OUR OCEAN
KENYA 2026
16-18 JUNE

Unlocking Investment in Africa's Safe & Sustainable Ocean Economy

Business & Investment Forum

PrideInn Paradise Beach Resort

15 June | 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm

ocean centres | UN Global Compact | LR Foundation | One Ocean | UN environment programme | World Resources Institute

Logistics

Time: Welcome coffee 14:00
Workshop from 14:30 - 18:30
followed by Networking Reception
from 18:30 -20:30

Date: Monday, 15 June 2026

Venue: PrideInn Paradise Beach Resort, Mombasa - Kenya

Target Participants: 48 participants, including representatives from Member States, ocean industries, financial institutions, international organisations, philanthropic foundations, policy and research institutes, accelerators, and other organisations advancing innovative blue finance solutions.

Hosted in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Kenya, Ocean Centres (United Nations Global Compact & Lloyd's Register Foundation), World Resource Institute (WRI), the One Ocean Finance Initiative and UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Workshop Background

This interactive workshop will focus on translating ocean development pathways into structured, investable blue finance pipelines across African ocean economies.

While global blue finance commitments continue to grow, many countries face structural barriers in converting ocean policy ambitions, sector strategies, and emerging blue economy priorities into bankable, risk-mitigated investment pipelines. Capital is increasingly available — but structured pipelines often are not.

African countries are at different stages of ocean governance and development planning. While some have adopted formal Sustainable Ocean Plans, others are advancing sector-specific strategies, regulatory reforms, or investment frameworks.

The workshop will highlight ongoing efforts by Ocean Centres, World Resources Institute, UN Global Compact, and the One Ocean Finance Facility to unlock blue finance, including through the application of the **Ocean Investment Protocol** and **Sustainable Ocean Plans** as practical guides for project preparation, risk mitigation, and capital structuring.

Workshop Background

As this workshop is designed to generate practical outcomes rather than conceptual dialogue, the programme will be structured into two co-design sessions:

Co-Design Session 1 – Building African Blue Finance Pipelines

Structural Conditions

Participants will examine the structural conditions required to develop investable blue finance pipelines across African ocean sectors. Discussions will focus on key bottlenecks, enabling reforms, institutional leadership roles, and short-term actions (12–24 months) needed to strengthen pipeline development and mobilize investment across the sustainable ocean economy.

Co-Design Session 2 – Applying the Framework: National Pathways in Practice

Practical Application

Building on the constraints and enabling conditions identified in “Co-Design Session 1”, participants will explore how national ocean strategies — including Ghana’s Sustainable Ocean Plan, Kenya’s Blue Economy Strategy, and the Seychelles Blue Economy Roadmap — can be translated into coordinated investment and implementation pathways. Discussions will focus on improving coordination across governments, development finance institutions, financial actors, and industry; aligning financial instruments and risk-sharing mechanisms; and identifying opportunities to link national investment pipelines with regional and global sources of capital.

Workshop Objectives

The session aims to:

- Explore **practical pathways** to translate ocean development ambitions into investable blue finance pipelines across African ocean economies.

- Identify **structural barriers** — including policy, institutional, and project preparation gaps — that limit the development of investment-ready ocean projects.

- Facilitate **dialogue** between policymakers, financial institutions, industry actors, and international partners on strengthening pipeline development and and improving coordination across the ocean finance ecosystem.

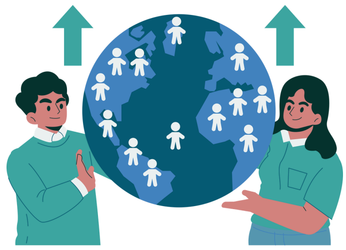
- Strengthen **collaboration among key initiatives** advancing blue finance, including Ocean Centres, the World Resources Institute, the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, the One Ocean Finance Facility and its partners, and other institutions supporting sustainable ocean investment.

Expected Outcomes

The workshop is expected to generate:

- Practical **insights and recommendations** on priority actions needed to accelerate the preparation and structuring of investable ocean economy projects.

- **Replicable models** for other emerging ocean economies including adaptable ocean finance roadmaps that can be customized to national development priorities and institutional contexts.



- **Enhanced visibility of African priorities**, experiences, and leadership in global blue finance discussions.

- Inputs to **ongoing global initiatives on ocean finance**, including efforts to strengthen integrated ocean finance architecture and investment coordination.

- Enhanced **collaboration among participating institutions** to support pipeline development and capital mobilisation across African ocean economies.

Format & Agenda

<table>
<tr><th>TIME</th><th>SESSION</th></tr>
<tr><td>14:00 - 14:30</td><td>Arrival - Welcoming Tea / Coffee</td></tr>
<tr><td>14:30 - 15:10</td><td>High-Level Opening Segment

Opening Remarks: Patricia Furtado de Mendonça, Global Lead, Ocean Centres, UN Global Compact - 5min

Introductory Remarks: Susan Gardner, Director, Ecosystems Division, UN Environmental Programme - 5 min

High-Level Remarks (Member States):
Betsy Muthoni Njagi, CBS. Principal Secretary - Blue Economy and Fisheries, Government of the Republic of Kenya - 5 min
Hon. Madam Emelia Arthur (MP), Honourable Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Government of the Republic of Ghana - 5 min (tbc)
H.E. Ms. Marie-May Jeremie, Minister for Environment, Climate, Energy and Natural Resources, Government of the Republic of Seychelles - 5 min (tbc)
Strategic Perspectives:
Ruth Boumphrey, CEO Lloyd’s Register Foundation - 5min
Cynthia Barzuna, Deputy Director, Ocean Program and Director, Ocean Action 2030 Coalition, WRI - 5 min</td></tr>
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Format & Agenda

TIME	SESSION
15:10 - 16:25	**Co-Design Session #1:** Building African Blue Finance Pipelines **Total duration:** 75 min **Format:** 6 participants seated around 8 roundtables, each one with a facilitator. **1.Session Framing (10 mins):** Suzanne Johnson, Senior Advisor for the Ocean, United Nations Global Compact. **2.Breakout Discussions (40 mins):** Facilitators will tailor their questions for each roundtable, based on the participants' profiles. **3.Readout & Synthesis (25 mins):** Table facilitators will share key insights and outcomes from their discussions
16:25- 16:50	**Networking Tea**

Format & Agenda

TIME	SESSION
16:50 - 18:10	**Co-Design Session #2:** Translating Ocean Strategies into Coherent Investment Pathways **Total duration:** 70 min **Format:** 6 participants seated around 8 roundtables, each one with a facilitator **1.Session 1 Recap (5 mins):** Suzanne Johnson, Senior Advisor for the Ocean, United Nations Global Compact. **2.Session Framing (10 mins):** Pierre Bardoux, Director of the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, UNCDF. **3.Breakout Discussions (40 mins):** Facilitators will tailor their questions for each roundtable, based on the participants profiles. **4.Readout & Synthesis (15 mins):** Table facilitators will share key insights and outcomes from their discussions.
18:10 - 18:20	**High-Level Closing Segment:** • Ambassador Peter Thomson, UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean - 5 mins • Hon. Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment, Republic of Palau – 5 min (tbc)
18:30 - 20:30	**Networking Reception - Cocktail**

For more information:

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