

# Academia & Research Pre-Conference Symposium

A Pre-11th Our Ocean Conference Event  
14–15 June 2026 | Pride Inn Paradise, Ocean Bay Conference Centre  
2-Day Programme • Parallel Breakout Sessions • 3 Rooms • 6 Themes

## Day 1 – Sunday, 14 June 2026

| TIME                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | ROOM A – Plenary Hall (Barracuda Room)<br>• Marine Protected Areas • Sustainable Fisheries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ROOM B – Breakout Suite 1 (Sail Fish Room)<br>• Marine Pollution • Sustainable Blue Economy                                                                                           | ROOM C – Breakout Suite 2 (Manta Ray Room)<br>• Maritime Security • Ocean–Climate Nexus                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07:00–08:25                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>REGISTRATION   Registration Desk – All Delegates</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| 08:30–10:15                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>OPENING CEREMONY   Barracuda Room   All Delegates</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>08:30–08:50</b> KMFRI Choir<br><b>08:50–09:05</b> Remarks: KMFRI Director General<br><b>09:05–09:20</b> Remarks: KMFRI BOM Chair Remarks<br><b>09:20–09:35</b> Remarks: Prof. Micheni Ntiba, PhD, EBS<br><b>09:35–09:50</b> Remarks: Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, PS, State Department for Science, Research and Innovation<br><b>09:50–10:15</b> Opening Remarks: Hon. Julius Ogamba, EGH Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:15–10:30                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>GROUP PHOTO   Barracuda Room</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:30–11:00                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>MORNING BREAK   Poster Exhibition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| 11:00–11:20                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>* KEYNOTE ADDRESS: MARINE PROTECTED AREAS</b><br><b>Marine Protected Areas and Biodiversity: From Global Targets to Local Impact</b><br><i>Dr. Arthur Tuda, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association</i>                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| 11:30–11:50                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>* KEYNOTE ADDRESS: BLUE CARBON</b><br><b>Through a Looking Glass... The Future of Blue Carbon Research and Innovations</b><br><i>Dr. James Kairo, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute</i>                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| 12:00–12:20                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>* KEYNOTE ADDRESS: SCIENCE TO POLICY</b><br><b>Ocean Science as Strategic Infrastructure: Governing Africa's Blue Economy in the Ocean Decade</b><br><i>Mr Ibukun Adewumi, UNESCO IOC Africa</i>                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| 12:30–12:50                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>* KEYNOTE ADDRESS: MARITIME SECURITY</b><br><b>Strengthening Maritime Security through Innovation and Technology</b><br><i>Mr Tony Long, Global Fishing Watch</i>                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| Session Chair: Dr Gladys Okemwa   Rapporteur: Ms Josephine Marigu                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| 13:00–14:00                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>LUNCH BREAK   60 min   Networking &amp; *Poster Exhibition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Marine Protected Areas</b><br><i>Chair: Dr Judith Nyunja</i><br><i>Rapporteur: Dr Levy Otuoma</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Marine Pollution</b><br><i>Chair: Dr Erick Okuku</i><br><i>Rapporteur: Catherine Mwalugha</i>                                                                                      | <b>Maritime Security</b><br><i>Chair: Dr Nelly Kadagi</i><br><i>Rapporteur: Fridah Munyi</i>                                               |
| 14:00–14:15                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <i>Revolutionizing community-managed coral restoration in Kenya with low-tech floating nurseries</i><br>— Omar Farouk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>Lagrangian modeling of marine plastic debris transport in the WIO: the interplay of currents, wind, &amp; diffusion along the Kenyan coast</i><br>— Athman Salim                   | <i>AI-driven marine data systems for sustainable blue economy governance in East Africa</i><br>— Geoffrey Ochieng                          |
| 14:20–14:35                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <i>Community-based no-take zones enhance mud crab populations and fishery yields in Indonesia's mangrove forests</i><br>— Adam Miller                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>Assessment of the impact of abandoned, discarded or lost fishing motors and plastic on the seabed</i><br>— Déthié Faye A.                                                          | <i>Eyes on the sea: a review of maritime domain awareness systems in the Western Indian Ocean</i><br>— Prof. Dr. Christian Bueger          |
| 14:40–15:55                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <i>Scaling inclusive MPAs in Africa: lessons from Namibia's NIMPA+ programme in the Benguela current region</i><br>— Carolin Mutorwa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <i>Biodegradable fishing gear</i><br>— Emma Algotsson                                                                                                                                 | <i>From fragmented to unified: Compilation of the first Western Indian Ocean bathymetry grid</i><br>— Dr Amon Kimeli                       |
| 15:00–15:15                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <i>Integrating local and scientific knowledge to understand dynamic social-ecological change in small-scale fisheries</i><br>— Dr Amber Carter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <i>When circularity meets geography: community-led logistics governance for marine plastic mitigation in small islands of the Indonesian archipelago</i><br>— Kristanton Irawan Putra | <i>The 4D chain of deterrence: bridging maritime surveillance and legal enforcement against IUU fishing in Africa</i><br>— Romain Langeard |
| 15:20–15:35                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Assessment of marine litter on the Mogadishu coastal area: the case of Lido and Urubo beaches</i><br>— Abdinasir Abdulle Mohamed                                                   | <i>Strengthening governance and community institutions to combat IUU fishing in the Western Indian Ocean</i><br>— Dr. Dina Ogara           |
| 15:40–17:00                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <b>AFTERNOON BREAK   *Poster Exhibition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>*NB:</b> All posters will be mounted in the respective thematic session rooms. Presenters are expected to be available during the scheduled poster sessions to engage with conference delegates on their research. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |

## DAY 2 – Monday 15 June 2026

| TIME                                                                                              | ROOM A – Plenary Hall (Barracuda Room)<br><i>Keynotes • Marine Protected Areas<br/>• Sustainable Fisheries</i>                                                                                                                                  | ROOM B – Breakout Suite 1 (Sail Fish Room)<br><i>Marine Pollution • Sustainable Blue Economy</i>                                                                 | ROOM C – Breakout Suite 2 (Manta Ray Room)<br><i>• Maritime Security • Ocean–Climate Nexus</i>                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                   | <i>Sustainable Fisheries • Science &amp; Academia</i>                                                                                                                                                                                           | <i>Sustainable Blue Economy</i>                                                                                                                                  | <i>Ocean–Climate Nexus</i>                                                                                                                             |
| 09:00–09:20<br> | <b>* KEYNOTE: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES</b><br><b>Science, Research and Innovation (SR&amp;I) as Enablers of a Sustainable Blue Economy: Protecting Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future</b><br><i>Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Government of Kenya</i> |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 09:30–09:50<br> | <b>* KEYNOTE: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES</b><br><b>Maintaining Diversity Across Fisheries is Key to Sustainability</b><br><i>Prof. Christina Hicks, Lancaster University</i>                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 10:00–10:20<br>  | <b>* KEYNOTE ADDRESS: SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY</b><br><b>From Ocean–Based Growth to a True–Blue Economy: Africa’s Opportunity, Africa’s Leadership</b><br><i>Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution</i>                |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 10:30–10:50<br>  | <b>* KEYNOTE ADDRESS: OCEAN–CLIMATE NEXUS</b><br><b>Ocean–Climate Nexus in the WIO Region</b><br><i>Dr. Jared Bosire, Nairobi Convention</i>                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Session Chair: Dr James Mwaluma   Rapporteur: Dr Lilian Daudi</i>                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11:00–11:30                                                                                       |  <b>MORNING BREAK   30 min</b>                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                   | <b>Sustainable Fisheries</b><br><i>Chair: Dr Nina Wambiji</i><br><i>Rapporteur: Dr Mary Ontomwa</i>                                                                                                                                             | <b>Sustainable Blue Economy</b><br><i>Chair: Prof Cosmas Munga</i><br><i>Rapporteur: Dr Anthony Nzioka</i>                                                       | <b>Ocean–Climate Nexus</b><br><i>Chair: Prof Bernard Fulanda</i><br><i>Rapporteur: Dr Amina Hamza</i>                                                  |
| 11:30–11:45                                                                                       | <i>Contemporary reef fisheries governance and institutional fit in Kenya</i><br>— Anastasia Smith                                                                                                                                               | <i>Surfer scientists: a community drive, low cost sensor network for coastal monitoring supporting sustainable blue economies</i><br>— Jethan d’Hotman           | <i>Barriers and enablers to blue carbon projects in Africa: a horizon scan analysis</i><br>— Derrick Omollo                                            |
| 11:50–12:05                                                                                       | <i>ReefFish: Deep learning–based reef fish monitoring for fisheries management along the East African coast</i><br>— Jules Gerard                                                                                                               | <i>PAVE proposal for the West Africa youth blue economy value–chain advocacy, awareness and local capacities development project</i><br>— Victoria Ujunwa Aghaji | <i>Spatial and socio–ecological characterization of mangrove restoration priority areas in Marracuene, Mozambique</i><br>— Benedito Lopes Julião Issa  |
| 12:10–12:25                                                                                       | <i>Achieving sustainable development goals through small–scale seafood production in Kenya</i><br>— Esther Fondo                                                                                                                                | <i>Mangrove conservation and blue carbon finance as drivers of sustainable community development: Vanga Blue Forest Project, Kenya</i><br>— Meali Mohamed Maule  | <i>Dissolution kinetics of olivine bearing rocks in mangrove forest conditions</i><br>— Joseph Nyingi Kamau                                            |
| 12:30–12:45                                                                                       | <i>A decade in review (2014–2024): Assessing the sustainability and management trajectories of Kenya’s priority marine fisheries</i><br>— Gladys Okemwa                                                                                         | <i>Beyond carbon: community perspectives on blue carbon initiatives in Kenya through an environmental justice lens</i><br>— Abel Kiprono Lagat                   | <i>Strengthening marine conservation through ranger training, reef restoration and community engagement in Zanzibar</i><br>— Diandra Naidoo            |
| 12:50–13:05                                                                                       | <i>Development and application of a Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) assay for the detection of White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) in shrimp in Mozambique</i><br>— Ervinio Litsuri                                                  | <i>The role of research, policy and communication in planning Kenya’s ocean space</i><br>— Dr. Jacqueline Uku                                                    | <i>Intersecting Inequalities and Climate Maladaptation: Rethinking Sea Defence–Induced Vulnerability in Coastal Ghana</i><br>— Dorothy Khasisi Lukhabi |
| 13:10–14:10                                                                                       |  <b>LUNCH BREAK   60 min   Networking &amp; Poster Exhibition</b>                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 14:15–16:00                                                                                       | <b>CLOSING CEREMONY</b><br><b>Awards &amp; Adoption of Ocean–Climate Declaration</b><br><i>Baraccuda Room   Arthur Tuda</i>                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 18:30–23:30                                                                                       |  <b>NETWORKING RECEPTION &amp; COCKTAIL EVENING</b>                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>All times are local (EAT)   Programme subject to change   * Indicates confirmed speakers</i>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

### DAY 1 AND DAY 2

| Room A – Barracuda Room                                                                                                                                                                     | Room B – Sail Fish Room                                                                                                                                                                           | Room C – Manta Ray Room                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>Marine Protected Areas</b>                                                                             |  <b>Marine Pollution</b>                                                                                       |  <b>Maritime Security</b>                                                                                                             |
| <b>P1.1</b> <i>Beyond restoration: towards livelihood diversification for coral reef conservation and resilience in the Shimoni seascape, Kenya</i><br>— Joshua Wambugu                     | <b>P2.1</b> <i>A scalable ship-based system for large-scale marine plastic removal: 100 days, 100,000 tons, \$500 million</i><br>— Jianwen Zhang                                                  | <b>P3.1</b> <i>Assessing Quantities, Causes, Mitigation and Prevention Measures for Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Kenya</i><br>— Ms. Maureen M. Kombo                                  |
| <b>P1.2</b> <i>Community-based participatory monitoring in Shisiwani national park: a replicable MPA governance model for small island developing states</i><br>— Youssouf Ben ALI ABDALLAH | <b>P2.2</b> <i>Imprint of human activities records recovered at monthly resolution from massive porites lutea coral skeleton at watamu national marine park in Kenya</i><br>— Nyinge N. Mwadzombo | <b>P3.2</b> <i>From data to dollars: leveraging digital MRV frameworks to unlock blue economy potential</i><br>— Regine Liu                                                                                              |
| <b>P1.3</b> <i>Empowering youth as ocean advocates: the Youth4MPAs movement in South Africa</i><br>— Asandiswa Nonyukela                                                                    | <b>P2.3</b> <i>Microbial contaminants trail in siganus sutor landed by artisanal fishers along the Kenyan coast</i><br>— Winnie Kadzo Jefwa                                                       | <b>P3.3</b> <i>Hydrospatial architecture for resilient marine observation in small island developing states</i><br>— Francesca Adrienne                                                                                  |
| <b>P1.4</b> <i>Mapping uneven impacts of coastal degradation: local knowledge as a pathway to equitable ocean governance in Inhambane Bay, Mozambique</i><br>— Horacio Madiva               | <b>P2.4</b> <i>Reduced plastic pollution for biodiversity conservation and improved communities' livelihood</i><br>— Catherine Sezi Mwalugha                                                      | <b>P3.4</b> <i>Whale alert – reducing ship strike risk for all vessels through collaborative sharing of sightings and detections along with approach guidelines and management zones</i><br>— Deanna Richburg Zetterling |
| <b>P1.5</b> <i>Seasonal protected areas as a tool for enhancing sea turtle conservation in Seychelles</i><br>— Alice Mascarenhas                                                            | <b>P2.5</b> <i>Textile microfibers in the marine environment: sources, transport, impacts and implications for ocean sustainability</i><br>— Giuseppe Suaria                                      | <b>P3.5</b> <i>WSR model in Bahía de Todos Santos: surf ecosystems, surfonomics and community-led territorial defence</i><br>— Armando Efrain Olachea García                                                             |

| Room A – Barracuda Room                                                                                                                                                                        | Room B – Sail Fish Room                                                                                                                                                                                   | Room C – Manta Ray Room                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>Sustainable Fisheries</b>                                                                                 |  <b>Sustainable Blue Economy</b>                                                                                       |  <b>Ocean–Climate Nexus</b>                                                                             |
| <b>P4.1</b> <i>Influence of rocky tidal pool characteristics on diversity and abundance of fish in Tudor creek, Kenya</i><br>— Immaculate Kinyua                                               | <b>P5.1</b> <i>Circular aquaculture using black soldier fly larvae as a sustainable fishmeal alternative in coastal Kenya</i><br>— Linah Samra Minangi                                                    | <b>P6.1</b> <i>"My spirit was crushed": gendered insights from farmers and fishers into climate shocks, livelihood disruptions, and mental wellbeing in Kenya</i><br>— Sally Atieno Odunga |
| <b>P4.2</b> <i>From reef to landing site: trophic-level responses to fishing technology and spatial variation in Kenyan coastal and marine small-scale fisheries</i><br>— John Ndarathi Ngatia | <b>P5.2</b> <i>De-risking ocean investment through strategic communication and outreach: linking Kenya blue economy and Namibia waves of change</i><br>— Rob Barnes                                       | <b>P6.2</b> <i>Co-producing climate-resilient coastal tourism</i><br>— David Cabana                                                                                                        |
| <b>P4.3</b> <i>Community led reef closures for octopus fisheries: supporting ecological health and sustainable livelihoods: case Kilwa, Tanzania</i><br>— Benard Kaitira                       | <b>P5.3</b> <i>Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture as a nature-based solution for climate resilience and livelihood improvement in Kijiwani, Kwale county, Kenya</i><br>— Ninyoha Hamisi Madzitsa        | <b>P6.3</b> <i>Triple threat in coastal socioecological systems: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution in the Honduran Caribbean</i><br>— Joel Guity Zapata                      |
| <b>P4.4</b> <i>Integrating artemia production into Kenya's blue economy policy framework: opportunities for coastal saltworks and local communities</i><br>— Sheban Mdzomba Hinzano            | <b>P5.4</b> <i>Mobilising the worlds marine stations: the world association of marine stations (WAMS) for international collaboration, ocean diplomacy and capacity sharing</i><br>— Professor Matt Frost | <b>P6.4</b> <i>Roadmap for biodiversity net gain in the offshore renewable energy sector</i><br>— Qiulin LIU                                                                               |
| <b>P4.5</b> <i>Lessons from AFRIMAQUA: regional collaboration for sustainable and nutrition-sensitive marine aquaculture in Africa</i><br>— David Oersted Mirera                               | <b>P5.5</b> <i>Satellite imagery reveals small-scale fishing activity and industrial encroachment across Africa</i><br>— David Kroodsma                                                                   | <b>P6.5</b> <i>Sustainable blue energy: unlocking marine renewable potential in the West Indian Ocean</i><br>— Rodney Mugo                                                                 |

Posters will be mounted in the respective thematic session rooms. Presenting authors are expected to be available during the scheduled poster sessions to engage with delegates on their research.