



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



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# HIGH LEVEL PANEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN (WIO) REGIONAL MEETING

2 – 3 DECEMBER 2019 | MOMBASA, KENYA

## MEETING REPORT





# Foreword

Our understanding of the ocean has evolved considerably in the recent past. Ocean science has provided compelling evidence to show that previously held views that ‘the ocean is too big to fail’ or ‘too big to fix’ are fundamentally flawed and that in fact, the ocean is ‘too important to ignore’.

Until recently, the size, complexity, value and threats facing the ocean were poorly understood. The ocean covers 70 percent of the earth’s surface and produces more than 50 percent of the oxygen we breathe. Globally, the ocean’s diverse ecosystem has huge economic potential, with an estimated asset base of over \$24 trillion which supports livelihoods, food security and nutrition, millions of jobs, tourism and maritime trade and transport. Of the three billion people globally who depend on the ocean for their livelihoods, the vast majority live in developing countries. Ocean-based industries, such as fisheries and tourism, are critical providers of employment and income.

The ocean is, however, at risk because of climate change, pollution and insufficient attention to preservation and protection which are compromising the ocean’s ability to act as the “heart” and the “lungs” of the planet.

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) is richly endowed with resources that can be sustainably leveraged to change livelihoods of over 200 million Africans. It, however, remains largely under-protected, poorly mapped and is vulnerable to unregulated fisheries which has enabled vessels from distant waters to benefit more from it than the Africans. Pollution, especially through the dumping of tons of plastics into the ocean each year poses a serious threat to ecosystems, health and livelihoods. Through Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, critical coastal assets such as mangroves are being degraded, seas are warming and acidifying as a result of climate change and coastal communities and island nations are increasingly at risk. It is estimated that 30 percent of global fish stocks are overfished while 60 percent are harvested at maximum sustainable levels. African governments need to do much more to regulate the fishing industry in order to protect the livelihoods that rely on it.

On the margins of the Fourth Sherpas’ meeting for the High Level Panel (HLP) on a Sustainable Ocean Economy held in Lisbon in May, 2019, the three Sherpas representing the African continent –Ghana, Namibia and Kenya, agreed to coordinate and hold meetings for their respective regional blocs which would culminate in an Africa wide position to be discussed and adopted during the AU Heads of State Summit in February, 2020. This was the context for the WIO Regional Meeting which was held in Mombasa in December 2019. The meeting provided an interactive knowledge sharing platform, forged a shared understanding of ocean related issues that are critical to Africa and developed A Call to Action to Save African Fisheries.

African countries have a major stake in sustaining a healthy ocean for their livelihoods, to generate wealth from marine based industries and for the survival of coastal communities. Their engagement in the ocean agenda, therefore, is immensely important. But what does that engagement entail? It requires that we protect the ocean from pollution, especially pollution from plastics. It requires careful management of the harvesting of fish stocks to ensure sustainable fisheries into the next generation. It requires that we map and quantify our ocean resources and protect them from climate change and human driven degradation. And it requires that African countries, in particular, our marine scientists, engage at the international level to ensure that ocean governance is transparent and fair and that African countries have equitable access to ocean’s resources.

Many countries in Africa are taking action to protect and produce sustainably from the ocean as exemplified by several stories of success highlighted during the meeting. They include, Kenya’s ‘Mikoko Pamoja’- which loosely translates to “mangroves together”. This is the first community carbon project in the world to conserve mangroves through the sale of carbon credits. Several countries including Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya have banned single-use plastics; Seychelles and Mauritius have enacted laws to regulate fisheries and installed ocean surveillance systems; fishing communities such as those in Cape Verde have organized to protect fishing zones, and many other countries such as Mozambique have established Marine Protected Areas.



But we can do more to be at the forefront in influencing policy, action and legislation. We need to ensure that our traditional ocean preservation and protection systems are shared and integrated into global solutions. In this regard, I am very pleased to note that some of our marine scientists are involved as experts in the drafting of the HLP Blue papers and in other global discourse related to ocean science.

This report proposes A Call to Action, from the WIO Regional Bloc, to save Africa's fisheries. These recommendations are aligned with regional and international mandates and, if adopted, can significantly contribute to Africa's transition toward a sustainable ocean economy.

We sincerely thank all our partners, in particular UNDP, who collaborated and worked side by side with us to ensure the meeting was a success. A special note of appreciation to the HLP Technical Committee and our marine scientists for their technical support and guidance and for ensuring that Kenya's engagement in the HLP is substantive and meaningful.

**Ruth Kagia, HLP Sherpa, Kenya**



# Executive Summary

This report is a summary of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Regional meeting held in Mombasa, Kenya from 2nd to 3rd December 2019. The meeting that was organised by the Kenya Government in collaboration with UNDP under the “Protect, Produce, Prosper” theme brought together 91 participants from Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya ; representatives from regional marine organisations, the United Nations and the European Union (Portugal and Norway); World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the High Level Panel (HLP). The overall objective of the meeting was to discuss issues that are unique to the Africa region pertaining to fisheries, climate change and ocean health and wealth and to develop an Africa position on these issues in preparation for UN Ocean Conference 2020 to be held in Lisbon.

The meeting highlighted the huge untapped potential for wealth creation from the Ocean. The participants deliberated and shared information on innovative programs being undertaken in the region that were working, key challenges being faced, opportunities for partnerships, and possible pathways to success. At the end of the meeting a Call to Action to Save Africa's Fisheries was agreed upon that will be presented at the AU Summit in February 2020.

The meeting raised awareness of the absolute threats to the ocean, African fisheries and livelihood of over 200 million WIO inhabitants. These threats were attributed to global warming, ocean acidification, pollution, destruction of fragile marine habitats, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, harmful subsidies that foster overfishing and maritime insecurity.

The socio-economic and biological studies towards understanding the opportunities in the nexus between blue and green economy (especially, agriculture and terrestrial forest resources) were also highlighted as being important for a healthy ocean and sustainable blue economy. It was agreed that it is crucial to sensitize and engage coastal communities, women, youth, fishers and the private sector in the discussions, planning and implementation processes.

The meeting noted that the WIO region communities have self-crafted rules that are important for sustainable utilization of the ocean. It is therefore, constructive to pay close attention to local level structures so that they can contribute to ocean sustainability, e.g., through beach management units (BMUs).

The meeting was unanimous on the need to galvanise leadership to chart new pathways to save Africa's fisheries. Emphasis was put on the importance of Africa being part of the solution to the threats facing its oceans and taking action to mitigate these issues. It was noted that African governments need to be sensitized, encouraged and supported to internalize and embrace regional collaboration and planning approaches for a healthy ocean. There is a need to enhance regional coordination through existing frameworks, collaborative ocean governance, development of management tools (e.g. marine restricted areas and marine spatial plans) and promotion of research and information sharing e.g., to establish baselines for the protection of marine reserves. This will lead to strengthened regional mechanisms through which key regional stakeholders can be engaged to invest and cooperate towards a sustainable WIO ocean economy.

Other issues raised were the need to strengthen surveillance systems, enhance zonal systems for protected sites, and enforce management measures by introducing appropriate penalties, fees and charges. Also crucial are data collection, monitoring and promotion of local management systems. Moving from an ocean economy to a sustainable ocean economy is thus critical to preserve the health of the oceans and ensure the world's future prosperity. It entails achieving sustainability across all dimensions - economic, social and environmental, and promoting existing as well as new sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and biotechnology. These issues were summarised in key recommendations and a call for action to save Africa's fisheries as highlighted in the report.

# Acronyms

AU	African Union	PSMA	Port State Measurement Agreement
BMU	Beach Management Units	REC	Regional Economic Commission
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	SBEC	Sustainable Blue Economy Conference
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
FiTI	Fisheries Transparency initiative	UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
HLP	High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IMO	International Maritime Organization	VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (Fishing)	WIO	Western Indian Ocean
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Mechanism	WIOMSA	The Western Indian Ocean Association
MDA	Missile Defence Agency	WTO	World Trade Organization
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yields	WWF	World Wildlife Fund
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution		

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# Sustainable Blue Economy Conference: Commitments From African Countries (SBEC)



*Unless our environmental riches are protected there can be no lasting prosperity for any of us.*

The first ever global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC 2018) was held in November, 2018, Nairobi, Kenya under the theme “Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. During the conference that was attended by over 18,000 delegates, a total of 191 commitments were made. Out of these, 50 commitments were from 13 African countries. The commitments were classified into 10 thematic areas including; marine protection, plastic and waste management, marine safety and security, fisheries development, finance, Infrastructure, biodiversity and climate change, technical assistance and capacity building, private sector support and partnerships.

Some of the commitments made by African States include:

COUNTRY	COMMITMENTS
MOZAMBIQUE	Restore mangrove forest to 5000ha by 2023
NAMIBIA	Allocate 5 million USD for marine protection and research; Promote the blue value chain incorporating fisheries and tourism sectors; and Desalinate (its) sea water for agriculture, domestic and industrial use
SEYCHELLES	Issue the first Sovereign Blue Bond to the magnitude of US\$15 Million in collaboration with Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank and the Prince of Wales Trust; Introduce the Debt-Swap for conservation to the magnitude of US\$21.6 million in collaboration with the Paris Club
SOUTH AFRICA	Take action to reduce ocean plastic pollution by the packaging industry and ban of cosmetics with micro beads by 2020; Commit to the UN Environment Clean seas campaign to eliminate marine litter; Pledge to work with other countries to advance the sustainable blue/ocean economy
KENYA	Confront the challenge of waste management and pollution; Ensure safety and security in the high seas; Aggressively combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and take measures to enhance security and safety of our collective waters; Ensure responsible and sustainable fishing to conserve the endangered species and high value fish stocks; Accelerate the development of the fisheries, by increasing aquaculture, fish processing and storage capacities and related blue economy industries; Establish a Blue Economy Bank to support the growth and development of the blue economy sector; Take measures to revive Kenya's maritime transport, by building and expanding the ports, and shipping facilities and partnering with global shipping lines; Establish an African Blue Economy innovation and research centre; Set up an African e-learning centre on maritime engineering for capacity development in Maritime Engineering through the University of Nairobi; Enhance capabilities for Kenya sea farers to work on ships across the oceans by inter alia, upgrading the Kenya Maritime School.

Kenya's commitment to a sustainable ocean and blue economy is deeply embedded in its strategic development thrust. The government has invested heavily in the revival of its fisheries sector, established a maritime academy and launched a Kenya Coast Guard Service to protect its marine resources and secure its territorial waters. On land, the government has banned the use of single use plastics and also invested heavily in green energy. Kenya is ranked top in Africa in geothermal generation capacity and ninth globally. More than 80 percent of the electricity currently used in Kenya is from renewable sources.

The focus on a sustainable ocean is also reflected at the county level. The coastal economic bloc "Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani" comprising Kenya's six counties along the coastal region - Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana river, Lamu and Taita Taveta has identified the blue economy value chain as one of three value chains to prioritize in their country development plans the other two being livestock and horticulture



## Setting the Scene

The ocean economy generates about 2.4 trillion dollars a year and is expected to double by the year 2050. It is a new economic frontier that can help African countries boost employment, reduce poverty and enhance food security. At the same time, climate change, pollution, overfishing, and other unprecedented pressures from human activity are pushing the health of oceans to a tipping point. If not addressed, this will put at risk the long-term economic benefits that the ocean can deliver as well as the resources on which all life on the planet ultimately depends.

Ocean health is on the decline and this is impacting productivity and economic vitality. A healthy ocean is critical for the development and the achievement of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, as well as for the realization of all the other SDGs. While demand for ocean resources is growing, fish stocks are already in decline with nearly 30 percent of fish stocks having been fished beyond sustainable levels. Acidification and warming seas are causing death of coral reefs and migration of fish stocks. These changes threaten the wellbeing of coastal communities. A "business-as-usual" approach will lead to a loss in food, jobs and storm protection for millions of people, and have a devastating impact on the global seafood and tourism industries.

Coastal communities and island nations are particularly at risk. Time to act is now; as it is already too late for some marine species. For example, corals, in the intertidal tropics, are almost certain to disappear by 2100 due to high temperatures. It is therefore critical to shift the paradigm from the ocean is 'too big to fail', to that it is 'too important to ignore'. The global community has to rise to the call to save our seas, fisheries and by extension, humanity.

The African Union has identified the importance of a unified and coherent 'Africa-centric' voice on the Blue Economy and the importance of delivering SDG 14 in the continent's development agenda, motivating the African Heads of State in the High Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy to convene a process to help consolidate this voice. Three African countries on the HLP – Kenya, Namibia and Ghana – will lead a process to work with the African Union towards a continental Call for Action and identification of joint Commitments for the UN Oceans Conference in June 2020.

The High Level Panel has commissioned a series of "Blue Papers" to explore pressing challenges at the nexus of the ocean and the economy. These Blue Papers will summarise the latest science, and state-of-the-art thinking about innovative ocean solutions in technology, policy, governance, and finance realms that can help to accelerate a move into a more sustainable and prosperous relationship with the ocean.

The United Nations will be convening the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The overarching theme of the Conference is "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions". Portugal and Kenya will co-host the UN Oceans 2020 conference which will be held in June in Lisbon.

### 2.1 WIO HLP MEETING OUTCOMES

-  The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues that are unique to the Africa region pertaining to fisheries, climate change and ocean health and wealth and to develop an Africa position on these issues in preparation for the Ocean Conference in Lisbon in 2020. More specifically the meeting was to:
-  Create awareness and update regional stakeholders on ongoing global discussions on a Sustainable Ocean Economy including the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and the UN Ocean Conference 2020;
-  Draft a Call to Action to Save Africa's Fisheries for discussion at the AU Summit in February 2020;
-  Draft recommendations and possible commitments for the UN Ocean 2020 Conference;
-  Agree on a WIO regional position for the AU summit;
-  Share the findings of the HLP Scientific Blue Papers on Fisheries and Climate Change;
-  Discuss innovative programs on Sustainable Ocean that are being undertaken in the region;
-  Explore opportunities for partnerships.

## High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy



The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy is a unique initiative of serving heads of government committed to catalyzing bold, pragmatic solutions for Ocean health and wealth that support the Sustainable Development Goals and build a better future for people and the planet. The Panel is working with governments, experts and stakeholders from around the world to develop a road map for rapidly transitioning to a sustainable Ocean economy. This practical "to do list" for the Ocean will be presented at the UN Ocean Conference 2020, which Kenya will co-host with Portugal. The year 2020 is critical for both Ocean Action and the SDGs, and the world leaders on the High Level Panel (HLP) will trigger, amplify and accelerate worldwide action for Ocean health and wealth that charts a new course for a sustainable, prosperous future.



**Scott Morrison**  
Prime Minister of Australia



**Sebastian Pinera**  
President of Chile



**Frank Bainimarama**  
Prime Minister of Fiji



**Nana Addo Dankwa  
Akufo-Addo**  
President of Ghana



**Joko 'Jokowi' Widodo**  
President of Indonesia



**Andrew Michael Holness**  
Prime Minister of Jamaica



**Shinzō Abe**  
Prime Minister of Japan



**Andres Manuel Lopez  
Obrador**  
President of Mexico



**Uhuru Kenyatta**  
President of Kenya



**Dr. Hage Geingob**  
President of Namibia



**Erna Solberg**  
Prime Minister of Norway



**Tommy Remengesau, Jr**  
President of Palau



**Antonio Costa**  
Prime Minister of Portugal



Launch of the Kenya Coast Guard Service

*SDG 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" and has five of its targets seeking to protect the oceans; reduce marine pollution; protect and restore ecosystems; reduce ocean acidification; foster sustainable fishing and to conserve coastal and marine areas.*

### 3.1 SITUATION OVERVIEW

The WIO region is under threat. The coastal ecosystem is under increasing pressure from different fronts mainly the rapidly growing population resulting in increased demand for goods and services, rapid urbanization, industrialization and associated problems of solid waste and effluent discharge in urban centres. Expansion of agricultural activities in the rural hinterland areas has reduced indigenous forest cover and left riparian zones of rivers unprotected causing soil erosion through runoff and extensively reducing vegetation further compromising the carbon sinks.

The coastal ecosystem is intricately linked to the hinterland through rivers, coastal forests and beaches and human activities in the terrestrial ecosystem which significantly affects marine life in the oceans. Protection of marine ecosystem is critical as it is home to various marine and coastal wetlands rich in biodiversity which includes; fringing coral reef, estuarine creeks, open sea, extensive mangrove, swamps and lagoons with diverse seagrass meadows. Efforts to restore, conserve and protect the ocean ecosystem will yield multiple benefits among them food and nutrition security, recreational opportunities, shoreline protection, carbon storage and sequestration.

Understanding the green and blue economy nexus will further strengthen integrated ecosystem approaches for sustainable development.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas. The 1982 convention was signed by 117 states and it establishes rules governing all uses of the ocean and its resources. The convention also provides the framework for the development of a specific area of law of the sea. UNCLOS is important in establishing maritime areas that fall within and outside national jurisdiction. African countries have ratified the convention but enforcement has been quite weak. In line with the convention, African states need to urgently develop institutional and legal capacities to eliminate theft of her living resources through IUU.



## 3.2 KEY CHALLENGES

### Weak Collaboration and Ineffective Ocean Governance Systems

Ocean governance in the WIO comprises a diverse range of stakeholders including those involved in marine security, scientific and knowledge management, supporting ocean programmes, governments and the private sector. Unfortunately, in too many instances, these groups work in silos and most countries in Africa lack a coordinating framework for managing ocean resources.

The Nairobi Convention provides a framework for regional cooperation in the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment for sustainable socioeconomic growth and prosperity of the WIO region. However, this facility does not have sufficient capacity to support governments, stakeholders, and communities on sustainable ocean utilization. Lack of a clear regional strategy to guide the sector, an insufficient legal framework and a lack of inclusive mechanisms within which stakeholders can operate makes it difficult for the sector to develop an integrated regional development program.

### Threat of Pollution and Plastics Waste in WIO

It is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastics in the ocean than fish, if the rate of current pollution goes unabated. Pollution constitutes a major threat to the resources in the coastal zone of the WIO region. It is caused mainly by a rapidly growing population and associated problems of solid waste and effluent discharge in urban centres. This is further accelerated by increased terrestrial ecosystem degradation including reduced forest cover and soil erosion.

The main challenges in tackling pollution and plastic waste include:

- ✦ Lack of a coordinated management of green and blue economy nexus for synergy and ecosystem approaches to effectively guide both upstream and downstream conservation towards sustainable protection of WIO.
- ✦ Insufficient availability of viable and affordable alternatives to plastics.
- ✦ While, plastics take hundreds of years to degrade, the science of degradable materials is yet to be mastered resulting in several contradictory opinions among scientists about biodegradability, oxo-biodegradability and composability.
- ✦ Inadequate local, national and regional policies, laws and regulatory frameworks that promote sustainable marine ecosystem management and control of imported plastic-based goods.
- ✦ Poor waste management strategies and continued use of linear, as opposed to circular, economy in waste management.

### Blue Carbon: Mangroves cover only 0.5% but sequester 50 percent of the carbon.

Coastal ecosystems including mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes are critical to mitigating climate impacts and improving human well-being. These ecosystems remove carbon from the atmosphere and oceans, storing it in plants and sediment, where it is known as “blue carbon”. Mangroves are among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics and provide essential habitat for thousands of species. They also stabilize shorelines, prevent erosion and protect the land — and the people who live there — from waves and storms.



Mangroves also provide ideal breeding grounds for much of the world's fish, shrimp, crabs, and other shellfish. As one participant graphically described them, "mangroves are the maternity wards for fish".

While mangroves are critical to life under water they are currently some of the most threatened ecosystems on earth with a loss in mangrove cover of approximately 67 percent. The rates of loss which ranges from 0.7 – 1 percent annually, is three times that of natural forests (0.24 percent/year). When degraded or lost, they become significant sources of carbon dioxide, and lead to an increase in storm surge and erosion, as well as loss of habitat for commercially important fish. The Mikoko initiative is a community based intervention in Kenya that aims to protect mangrove forests in the country. The main challenges include:

- 1. The high potential for mangroves to sequester carbon has not been fully appreciated or harnessed as it can contribute significantly to the country's emission reduction and to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- 2. Lack of a harmonised locally developed and globally acceptable methodology of accounting for blue carbon to allow for inclusion in the emissions accounting processes.
- 3. There are varying methods for assessing carbon stocks and emissions factors in mangroves, tidal salt marshes, and seagrass meadows which require long term monitoring.

### Marine Safety and Security

There is insufficient understanding of the maritime domain which often presents a challenge in the selection of suitable measures to employ in dealing with local, national and inter-boundary issues. There are:

- 1. Insufficient legal frameworks at all levels especially in the absence of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- 2. Low capacity for agencies with a mandate in the maritime domain and overlapping mandates between agencies.
- 3. Reluctance to share resources for Missile Defence Agency (MDA) and threat assessments.

## 3.3 PROMISING PATHWAYS

### Governance

- 1. Develop laws and regulatory frameworks to drive sustainable utilization and conservation of the oceans ecosystems including stakeholder engagement and capacity enhancement of key players in the sector.
- 2. Create a mechanism for dedicated regional ocean governance dialogue on trans-boundary issues.
- 3. Strengthen capacities within governments to discuss and contribute to global discourse including adjacency, seabed mining and ecosystems connectivity.
- 4. Enhance the roles of Regional Economic Commission's (REC) on ocean governance policy.
- 5. Provide a link between governments and the civil society – on priority setting through science and engage them on emerging concerns.

### Pollution and plastic waste ---Recycle, Reuse and Reduce

Pollution prevention and control has the overall objective of mitigating harm or damage to coastal and marine resources and ensuring sustainability of the environment and development. Some promising pathways include:

- 1. Promote and support plastic waste management through ban of specified plastics categories and pollution prevention at source.
- 2. Develop laws, policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks that promote 3Rs (recycle, reuse and reduce) in waste management, lifecycle approach to waste management and incorporate circular economy aspects and waste recovery technologies at all levels.
- 3. Engage stakeholders including government in establishing frameworks of cooperation with the private sector to manage plastic PET bottles and other waste. Provide incentives for reducing plastics.
- 4. Promote terrestrial ecosystem initiatives that contribute to clean ocean for example implementation of at least 10 percent tree cover strategy by Kenya government.
- 5. Strengthen regional mechanisms through which the key regional stakeholders can cooperate in a coherent and structured manner to achieve the substantive national, regional and sectoral goals.

## Maritime Security

Political goodwill and support strengthens commitment at local and international engagements and this was one of the strongest precursors to the current focus on the development of the ocean economy in Kenya with President Kenyatta leading from the front on the blue economy. Some promising pathways include:

- 📌 Develop laws and legal frameworks necessary to accommodate current dynamics in the maritime safety and security field for example Border Management Committees; ensuring overlapping mandates for agencies are mainstreamed and clarified.
- 📌 Establish a coordinated approach to Maritime Security and promote the sharing of resources and information among players in the sector to enhance security.
- 📌 Develop a structured capacity development programme with unified interpretation of laws of the sea across the region that addresses the gap of low awareness.

## 3.4 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 🎯 Established legal and surveillance system lead to a reduction in the theft of WIO ocean resources. Ocean surveillance and stock assessment studies also help monitor and eliminate IUUs.
- 🎯 Documented and reported conditions of blue carbon ecosystems and trade-offs. including integration of blue carbon systems into the development and climate change agenda.
- 🎯 Instituted measures and awareness would limit ocean acidification in WIO and the rest of African states which will lead to improved health of the ocean, stable ecosystems and fisheries.
- 🎯 Less pollution through the adoption of circular economy built on industrial and social systems of replace, recycle and reuse of plastics leading to healthier oceans.
- 🎯 Improved maritime security will protect ocean resources in particular fisheries, prevent illegal activities such as drug and human trafficking and keep the country safe.

## 3.5 CASE STUDY

### Rwanda: a success story in waste management



Plastics accumulate in landfills, litter streets, obstruct sewer systems and hurt marine life. Single use plastics are particularly dangerous in this regard. Some 16 African countries have banned the use of plastics with mixed results. Rwanda has been more successful than many in enforcing the ban.

In 2008, Rwanda instituted a national ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags. The Rwandese Government decided to emphasize environmental protection, resulting in a series of reforms that included the bag measure. The Rwandese law prohibits the manufacture, use, importation and sale of plastic bags. Owners of businesses that violate the ban face up to a year in prison, and anyone caught carrying a bag faces stiff fines. Businesses that flout the rules are raided; travellers who enter Rwanda's borders are subject to searches.

The law was revised to include all single use plastics except carry bags made from home compostable or woven polypropylene. It introduced extended responsibility to users of single use plastic and payment of an Environmental levy to importers of goods packaged in single use plastics. The law outlines administrative sanctions that illegal manufacturers, importers, sellers and users of carry bags and plastic single use items will face.





## 4.1 SITUATION OVERVIEW

Between 2004 and 2014, 25 countries were responsible for roughly 82 percent of global catches (FAO 2018).

WIO supports the position that by 2020, the global community should prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing. They should also refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations.

## 4.2 KEY CHALLENGES

Declining fish stocks have been reported in WIO region, especially among artisanal fishermen. One of the reasons for the declining fish stocks is overfishing that is promoted by harmful subsidies and IUU. About USD 22.5 billion in harmful subsidies were recorded in 2018. Subsidies drive overfishing and inequality. Without government subsidies, as much as 54 percent of the present high seas fishing would be unprofitable. Since 2006, the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on Sustainable Fisheries calls for Member States to require Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for 'vessels fishing on the high seas' and 'large-scale fishing vessels'. This resolution can be used to support enforcement of anti-subsidies and IUUs measures.

However, the meeting noted that only 'specific' subsidies should be covered by any prohibition. Fuel subsidies should be prohibited without prejudice which would also contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of ocean-derived food. Exemptions could however be made for e.g., conservation, environment and energy efficiency. Subsidies should be prohibited especially if this results in maintaining or increasing total fishing capacity. In this context, subsidies to change the behaviour of fishers such as retraining programs into other economic sectors to undertake alternative livelihoods; income support programs or fisher even unemployment insurance are preferred.

WTO Members are expected to agree by the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in June 2020 to discipline fisheries subsidies with outcomes on all the pillars under negotiation, noting that an outcome on 'overcapacity and overfishing' is most critical in meeting the SDG 14.6 mandate. In particular, the focus should be on prohibiting subsidies to large scale fisheries, as this sector receives the most subsidies and catch the most fish, and noting that the annual UNGA Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries contains this concept since 2006. Similarly, most International Maritime Organization (IMO) rules apply to vessels after certain thresholds have been met eg. emission rule applies to vessels with large engines (engine power 130kW or more).

### 4.3 PROMISING PATHWAYS

There is a need to enhance the state of fisheries by fixing the economics of fishing by removing incentives that encourage overfishing.

It is critical to implement monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms (MCS) (e.g. Resolutions" - Article IX of the IOTC Agreement that encompasses all measures that aim to ensure the effective implementation of fisheries management rules. These measures include Coastal State MCS measures, Flag State MCS measures, Port State MCS measures, Market State MCS measures and Penalty mechanisms.

### 4.4 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Implementation of a Coherent AU's Blueprint for Africa's Blue Economy. The sensitization of the risks to Africa fisheries will result in timely political action at the highest level to ensure implementation of the AU's blueprint for Africa's Blue Economy strategy that is coherent with strategies for sustainable ocean economy. The expected outcome also includes commitments from African states and stakeholders, especially private sector participation and contributions. More importantly, Africa states will be able to establish and/or execute measures that tackle the challenges of overfishing and IUUs.

Ocean-based Solutions and Accounting System. It is expected that adoption of the production recommendation will lead to the adoption of ocean-based solutions, especially climate mitigation and adaptation measures in National Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Paris agreement. Another outcome will be a better management and monitoring of the performance of economic development and job creation in the Blue Economy sector based on an effective accounting system.

Productive, Inclusive, Equitable and Sustainable WIO. One of the sustainable outcomes expected from this theme is the establishment and utilization of resilient, collaborative and multi-sectoral platforms and opportunities for economic development and better livelihood of the youth, women, local coastal communities and key custodians.

### 4.5 CASE STUDY

#### Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)



The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is an intergovernmental organization with a Secretariat located in Seychelles that coordinates the regulation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. The tuna resources in the Indian Ocean are the second largest in the world and make a significant contribution to food security throughout the region. The value of Indian Ocean tuna resources is estimated to be around US\$2.3 billion annually. It has a current membership of thirty-one (31) Members: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sultanate of Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Republic of South Africa, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom and Yemen. The main functions of the IOTC are:

- to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other relevant data; to encourage, recommend and coordinate research and development activities in respect of the stocks and fisheries covered by the Agreement; to adopt conservation and management measures on the basis of scientific evidence;
- to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries, bearing in mind, in particular, the interests of developing coastal states.



## 5.1 SITUATION OVERVIEW

The ocean contains huge and largely untapped resources. They include:

- ✦ **non living resources** such as Hydrocarbons (Petroleum and gas); Iron-manganese nodules and crusts (manganese, copper, cobalt and nickel); Polymetallic sulphides; Phosphorite deposits; Gas hydrates (methane); and Biomedical/Biologic Resources;
- ✦ **living resources** such as Fisheries, marine mammals, Sea-birds, turtles, Seaweeds, sea grass bed, coral gardens and a wide range of marine biodiversity;
- ✦ **Economic activities** such as Aquaculture and seaweed farming, tourism and recreation, Marine transport, Shipping and ship building, Ports and harbours, Energy generation, Maritime commerce and trade.

If coastal and small Islands States in African fully developed their respective capacity to utilize ocean resources, it will address food and nutritional requirements for our rapidly expanding populations, create jobs for the youth, generate income and wealth for individuals and the economies.

The entire fisheries and aquaculture sector offers a huge potential for employment along the value chains including transportation, processing, packaging and value addition. For the past four decades, aquaculture has been expanding significantly, with positive implications for food and nutrition security, income generation, employment and trade.

## 5.2 KEY CHALLENGES

IUU fishing activities have contributed to socio-economic and ecological crisis in WIO economies. Fisheries stocks are declining rapidly due to overfishing and ecosystem degradation caused by destructive fishing methods and practices. Most coastal communities depend on fisheries for jobs and food security, however IUU fishing activities by industrial fishing fleets displace these local fishers out of jobs. Although several laws and voluntary fisheries legal instruments have been developed by relevant stakeholders, and governmental and nongovernmental bodies, there is still a pressing need for more collaborative effort. Key challenges faced include:



- 📌 The open and generally free-access to fishing grounds, particularly in the easily accessible shallow inshore areas
- 📌 Profit maximizing behaviour of artisanal and industrial fishing units operating under market conditions
- 📌 The increasing population around the oceans, in areas with few alternative sources of employment.
- 📌 Some issues on aquaculture are transboundary or regional in nature, such as introduction and transfer of farmed species, and disease control.

## 5.3 PROMISING PATHWAYS

### African States

- 📌 Should urgently develop institutional and legal capacities to eliminate theft of our living resources through IUU;
- 📌 Mitigate and safeguard the health of the oceans;
- 📌 Develop capacities to explore and utilize our living and non living ocean resources;
- 📌 Urgently undertake research and enhance capabilities to help us understand and utilize the ocean resources;
- 📌 Enhance maritime skills for sustainable ocean economy for a sustainable economy.

### HLP Blue papers

The High Level Panel has commissioned a series of “Blue Papers” (each of 20-30 pages long) to explore pressing challenges at the nexus of the ocean and the economy. These Blue Papers will summarise the latest science, and state-of-the-art thinking about innovative ocean solutions in technology, policy, governance, and finance realms that can help to accelerate a move into a more sustainable and prosperous relationship with the ocean.

With the support of over 160 world leading experts from across 47 countries, including many members from the High Level Panel’s Expert Group, 16 Blue Papers are in development.

To date four papers have been released, namely, (i) The Future of Food from the Sea, (ii) The Expected Impacts of Climate Change on the Ocean Economy (iii) Technology, Data, and New Models of Managing Ocean Resources and (iv) Toward Ocean Equity. The Blue Papers can be accessed at <https://www.oceanpanel.org/blue-papers>.

## UN Decade of Ocean Science

The United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean.

Scientific understanding of the ocean’s responses to pressures and management action is fundamental for sustainable development. Ocean observations and research are also essential to predict the consequences of change, design mitigation and guide adaptation.

## 5.4 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 🎯 Vibrant, Productive and Sustainable Marine Zones. Delineation and clusters of marine reserves and economic zones based on well documented marine spatial plans.
- 🎯 Application of Science-based Skills, Strategies and Interventions.
- 🎯 Support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and create improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean.

## 5.5 CASE STUDY

### WIOMSA: Science for Impact

The Western Indian Ocean Association (WIOMSA) is a regional association of marine and coastal researchers in the WIO. Its work is aligned to the Ocean Decade and supports research that contributes knowledge towards a clean, predicted, transparent and accessible Ocean. The aim of the association is to advance regional co-operation in all aspects of coastal and marine sciences (including socio-economic and management sciences) and management, and to support sustainable development in the Western Indian Ocean Region, while promoting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. WIOMSA has demonstrated that it has considerable potential to influence policy and practice in the region, both through promoting and advocating appropriate policies and practice, and through highlighting and opposing unsustainable policies and practices. WIOMSA also trains marine scientists.

## Key Recommendations

1. **Develop legal and institutional capacity** to limit theft of ocean resources. Strengthen ocean surveillance systems and stock assessment studies to help monitor and eliminate IUUs as well as adopt a common position on subsidies.
2. **Assess and report conditions of blue carbon ecosystems** and trades, and mainstream blue carbon systems into development and climate change agenda.
3. **Mitigate and safeguard the health of the ocean** by addressing the issue of ocean acidification, develop capacity for sustainable utilization, peaceful coexistence with the people fishing in her waters
4. **Adopt the circular economy** approach as part of pollution and plastic waste management.
5. **Develop systems and frameworks for maritime security**, and provide opportunities for protection of ocean and lake users
6. **Promote ocean-based solutions** by highlighting the role of mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes in climate mitigation and adaptation potential in National Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Paris agreement.
7. **Develop an ocean economy accounting system** to advise stakeholders on protecting the environment and monitor the performance of economic development and job creation.
8. **Strengthen stakeholder engagement** by including youth, women, local communities and key custodians to the dialogue and strategic planning of sustainable ocean economies.
9. **Map the ocean and undertake spatial planning** in relation to the delineation of protected areas (marine parks) and recognition of local methods of utilization of ocean resources.
10. **Support the publication of high-quality papers** to make evidence-based decisions and influence global discussions and interests.
11. **Build research** on the nexus between green-blue economies that can inform national, regional and global policy declarations.
12. **Enhance maritime skills** for a sustainable ocean economy
13. **Build and increase momentum for political action** at the highest level with supportive science-based evidence to ensure common national and regional positioning. Ensure the sustainable ocean economy is coherent with AU's blueprint for Africa's Blue Economy strategy.
14. It is important to **increase the generation and dissemination of scientific knowledge** and to transfer marine expertise and innovation to the end users. This includes research on the nexus between green-blue economies, relationship of aquaculture to capture fisheries and other beneficial scientific knowledge that can inform national, regional and global policy declarations. Research needs to reach the intended beneficiaries, in addition to sharing research findings with policy makers and the grassroots that require the awareness.
15. Effect **action-oriented-commitment** from African states and stakeholders, especially with specific reference to private sector participation and contributions, as well as multisector participation involving the youth, women, and local communities and the key custodians of the ocean resources.
16. **Align ocean action to national, regional and global agenda** that emphasise shared responsibilities and intergovernmental integration. Emphasise the participation of local communities and organizations such as Beach Management Units (BMUs) in the management of ocean resources. Integrate history, ocean practices and cultural knowledge in the national dialogue and recommendations.
17. **Embrace a holistic ecosystem approach** to fisheries in coast forests/mangroves systems. Regional collaboration for conservation should be emphasised.
18. **Mitigate and create resilience** to the risks of climate change through inclusive fisheries and ecosystem management.
19. **Promote equity in decision-making**, access, management and utilization of ocean resources through inclusive regional frameworks. Code of conduct for responsible fisheries should be mainstreamed in the management of Africa's ocean resources.
20. Provide adequate public funding to programs that protect the ocean and provide incentives to private sector players to also invest in protection

# Call to Action to Save Africa's Fisheries

The African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 envisages Africa's Blue Economy as a major contributor to the continent's transformation and growth. At the centre of this is the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime (AIMS) strategy, both of which identify the 'blue economy' as the oceans equivalent of the green economy, with a focus on sustainable growth and equitable sharing of benefits.

In parallel, the international community has aligned around the United Nations Agenda 2030, which defines 'the future we want', described by the Sustainable Development Goals. These 17 goals identify key societal, economic and environmental aspirations for all countries to meet, and include goal 14 'to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development'.

The importance of fisheries in Africa's development strategy was emphasized at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi in November 2018, where the importance of both the jobs and livelihoods supported by fisheries, as well as income and wealth created in fisheries, were emphasized. This vital importance of fisheries to African states is highlighted by the following:

Fish is an important food for over 400 million Africans, and provides on average 20% of protein in peoples' diets alongside essential vitamins, minerals and nutrients not found in plant-based or other animal proteins;

The highest dependence on fish for protein reaches 50-60% in Sierra Leone, Gambia and Ghana<sup>1</sup>;

While 90% of income from fisheries is derived in industrial/commercial fisheries, 90% of employment in fisheries is in the small scale/subsistence sector, typified by African fisheries.

While growing rapidly, aquaculture produces less than 5% of Africa's fish<sup>1</sup>.

If done right, the ocean could supply over 364 million metric tons of animal protein – six times more than it does today and more than two thirds of the animal protein the FAO that estimates will be needed to meet future global demand<sup>2</sup>.

However, the threats facing the ocean, and therefore its fisheries are significant, cumulative and growing. Currently 30% of global fish stocks are overexploited, while catch rates have plateaued in spite of increasing investment and high subsidies in fisheries sectors. Recent analysis on the economic impacts of climate change on fisheries, estimates that west Africa will be the hardest hit, with losses of up to 85% under high emissions scenarios<sup>3</sup>. Critical coastal habitats, including those important as nursery grounds are under threat and declining due to multiple impacts, sea waters are warming and acidifying with progressive climate change and coastal population densities and urban development are accelerating – magnifying threats to the sea and demand for seafood. Coastal communities and island nations are particularly at risk from this growing and complex set of threats.

The transboundary nature of African fisheries is particularly an important continental perspective. Many coastal habitats and fish stocks are shared across countries, and many pelagic, offshore and high seas fish stocks migrate across national boundaries. Fishers from neighbouring countries migrate and share fishery resources, and fleets from distant water fishing nations obtain licences to fish in national waters and the high seas, on shared stocks. Most African countries have historically had limited engagement in trans-boundary fishery management and regulations, and have not had sufficient resources for coastguards or navies capable of policing fisheries in their EEZs. Stronger and well-funded fishing nations have negotiated unfair access rights, supported their fleets with large subsidies that African countries are unable to match, and illegal fishing in EEZs has been rampant. IUU fishing undermines ecological and economic sustainability of fisheries, but also destabilizes fisheries management and compromises food, economic and maritime security. Much of today's IUU fishing activity takes place on an organised, systematic scale across multiple jurisdictions<sup>4</sup>. It is also increasingly evident that the worst examples of IUU fishing are often connected to transnational crime including human rights abuse, tax evasion, piracy and drug, arms and human trafficking<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> WorldFish 2009. *Fish Supply and Food Security for Africa*. WorldFish Center worldfishcenter@cgiar.org.

<sup>2</sup> Costello, C., L. Cao, S. Gelcich et al. 2019. *The Future of Food from the Sea*. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available online at [www.oceanpanel.org/future-food-sea](http://www.oceanpanel.org/future-food-sea)

<sup>3</sup> Gaines, S., R. Cabral, C. Free, Y. Golbuu, et al. 2019. *The Expected Impacts of Climate Change on the Ocean Economy*. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available online at [www.oceanpanel.org/expected-impacts-climate-change-ocean-economy](http://www.oceanpanel.org/expected-impacts-climate-change-ocean-economy)

<sup>4</sup> Haenlein, Cathy. 2017. "Below the Surface: How Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Threatens our Security". RUSI Occasional Paper, July 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Sumaila, U. R. & M. Bawumia. 2014. "Fisheries, Ecosystem Justice and Piracy: A Case Study of Somalia". *Fisheries Research* 157: 154-163.





The theft of African's fish by foreign vessels deprives African governments of a highly valuable source of revenue and contributes to Africa being the only region in the world where fish consumption is declining. Weak accountability enables the ongoing unsustainable exploitation of this resource making the fisheries sector in Africa the most vulnerable to poor governance. To fully harness, manage and develop Africa's marine resources in a sustainable manner will require integrated and coordinated national, regional and international efforts. This calls for a strong collaboration at international and regional levels as envisaged in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the universal ratification and implementation of the FAO's Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). Undercuts

The African region with its distinct set of circumstances and challenges, therefore, needs to take a position on the issues that are unique to the region and that will provide the required vision for an integrated and holistic approach to maximising the benefits from a sustainable Ocean Economy.

While the High Level Panel (HLP) for a Sustainable Ocean Economy is united in advancing a global agenda for a sustainable ocean economy, the unique challenges of the continent require Africa to develop a coordinated 'Africa-centric' position. The region needs to develop strategies to ensure that it is a primary drive and beneficiary of its ocean-based resources, by inter alia, addressing Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing (IUU) which threatens to reduce fish stocks in our region to unsustainable levels, building capacity for surveillance and protection of marine resources, and developing strategies to sustainably harness ocean based resources including fisheries.

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Service (IPBES-3) Global Assessment Report and Africa Regional Assessment Report stressed the urgency of addressing pressures to biodiversity that undermine the contributions of nature in securing sustainable livelihoods, with Africa being in a critically vulnerable state due to indirect drivers of population growth, governance and unequal division of wealth.

This urgency is reinforced by the SDG 14 targets 14.4 and 14.6 which are particularly significant to Africa and presents an opportunity for the region to rise and save its fisheries:

14.4 "by 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing"; and

14.6 "by 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies".

Leading fishing nations must enforce regulations and end unethical practices by their fishing vessels and fleets in African waters in order to support fair trade and avoid the imminent collapse of African fish stocks.

Meeting under the auspices of the High Level Panel, this Call for Action comes from the participants to the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Regional Meeting held from 2nd – 3rd December 2019 in Mombasa, Kenya, attended by 91 participants that included participants from six regional governments.

## CALL TO ACTION TO SAVE AFRICA'S FISHERIES

We, the participants of the Western Indian Ocean Regional workshop have identified the following critical actions for the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and African Union to consider in order to end both illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and harmful fisheries subsidies to save and ensure Africa's fisheries, and to consider presenting as recommendations/commitments to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference:

1. **Ratification and full implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)** by all African Port States, reaffirming its important role in combatting IUU fishing, including building legal and institutional capacity and providing technical assistance for AU member Port states to enable effective implementation of port state measures and enforcement of other mechanisms to eliminate IUU fishing.
2. **Enhance Africa's surveillance and prosecutorial capacity.** A critical step to confronting and reducing IUU fishing in African waters is to substantially upgrade monitoring of foreign vessels at sea and in ports. This will require the development of an Africa-wide maritime security architecture, founded on information sharing, resulting in enhanced and sustainable contribution of the fisheries sector to the improved welfare of African citizens. Besides collaborative effects in traditional MCS, better information is needed to mobilize political will as well as guide the allocation of limited enforcement resources, including making use of technological advances such as satellites and drones to improve effectiveness in forms of crime and bring surveillance costs down.
3. **Maintain and publish a record of fishing vessels,** including their identification details (IMO number), registration details, ownership, authorizations, and any previous flags, names, beneficial owners and operators, for flagged vessels involved in fishing operations, through the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record).
4. **Expand and enhance accountability in fisheries access agreements.** The design of fisheries access agreements is where African countries may have the best opportunity to create an environment that is favourable for more sustainable and lawful fishing. However, most fisheries access agreements are guided by the immediate expansion of licence fees or resource rents, which, combined with lack of transparency. Such fisheries access agreements must be more transparent, including rigorous mechanisms for determining licence fees and resource rents as well as oversight.
5. **Support the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).** Though a global initiative, several African countries are among the first to show commitment to implement the FiTI which attempts to bring together governments, representatives of the fishing industry, and civil society to publish and verify comprehensive data on the fisheries sector. This includes the terms of access agreements, details of payments by vessels and foreign investors, information on new investments and subsidies, as well as unprecedented levels of data on catches. It is hoped that FiTI can provide credible data that will feed into improved national discussions on fisheries management and access agreements.
6. **Enhance regional collaboration.** All actors, whether government, civil society, science or industry/private sector, should be consistent and coherent in actions to combat IUU fishing. This includes addressing non-uniformity or RFMO's regulations, improving coordination and data transparency among RFMOs, Flag States and Coastal and market States. Implement digital schemes for documenting catch data to promote global exchange of information and develop regional information sharing and coordination bodies.
7. **Phase out harmful fisheries subsidies.** Acknowledge the urgent need to reach an agreement on new disciplines on harmful fisheries subsidies at the World Trade Organization (WTO) that meets the SDG14.6 mandate by the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in June 2020. Call for the prohibition of harmful subsidies to large-scale and distant water fishing fleets. In addition, subsidies should not be provided in the case of IUU fishing and overfished stocks. Special and differential treatment for developing countries, including provisions under the Law of the Sea, should be respected.

8. **Develop sustainable aquaculture and mariculture.** In the face of capture fisheries reaching Maximum Sustainable Yields (MSY), the future of food from the ocean will come from farmed systems. Africa must come together and speak with one voice to develop sustainable and climate resilient aquaculture and mariculture in a manner that minimises environmental and social impacts. There is a critical need to develop appropriate capacities and adaptive technologies to address regional needs for aquaculture and mariculture development (including human, infrastructural, and innovation in seed and feed technologies).
9. **Strengthen the blue-green economy nexus** through conservation of terrestrial and mangrove forest ecosystems including coastal wetlands by ensuring effective participation of local communities to support the fisheries ecosystems which form breeding and nursery grounds and are critical for shoreline protection.
10. Ecosystems contamination by plastics presents the most visible form of ecosystems degradation and pollution in the oceans of Africa. There is need, therefore, **to adopt a circular economy to ensure environmental protection** as well as the promotion of policies, laws and regulatory frameworks that control importation of plastic goods.
11. Develop the requisite policy, legal and institutional capacities and capabilities, supported by adequate human resource, to accelerate the efforts to **map the ocean and undertake appropriate marine spatial planning** to delineate protected areas (marine parks), fisheries zones, navigation routes, and tourism areas. In these processes there is need to recognize the role of local communities in the planning and utilization of ocean resources.
12. Climate change remains a threat to Africa through elevated oceanic temperatures, ocean acidification and sea level rise, and there is need to develop early warning systems and relevant models that can guide the future investments in the blue economy.
13. **Strengthen the Research and Policy nexus in ocean management.** Relevant research should be designed to meet management requirements. Investment in research and development for the blue economy sectors is key in unlocking these undervalued sectors in Africa.
14. **Develop a common understanding of transnational organized crime in fisheries.** All States be encouraged to formally support the 2018 International Declaration against Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry (the Copenhagen Declaration) as a step towards developing a common understanding and awareness of the problem of organized crime in fisheries and the political will to prioritize addressing it, towards achievement of the SDGs. States should also report annually on transnational organized crime in fisheries to the UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) to ensure widespread and continuous attention to the problem and participate in regular international knowledge-sharing forums, such as the international symposiums on fisheries crime, to share information on, and discuss challenges and opportunities arising from, cases of transnational organized fisheries crime worldwide.
15. Develop practical tools to strengthen law enforcement capacity to address organized crime in the fishing industry. States, acting jointly and individually should move towards developing a number of practical tools to strengthen their criminal law enforcement capacity to address the problem.



# Annexes

## 8.1 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

### OPENING REMARKS

*Mr. Walid Badawi, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Kenya*

UNDP reaffirmed their support and commitment to charting sustainable pathways for the ocean economy through utilization of their “integrator” role in mobilizing partners and collaboratively working with government, communities, private sector and to deliver on the MTP III, the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Highlighted the need for strategic and pragmatic approaches to guarantee social inclusion and collective responsibility in the sustainable use and conservation of oceans and other marine resources. Establishment of systems that enhance protection of the world's dwindling waters and its resources will be essential as countries explore the new realm of economic opportunities that promote inclusive human and socio-economic growth, preservation of livelihoods and strengthening of communities' resilience.

*HLP Overview and UNGA Outcomes: Presented by Ambassador of Norway to Kenya, Ms Elin B. Rognlie*

The common thread running through all of Norway's ocean initiatives is that it is fully possible to combine a prospering ocean-based economy with a healthy marine environment, as long as solid environmental standards are in place. Keywords are knowledge sustainable ocean management and partnership. Every regional summit is indeed an opportunity to move the agenda forward and to renew global commitments to clean, healthy and productive oceans.

*Update on Preparations for Ocean 2020 Conference by Amb Luisa Frago, Head of Mission, Embassy of Portugal*

The theme of the UN Ocean 2020 Conference which Portugal and Kenya are co-hosting is “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”. It will seek to build on the outcomes of the first Conference and, at the same time, explore synergies and draw inputs from the work being done in other processes. The conference is also expected to adopt a brief, action-oriented declaration, focusing on the science-based and innovative areas of action to support the implementation of SDG 14.

The success of the conference depends on our common capacity to inspire, to mobilize, to harness the political will, the ideas, the scientific knowledge and innovation and the resources that are instrumental to bring about a fundamental change in the way we do things, and thus ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of our Ocean for present and future generations.

### SETTING THE SCENE

*Sustainable Ocean Economy Conference Outcomes: Presentation by Prof Micheni Ntiba, CBS Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya*

Summarizes the Nairobi Statement of Intent into 8 thematic areas including (i) action-oriented global strategies; (ii) collaboration and partnerships (iii) funding from the public and private sources, (iv) access to technologies and innovations, (v) participation of women and youth and (vi) science and research (vii) governance mechanisms and (viii) synergies with and between different levels of governments. The presentation recommends a way forward that resonates with the aspirations of people and urges that smart commitments be made that are specific and time bound towards developing a sustainable blue economy.

*HLP Overview and UNGA Outcomes: Presentation by Nicola Frost, Deputy Head, HLP Secretariat, World Resources Institute, London*

Describes HLP as a unique initiative by 14 world leaders committed to: supporting the SDGs for a better future; creating a new relationship between humanity and the ocean that allows us to Protect, Produce and Prosper; as well as catalyzing bold, pragmatic ocean solutions in governance, technology and finance. The HLP intends to accelerate action towards SDGs by scaling up collaboration and innovations in governance, finance, technology and put forth a landmark set of practical recommendations grounded in economic reality and aligned with national and regional plans.

*Why does the Ocean Economy Matter for Africa? Presentation by Ms. Juster Nkoroi, CBS, Secretary, Kenya International Boundaries Office – Blue Economy Implementation Standing Committee*

Proposes that if coastal and small island states in Africa fully developed their respective capacity to utilize ocean resources, it will address (i) food and nutritional requirements for our rapidly expanding populations (ii) create jobs for the youth (iii) generate income and wealth for individuals and economies.

African states should therefore develop institutional and legal capacities to eliminate theft of living resources through IUU; mitigate and safeguard the health of oceans; develop capacities to explore and utilize living and nonliving ocean resources and urgently undertake research and enhance capabilities to help us understand and utilize the ocean resources.

## PROTECT

*Regional Initiatives on Environmental Protection: Presentation by Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Head of Secretariat, Nairobi Convention, UNEP*

Highlights the importance of providing a framework for regional cooperation in the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment for sustainable socioeconomic growth and prosperity. Recommends creating a mechanism for dedicated regional ocean governance dialogue on trans-boundary issues as well as strengthen capacities within governments to discuss and contribute to global discourse on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

*Pollution and plastic waste management: Presentation by Ms. Lucy Ng'anga, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya*

Reviews threats to coastal resources including pollution. Highlights current policy and legal status in Kenya and the next impetus including sustainable waste management policy, bill and the E-waste strategy that are grounded on circular economy and lifecycle approach to waste management. Presentation also discusses the role of counties and the enhanced responsibility for waste management as well as on the importance to explore and strengthen green and blue economy nexus.

*Blue Carbon Initiatives for Climate Change Mitigation: Presentation by Dr. James Kairo, MBS, Chief Research Scientist, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute*

Highlights the multiple benefits of blue carbon ecosystems that can be part of mitigation and adaptation strategies. Argues that restoring and protecting blue carbon ecosystems has the potential to provide low cost opportunities to mitigate carbon emissions. Suggests incorporating blue carbon in revised NDCs including strengthening conservation and management of mangroves for climate change adaptations and mitigation.

*Maritime Safety and Security: Presentation by: Brig, Naisho Loonena, Director General, Kenya Coast Guard Service*

Overview of relationship between maritime safety and security as well as the legal framework they operate under. Discusses national concerns that affect a nation's capacity for achieving safety and security and the lessons learnt while developing capacity to improve synergies with regional and international initiative. Highlights a case study in Kenya that laid the foundation for the political will and commitment to international legal frameworks and was one of the strongest precursors to the current focus on the development of the Blue Economy.

*Plenary Leading Response: Rwanda 's pathways towards the ban of single use plastics: approaches, challenges*

Gives documentation of the history of plastic ban in Rwanda and why the law in August 2019 was revised to include prohibition of manufacturing, importation, use and sale of plastic carry bags and single-use plastic items. The presentation highlights strategies used in Rwanda to implement the ban of plastics, the challenges faced and what impact the ban has had in the country.

*Jumuiya ya Kaunti Za Pwani: Presentation by Emmanuel Nzai*

Jumuiya ya Kaunti Za Pwani is an economic development formation of Kenya's six coastal counties of Kenya comprising Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu and Taita Taveta. They have prioritized the blue economy value chain as one of three value chains the other two being livestock and horticulture.

## PRODUCE

*Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) within the Indian Ocean Region: Presentation by Gerald Domingue, Compliance Officer, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission*

MCS encompasses all mechanisms that aim to ensure the effective implementation of fisheries management and rules. Through the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) member countries have the legal mandate to enforce 12 measures including on coastal state, the flag state, port state, market state and penalty mechanisms. Assessment is done on a yearly basis to determine whether countries are meeting expectations.

*Ending Harmful Fisheries Subsidies: Presentation by Isabel Jarret, Manager, Reducing Harmful Fisheries Subsidies; PEW Charitable Trusts*

With \$22.5 billion in harmful subsidies in 2018, Africa is encouraged to lead reforms at the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. The presentation highlights that the state of fisheries can be enhanced by fixing the economics by removing incentives to overfish; improve national fisheries management; push for regional cooperation management; make illegal fishing unprofitable; buy insurance by creating marine reserves and remove and/or redirect harmful subsidies.

*World Trade Organization (WTO) Negotiations on Harmful Fisheries Subsidies: Presentation by Peter Lunenborg, Senior Program Officer, South Centre, Geneva – Switzerland*

The presentation considers the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies and the implications that envisaged disciplines will have on coastal developing countries. This is considered in relation to fisheries access agreements in the Western Indian Ocean region where several least developed but resource rich countries are highly exposed to the risks associated with new WTO fisheries subsidies disciplines that do not consider their particular vulnerabilities. The presentation considers some of the issues that coastal developing countries should incorporate into their emerging negotiating positions at the WTO.

## PROSPER

*UN Decade of Ocean Science: Presentation by Mika Odido, IOC Coordinator, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and Adjacent Island States IOC/UNESCO*

We can prepare for the decade by developing scientific knowledge, building infrastructure and fostering partnerships for a sustainable and ocean economy. This will lead to a clean, healthy, resilient and predicted ocean. The UN decade of ocean science is prioritizing (i) a comprehensive map of the ocean, (ii) capacity building and training (iii) data and information system (iii) a comprehensive observing system and (iv) a quantitative understanding of ocean ecosystems.

*Science for Impact: Presentation by Dr. Jaqueline Uku, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Organization (WIOMSA)*

The coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean region are facing many threats but they also present many opportunities to those who depend on their resources. WIOMSA recognizes that the region needs integrated research and management strategies that address the threats and better inform communities and decisions makers of the existing opportunities. The decade will matter in the WIO region if the science we do will enable us to take local actions that have global impact.

*HLP Blue Papers Overview: Presentation by Nicola Frost, Deputy Head, HLP Secretariat*

200+ authors from 42 countries are involved in the development of Blue Papers. The Blue Papers will be launched between November and May 2020 and are currently going through a rigorous peer review process engaging global experts. The papers will be hosted on [www.oceanpanel.org](http://www.oceanpanel.org) website as well as a free access online Nature collection. Rolling release of Blue Papers, timed to coincide with important events that offer visibility.





## 8.2 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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# HIGH LEVEL PANEL FOR A **SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY**

**WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN (WIO) REGIONAL MEETING**