Whyte – African Circular Economy Network Paul de Bruyn – IOTC Jared Bosire – WIOSAP

Conservation and sustainable use of high seas biodiversity: What's at stake in the Western Indian Ocean?	
3.4	9th November: 09:00 – 12:00
<p>After years of scientific debates, legal controversies and political wrangling, states have concluded an agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). This treaty enables the establishment of area-based management tools (ABMTs) for the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ, including marine protected areas (MPAs). In this context, the coordination with existing organisations, including at the regional level, will be instrumental to establish effective high seas MPAs.</p>	Co-Chairs
	<p>Julien Rochette – IDDRI Dixon Waruinge – Nairobi Convention Secretariat</p>
	Speakers
	<p>Dixon Waruinge – Nairobi Convention Secretariat Kirsty Mc Quaid – University of Plymouth / SANBI Kerry Sink – SANBI Francis Marsac – IRD Ben Boteler – RIFS Paul de Bruyn – IOTC Mina Epps – IUCN Cyrille Barnerias – French Biodiversity Agency Representative of the Seychelles (Tbc) Representative of Nigeria (video message, Tbc)</p>
Accelerating coastal and marine restoration in the Western Indian Ocean	
3.5	9th November: 13:30 – 15:30
<p>The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework requires not only the development of network of protected areas covering 30% of the terrestrial and marine areas by 2030 but also supports a global dynamic for the restoration of degraded ecosystems, with a specific target of at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030. How can regional collaboration in the Western Indian Ocean contribute to the implementation of this target? What are the success stories to build on? What are the challenges ahead?</p>	Co-Chairs
	<p>Jared Bosire – WIOSAP Mwita Mangora – WIO Mangroves network</p>
	Speakers
	<p>Jared Bosire – WIOSAP Luther Bois Anukur – IUCN Mwita Mangora – WIOMN Salomao Bandeira – Eduardo Mondlane University Sadasing Oocheetsing – Mauritius Institute of Oceanography James Kairo – KMFRI Abdoulaye Diagana – Abidjan Convention Secretariat</p>


STRAND 4: REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Coordinated by Klaudija Cremers, Marine Regions Forum

4.1	Inclusivity in regional ocean governance for collective implementation	
	7th November: 14:00 – 17:30	Co-Chairs
<p>The Region Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) for the Western Indian Ocean region has been under development through a participatory approach, aiming to ensure that state and non-state actors are fully engaged in the process. The multi-stakeholder ROGS Task Force was nominated by the focal points of the Nairobi Convention and led this process. This session provides an opportunity for participants to share experiences of stakeholder engagement and to reflect on how to ensure inclusivity of underrepresented groups - such as local communities, women, youth, and small-scale fishers - in the co-implementation of the ROGS.</p>		<p>Doreen Simiyu –SWIOTUNA Dominic Stucker – Collective Leadership Institute</p>
		<p>Speakers</p> <p>Timothy Andrew – Nairobi Convention Secretariat Hadley Becha – CANCO Kenya Flower Msuya –University of Dar es Salaam Salim Mohamed – SWIOTUNA Ghaamid Abdulbasat Hatibu – WIO Early Career Scientists Network Samantha Petersen – WWF</p>
4.2	Sharing the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy process with the Western Indian Ocean and beyond	
	8th November: 09:00 – 12:00	Co-Chairs
<p>The process to develop the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) can provide inspiration and guidance for other regions seeking to develop regional ocean governance strategies. This session will provide space to exchange on lessons, methodologies and partnerships, showcasing good practices and innovation approaches both in WIO and other large marine ecosystems (LMEs).</p>		<p>Timothy Andrew –Nairobi Convention Secretariat Christopher Corbin – Cartagena Convention Claudette Spiteri – IW: Learn</p>
		<p>Speakers</p> <p>Yvonne Waweru –WIOGI Kieran Kelleher –Nairobi Convention Secretariat Gina Bonne – Indian Ocean Commission Abdoulaye Diagana - Abidjan Convention/Guinea LME Thandiwe Gxaba - Benguela Current Commission Aboubacar Sidibe - Canary Current LME/FAO Mahesh Pradhan - COBSEA</p>

		Lorna Inniss – IOC-UNESCO IOCARIBE
4.3	Information management strategy	
	8th November: 13:30 – 15:30	Co-Chairs
<p>In parallel to the development of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) in the Western Indian Ocean, the Nairobi Convention is creating an information management strategy. Information and data will provide critical support for the successful implementation of the ROGS. Thus, it is important to ensure that the two processes are aligned. The information management strategy will: 1. identify sources of reliable data that can inform decision-making; 2. identify the data gaps; 3. provide a guide for ensuring that data is accessible and policy relevant. This session will open discussions on this technical issue to non-data specialists. This session will explore how the information management strategy can facilitate coordination between data providers and deliver policy-relevant information for decision-makers.</p>		Yvonne Waweru – GIZ Ken Findlay – GOAP Africa Community of Practice
		Speakers Dixon Waruinge – Nairobi Convention Secretariat Theuri Mwangi – Nairobi Convention Secretariat (<i>video message</i>) Siajali Pamba – University of Dar es Salaam Nadjim Ahmed Mohamed – IMS MSWG Sophie Chambe - Mozambique David Dyer – AfriSeas Solutions (Pty) Ltd. Tai Goncalves Loureiro – GOAP Secretariat
Who does what, when and how?		
4.4	9th November: 09:00 – 12:00	Co-Chairs
<p>The Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) for the Western Indian Ocean Region will include an implementation plan. But determining an appropriate governance structure and how to allocate tasks and responsibilities is a significant challenge as there is no single authority that includes all relevant sectors.</p> <p>The mandate of the Nairobi Convention is focussed on environmental issues, with other organisations managing commercial activities, such as fishing and shipping. The region is also covered by four regional economic communities (RECs) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).</p> <p>This session will explore what kind of institutional arrangements and regional leadership is necessary to implement the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy.</p>		Timothy Andrew –Nairobi Convention Secretariat Alex Benkenstein – SAIIA
		Speakers Alex Benkenstein – SAIIA Barkha Mossae – IUCN Sibongile Mavimbela –SADC Gina Bonne – Indian Ocean Commission Jean-Paul Adam – Economic Commission for Africa Mahesh Pradhan – COBSEA (TBC) Thandiwe Gxaba – Benguela Current Convention (TBC) Christopher Corbin – Cartagena Convention

		Georges Asseko – African Union (TBC)
Financing and Resourcing		
4.5	9th November: 13:30 – 15:30	Co-Chairs
<p>This session will reflect on funding opportunities and how the WIO's Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) can connect these to projects on the ground. The financing challenge is that there are many initiatives looking to finance projects, but the middle ground/connectivity is lacking. Current approaches for funding are piecemeal with limited coordination. There are possibilities to leverage funding from multilateral institutions. Private financing is also promising, as there is a clear appetite to invest in the region, however there are challenges in developing and presenting "bankable" projects. There is also a need to make the business case for investment in the ROGS to Finance Ministers.</p>		Samantha Petersen –WWF Simeao Lopes – ProAzul
		Speakers
		Kieran Kelleher – Nairobi Convention Secretariat Aboud Jumbe – Zanzibar Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries Valerie Hickey – World Bank Cecilia Torres – Blue Action Fund Torsten Thiele – Global Ocean Trust Any Freitas – EU Delegation to Tanzania Sibongile Mavimbela – SADC

CONCURRENT ACTIVITIES

We hope that the conference will not only be about knowledge exchange but will also about creating meaningful connections amongst participants and create an atmosphere of collaboration and enthusiasm for improved ocean governance. A set of concurrent activities, together with the social events, will contribute to engaging stakeholders in casual interaction with each other, supporting the goal of building trust and networking between sectors, states, and disciplines.

- A **Meet & Greet** space for networking and dialogue will be set up at the conference venue to encourage discussions amongst participants in a dedicated space.
- We can't visit all the countries in the region, or the other regions that are present in the conference, so we hope you will participate in the **photo competition**. We welcome submissions from anyone but only those at the conference can vote on who will be the winning photo. Send your submissions to mrf@rifs-potsdam.de by the 1st of November.
- Nyika Mbari Consults presents the **Marine Regions Forum Art Exhibition**. A selection of ocean-inspired artwork will be exhibited at the venue and available for purchase during the conference. Nyika Mbari Consults is a creative and strategic growth management business operating under the not-for-profit and for-profit model offering professional management operation service for creative and literary projects in Tanzania.

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EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS— CATCH UP

An early career professionals' catch-up during the conference, will provide the opportunity to amplify young voices. In this space, individuals can connect with peers, engage in discussions, exchange ideas, and share their perspectives to build a strong collective voice to advocate for sustainable ocean practices and drive change in the field.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The conference offers a range of social events designed to enhance networking opportunities and celebrate initiatives in the Western Indian Ocean region. These social events provide valuable occasions for participants to expand their professional networks and initiate impactful collaborations.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION AND ICEBREAKER

Date: 6th November 2023

Time: 17:00 – 19:00

Venue: TBC

For those who are already at the venue, this is an opportunity to register and connect with each other over some light drinks and snacks.

CONFERENCE DINNER

Date: 7th November 2023

Time: 18:30 – 22:00

Venue: Jetty

We hope everyone will join for the conference dinner over the sea.

EVENING RECEPTION AND LAUNCHPAD

Date: 8th November 2023

Time: 18:30 – 22:00

Venue: Rooftop

A celebration of new and ongoing initiatives in the Western Indian Ocean region will be followed by dinner. We will celebrate [WIOMPAN](#), [30 years of WIOMSA](#), [Our Blue Futures Transformation Network](#) and [NoCaMo project](#).

FAREWELL BARBEQUE

Date: 9th November 2023

Time: 18:30 – 22:00

Venue: Garden

CONFERENCE OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Among the outputs are daily summary reports by the conference team and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA): [Marine Regions Forum - WIOMSA Blog](#). The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) reporting services will provide in-depth coverage of the plenaries and sessions via a dedicated webpage.

For social media coverage on X (previously Twitter): follow [@MRF_Ocean](#) and hashtags #MRF2WIO and #MarineRegionsForum.

Information will also be posted on the official Marine Regions Forum website: www.marineregionsforum.org.

A conference video will be produced to capture the daily impressions of the conference.

A conference report will be prepared after the Marine Regions Forum 2023 conference which will include a detailed overview of the conference including brief reports on the discussions held and conclusions derived from the sessions. This document, presenting policy messages and outcomes emerging from the conference and from key ocean governance processes, will bring together the activities and discussions of the conference in a meaningful manner to encourage uptake, dissemination, and outreach.

In terms of expected outcomes, the conference aims to provide a platform for in-depth discussions on ocean governance in the WIO and beyond, in support of innovative ideas and collaborations. Additionally, session-specific outputs will be designed to contribute to broader initiatives. Sessions have been designed with concrete outputs and outcomes in mind. They will contribute to ongoing processes in the region and be taken up to global discussions on ocean governance, for example feeding into processes such as the UN Food Security and Climate Summit's, the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy of the WIO, and producing guidelines for more inclusive ocean governance.

BACK-TO-BACK MEETINGS

We are excited that the gathering of regional and global experts at the Marine Regions Forum 2023 has been seen as an opportunity for several invitation-only events to take place back-to-back of the Marine Regions Forum 2023 conference, including:

THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK (WIOMPAN) KNOWLEDGE SHARING WORKSHOP

1 – 4 November 2023, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

WIOMPAN, with support from WIOMSA and other partners, is planning an exchange-learning workshop to discuss MPA and CMA challenges in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and develop programs and projects to improve management effectiveness. In-person learning workshops allow Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Community Managed Areas (CMA) managers and stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences. Managers will share experiences and prioritise management and capacity needs among WIO countries to help partners develop programs that address MPA and CMA management needs and challenges hinder regional collaboration and meeting the GBF goals.

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REGIONAL MSP FORUM FOR AFRICA

5 – 6 November 2023, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The **Updated MSProadmap**, a joint initiative by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE) to accelerate marine spatial planning (MSP) processes worldwide, identified an action to ‘build a network of Regional MSPforums and Platforms’ together with interested regional institutions working on MSP. In Africa, all Regional Seas that have African parties are engaged in MSP initiatives: the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (Barcelona Convention) and the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (Jeddah Convention). Besides, the **African Union Blue Economy Strategy** urged Member States to institutionalise MSP to allocate specific spaces for maritime activities and ecosystem conservation. It is within this context of multiple interconnected initiatives that the institutions above-mentioned decided to join forces and co-organise the **2nd MSPforum for Africa**.

BUILDING A COMMITMENT FOR REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY ALIGNED MSP PROCESSES BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL (NMC) REGION

9th November 2023, 06:00 PM – 08:00 PM, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

This event is co-organised by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, WWF and partners involved in the NoCaMo project. This event focuses on building awareness of the Northern Mozambican Channel region and to explore ways to move toward a regionally and nationally aligned marine spatial planning (MSP) processes, with the aim to deliver long-term optimisation and increased protection of the valuable goods and services provided by a healthy ocean.

THE MARINE REGIONS FORUM TEAM**Steering Group of the Marine Regions Forum**

- **Timothy Andrew**: United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi Convention Secretariat
- **Cyrille Barnerias**: French Biodiversity Agency
- **Anne-France Didier**: Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France
- **Charlotte Gobin**: European Commission
- **Raphaël Goulet**: European Commission
- **Catarina Hedar**: Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
- **Jenny Hedman**: Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise
- **Heike Imhoff**: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany
- **Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma**: United Nations Environment Programme
- **Manuela Krakau**: German Environment Agency
- **Maria Laamanen**: European Commission
- **Phenia Marras**: French Biodiversity Agency

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- [Ingo Narberhaus](#): Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany
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Advisory Board of the Marine Regions Forum

- [Adnan Awad](#): United Nations Development Programme
- [Joseph Appiott](#): Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- [Julian Barbière](#): The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
- [Jessica Battle](#): World Wide Fund for Nature
- [Meg Caldwell](#): David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- [Darius Campbell](#): North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
- [Maria Damanaki](#): The Nature Conservancy
- [Abdoulaye Diagana](#): Abidjan Convention Secretariat
- [David Freestone](#): Sargasso Sea Commission
- [Kristina Gjerde](#): International Union for Conservation of Nature
- [Fredrik Haag](#): International Maritime Organization
- [Lorna Inniss](#): IOC ARIBE UNESCO
- [David Johnson](#): Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative
- [Aboud Jumbe](#): Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Zanzibar
- [Markus Knigge](#): Blue Action Fund
- [Ronan Long](#): World Maritime University
- [Paubert Mahatante](#): Ministry for Fisheries and Blue Economy, Madagascar
- [Rashid Sumaila](#): University of British Columbia
- [Kristian Teleki](#): Fauna and Flora
- [Dire Tladi](#): University of Pretoria
- [Arthur Tuda](#): Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
- [Osvaldo Urrutia](#): Faculty of Law, P. Universidad Católica de Valparaíso
- [Martin Visbeck](#): GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

Marine Regions Forum consortium



If you have any questions or suggestions during the conference, please reach out to the team:



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Or reach out to our local support team from WIOMSA and EMPOWER:



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Partners and co-chairs:



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LIST OF ACRONYMS	
ABMT	Area Based Management Tools
ACEN	African Circular Economy Network
AU	African Union
BBNJ	Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (South Africa)
DG-MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
EU	European Union
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GOAP	Global Ocean Accounts Partnership
GOBI	Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative
IMS MSWG	Information Management Strategy Working Group
IOC / COI	Indian Ocean Commission / La Commission de l'océan Indien
IOC-UNESCO	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IOI-SA	International Ocean Institute – Southern Africa
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IRD	French Research Institute for Sustainable Development
ISA	International Seabed Authority
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Areas
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MRF2WIO	Marine Regions Forum in the Western Indian Ocean
MSP	Marine spatial planning
NAP	National Action Plan
NoCaMo	Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
REC	Regional Economic Communities
RIFS	Research Institute for Sustainability
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAIIA	South African Institute of International Affairs
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOA	Sustainable Ocean Alliance
SWAM	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
TAFIRI	Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute

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TPC	Triple Planetary Crisis
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WIO	Western Indian Ocean
WIO-ECRN	Western Indian Ocean – Early Career Research Network (WIOMSA)
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
WIOSAP	Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Plan
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature