

Invitation to the
Marine Regions Forum 2023

Navigating ocean sustainability in the Western Indian Ocean and beyond

Dear colleagues,

Please mark your calendar and join us for the Marine Regions Forum 2023 conference, a unique space for stakeholders across sectors and regions to discuss pressing ocean issues and impactful collaborative solutions.

Date: 7 – 9 November 2023

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The health of our oceans is more critical than ever, requiring accelerated action and joined forces to address the manifold issues and challenges ahead. The Marine Regions Forum 2023 provides an inclusive, informal platform for collaborative engagement across sectors and regions. Operating outside of the usual silos and formal processes, participants will gather to address urgent challenges and chart impactful actions aimed at preserving marine ecosystems for people and planet.

Dedicated to forging pathways towards a thriving ocean, the Marine Regions Forum 2023 will focus on the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region while facilitating exchanges with other marine regions. It aims to develop clear recommendations, catalyse action, and build partnerships for stronger regional ocean governance, making a timely contribution to key ocean governance policy processes – from the local, regional, to global level.

The conference has been developed collaboratively with international and regional partners, particularly the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. It draws on the successes and insights gained during the inaugural Marine Regions Forum in 2019 in Berlin (please see this [video link](#)).

Guided by a daily theme, inclusivity (day 1), innovation (day 2), and implementation (day 3), the conference program will delve into topics that include:

- Tackling the Triple Planetary Crisis – climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss
- Fostering a sustainable blue economy
- Implementing global objectives at the regional level
- Regional Ocean Governance

You can find the tentative programme of the Marine Regions Forum 2023 below and [on our website](#). *Please note: plenaries are open to the press, but the parallel sessions are closed for press reporting to ensure open exchange between participants.*

For accreditation, please contact one of our media departments:

Germany: Sabine Letz, Email: media@rifs-potsdam.de, Phone: +49 (0)331 288 22 479 (*Research Institute for Sustainability, Potsdam*)

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More information: www.marineregionsforum.org

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Overview of the Marine Regions Forum 2023 Conference Programme

Day 1: Inclusivity – 7th November 2023	
Time	Session
08:00 – 10:00	Registration with welcome coffee
09:30 – 10:00	Photo with Dignitaries
10:00 – 11:00	Welcome to the Marine Regions Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Regions Forum • Tanzania • Seychelles • European Commission • Sweden
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary 1 – Building a shared understanding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling the triple planetary crisis – David Obura (Cordio – East Africa) • Fostering a sustainable blue economy – Aboud Jumbe (Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Zanzibar) • Implementing global goals at regional level – Minna Epps (IUCN) • Regional Ocean Governance – Dixon Waruinge (Nairobi Convention Secretariat)
12:00 – 12:30	Full group photo
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:30	1.1. Tackling the triple planetary crisis
Parallel workshop sessions including coffee break	Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis in local coastal contexts in East Africa – fostering resilience communities and ecosystems
	2.1. Fostering a sustainable blue economy
	Circular economy for a more inclusive sustainable blue tourism in coastal and island destinations
	3.1. Implementing global goals at the regional level
	Negotiations on deep-sea mining
	4.1. Regional Ocean Governance
	Regional Ambition, Local Support
18:00 – 18:30	Early Career Representatives – Catch up
18:30 – 22:00	Conference Dinner

Day 2: Innovation – 8th November 2023

Time	Session
09:00 – 12:00	1.2. Tackling the triple planetary crisis
Parallel workshop sessions including coffee break	Innovation for climate change and food security
	2.2. Fostering a sustainable blue economy
	Science for sustainable blue economic development
	3.2. Implementing global goals at the regional level
	Fighting against plastic pollution: Progress and challenges in the Western Indian Ocean
	4.2. Regional Ocean Governance
	Sharing the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy process with the WIO and beyond
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:30	1.3. Tackling the triple planetary crisis
Parallel workshop sessions	Innovation for climate change and food security (continued)
	2.3. Fostering a sustainable blue economy
	Marine Spatial Planning for a Sustainable Blue Economy and Ecosystem-Based Development
	3.3. Implementing global goals at the regional level
	Fighting against plastic pollution: Progress and challenges in the Western Indian Ocean (continued)
	4.3. Regional Ocean Governance
	Information management strategy
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Plenary 2 – Inclusivity and Innovation in Ocean Governance. Moderated by Miranda Naimann
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samantha Peterson – WWF • Marie-May Jeremie – SEYCAT • Jacqueline Uku – KMFRI • Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy – IUCN • Lorna Inniss – IOC ARIBE UNESCO
	<i>Conference impressions video – day 1 and 2 highlights</i>
17:30 – 18:00	Early Career Representatives – Meet up
18:00 – 22:00	Evening Reception and Launchpad

Day 3: Implementation – 9th November

Time	Session
09:00 – 12:00	1.4. Tackling the triple planetary crisis
	Implementing Area-Based Management Tools within and beyond the WIO

Parallel workshop sessions including coffee break	2.4. Fostering a sustainable blue economy Advancing private sector involvement in ocean sustainability and governance in the WIO 3.4. Implementing global goals at the regional level Implementation of the high seas treaty: What role for WIO intergovernmental organisations? 4.4. Regional Ocean Governance Who does what, when and how?
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
Parallel workshop sessions	1.5. Tackling the triple planetary crisis Coastal Adaptation in the WIO: From theory to practice 2.5. Fostering a sustainable blue economy Advancing private sector involvement in ocean sustainability and governance in the WIO (continued) 3.5. Implementing global goals at the regional level Accelerating coastal and marine restoration in the WIO 4.5. Regional Ocean Governance Financing and Resourcing
15:30 – 16: 00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:20	Plenary 3 – Shaping the path ahead. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanzania • Seychelles • Nairobi Convention Secretariat • Early Career Representative • Madagascar • Marine Regions Forum
17:20 – 17:30	Closing remarks – Marine Regions Forum

The Marine Regions Forum is coordinated by:



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In partnership with:

