

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) • Marine Protected Areas • Sustainable Fisheries	ROOM B – Breakout Suite 1 (Sail Fish Room) • Marine Pollution • Sustainable Blue Economy	ROOM C – Breakout Suite 2 (Manta Ray Room) • Maritime Security • Ocean–Climate Nexus
07:00–08:25	 REGISTRATION Registration Desk – All Delegates		
08:30–10:15	OPENING CEREMONY Barracuda Room All Delegates		
	08:30–08:50 KMFRI Choir 08:50–09:05 Remarks: KMFRI Director General 09:05–09:20 Remarks: KMFRI BOM Chair Remarks 09:20–09:35 Remarks: Prof Micheni Ntiba, PhD, EBS 09:35–09:50 Remarks: Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, PS, State Department for Science, Research and Innovation 09:50–10:15 Opening Remarks: Hon. Julius Ogamba, EGH Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education		
10:15–10:30	 GROUP PHOTO Barracuda Room		
10:30–11:00	 MORNING BREAK Poster Exhibition		
11:00–11:20	 * KEYNOTE ADDRESS: MARINE PROTECTED AREAS Marine Protected Areas and Biodiversity: From Global Targets to Local Impact <i>Dr. Arthur Tuda, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association</i>		
11:30–11:50	 * KEYNOTE ADDRESS: BLUE CARBON Through a Looking Glass... The Future of Blue Carbon Research and Innovations <i>Dr. James Kairo, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute</i>		
12:00–12:20	 * KEYNOTE ADDRESS: SCIENCE TO POLICY Ocean Science as Strategic Infrastructure: Governing Africa’s Blue Economy in the Ocean Decade <i>Mr Ibukun Adewumi, UNESCO IOC Africa</i>		
12:30–12:50	 * KEYNOTE ADDRESS: MARITIME SECURITY Strengthening Maritime Security through Innovation and Technology <i>Mr Tony Long, Global Fishing Watch</i>		
Session Chair: Dr Gladys Okemwa Rapporteur: Ms Josephine Marigu			
13:00–14:00	 LUNCH BREAK 60 min Networking & *Poster Exhibition		
	Marine Protected Areas <i>Chair: Dr Judith Nyunja</i> <i>Rapporteur: Dr Levy Otuoma</i>	Marine Pollution <i>Chair: Dr Erick Okuku</i> <i>Rapporteur: Catherine Mwalugha</i>	Maritime Security <i>Chair: Dr Nelly Kadagi</i> <i>Rapporteur: Fridah Munyi</i>
14:00–14:15	Revolutionizing community-managed coral restoration in Kenya with low-tech floating nurseries — Omar Farouk	Lagrangian modeling of marine plastic debris transport in the WIO: the interplay of currents, wind, & diffusion along the Kenyan coast — Athman Salim	AI-driven marine data systems for sustainable blue economy governance in East Africa — Geoffrey Ochieng
14:20–14:35	Community-based no-take zones enhance mud crab populations and fishery yields in Indonesia’s mangrove forests — Adam Miller	Assessment of the impact of abandoned, discarded or lost fishing motors and plastic on the seabed — Déthié Faye A.	Eyes on the sea: a review of maritime domain awareness systems in the Western Indian Ocean — Prof. Dr. Christian Bueger
14:40–15:55	Scaling inclusive MPAs in Africa: lessons from Namibia’s NIMPA+ programme in the Benguela current region — Carolin Mutorwa	Biodegradable fishing gear — Emma Algotsson	From fragmented to unified: Compilation of the first Western Indian Ocean bathymetry grid — Dr Amon Kimeli
15:00–15:15	Integrating local and scientific knowledge to understand dynamic social-ecological change in small-scale fisheries — Dr Amber Carter	When circularity meets geography: community-led logistics governance for marine plastic mitigation in small islands of the Indonesian archipelago — Kristanton Irawan Putra	The 4D chain of deterrence: bridging maritime surveillance and legal enforcement against IUU fishing in Africa — Romain Langeard
15:20–15:35	Advancing MPA planning through systematic conservation and stakeholder engagement — Chun-Pei Liao	Assessment of marine litter on the Mogadishu coastal area: the case of Lido and Urubo beaches — Abdinasir Abdulle Mohamed	Strengthening governance and community institutions to combat IUU fishing in the Western Indian Ocean — Dr. Dina Ogara
15:40–17:00	 AFTERNOON BREAK *Poster Exhibition		
*NB: 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) <i>Keynotes • Marine Protected Areas • Sustainable Fisheries</i>	ROOM B – Breakout Suite 1 (Sail Fish Room) <i>Marine Pollution • Sustainable Blue Economy</i>	ROOM C – Breakout Suite 2 (Manta Ray Room) <i>• Maritime Security • Ocean–Climate Nexus</i>
	<i>Sustainable Fisheries • Science & Academia</i>	<i>Sustainable Blue Economy</i>	<i>Ocean–Climate Nexus</i>
09:00–09:20	 * KEYNOTE: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES Science, Research and Innovation (SR&I) as Enablers of a Sustainable Blue Economy: Protecting Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future <i>Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Government of Kenya</i>		
09:30–09:50	 * KEYNOTE: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES Maintaining Diversity Across Fisheries is Key to Sustainability <i>Prof. Christina Hicks, Lancaster University</i>		
10:00–10:20	 * KEYNOTE ADDRESS: SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY From Ocean–Based Growth to a True–Blue Economy: Africa’s Opportunity, Africa’s Leadership <i>Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution</i>		
10:30–10:50	 * KEYNOTE ADDRESS: OCEAN–CLIMATE NEXUS Ocean–Climate Nexus in the WIO Region <i>Dr. Jared Bosire, Nairobi Convention</i>		
Session Chair: Dr James Mwaluma Rapporteur: Dr Lilian Daudi			
11:00–11:30	 MORNING BREAK 30 min		
	Sustainable Fisheries <i>Chair: Dr Nina Wambiji</i> <i>Rapporteur: Dr Mary Ontomwa</i>	Sustainable Blue Economy <i>Chair: Prof Cosmas Munga</i> <i>Rapporteur: Dr Anthony Nzioka</i>	Ocean–Climate Nexus <i>Chair: Prof Bernard Fulanda</i> <i>Rapporteur: Dr Amina Hamza</i>
11:30–11:45	<i>Contemporary reef fisheries governance and institutional fit in Kenya</i> — Anastasia Smith	<i>Surfer scientists: a community drive, low cost sensor network for coastal monitoring supporting sustainable blue economies</i> — Jethan dHotman	<i>Barriers and enablers to blue carbon projects in Africa: a horizon scan analysis</i> — Derrick Omollo
11:50–12:05	<i>ReefFish: Deep learning–based reef fish monitoring for fisheries management along the East African coast</i> — Jules Gerard	<i>PAVE proposal for the West Africa youth blue economy value–chain advocacy, awareness and local capacities development project</i> — Victoria Ujunwa Aghaji	<i>Spatial and socio–ecological characterization of mangrove restoration priority areas in Marracuene, Mozambique</i> — Benedito Lopes Juliao Issa
12:10–12:25	<i>Achieving sustainable development goals through small–scale seafood production in Kenya</i> — Esther Fondo	<i>Mangrove conservation and blue carbon finance as drivers of sustainable community development: Vanga Blue Forest Project, Kenya</i> — Meali Mohamed Maule	<i>Dissolution kinetics of olivine bearing rocks in mangrove forest conditions</i> — 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> — Gladys Okemwa	<i>Beyond carbon: community perspectives on blue carbon initiatives in Kenya through an environmental justice lens</i> — Abel Kiprono Lagat	<i>Strengthening marine conservation through ranger training, reef restoration and community engagement in Zanzibar</i> — 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> — Ervinio Litsuri	<i>The role of research, policy and communication in planning Kenya’s ocean space</i> — Dr. Jacqueline Uku	<i>Intersecting Inequalities and Climate Maladaptation: Rethinking Sea Defence–Induced Vulnerability in Coastal Ghana</i> — Dorothy Khasisi Lukhabi
13:10–14:10	 LUNCH BREAK 60 min Networking & Poster Exhibition		
14:15–16:00	CLOSING CEREMONY Awards & Adoption of Ocean–Climate Declaration <i>Baraccuda Room / Arthur Tuda</i>		
18:30–23:30	 NETWORKING RECEPTION & COCKTAIL EVENING <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
 Marine Protected Areas	 Marine Pollution	 Maritime Security
P1.1 <i>Beyond restoration: towards livelihood diversification for coral reef conservation and resilience in the Shimoni seascape, Kenya</i> — Joshua Wambugu	P2.1 <i>A scalable ship-based system for large-scale marine plastic removal: 100 days, 100,000 tons, \$500 million</i> — Jianwen Zhang	P3.1 <i>Assessing Quantities, Causes, Mitigation and Prevention Measures for Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Kenya</i> — Ms. Maureen M. Kombo
P1.2 <i>Community-based participatory monitoring in Shisiwani national park: a replicable MPA governance model for small island developing states</i> — Youssouf Ben ALI ABDALLAH	P2.2 <i>Imprint of human activities records recovered at monthly resolution from massive porites lutea coral skeleton at watamu national marine park in Kenya</i> — Nyinge N. Mwadzombo	P3.2 <i>From data to dollars: leveraging digital MRV frameworks to unlock blue economy potential</i> — Regine Liu
P1.3 <i>Empowering youth as ocean advocates: the Youth4MPAs movement in South Africa</i> — Asandiswa Nonyukela	P2.3 <i>Microbial contaminants trail in siganus sutor landed by artisanal fishers along the Kenyan coast</i> — Winnie Kadzo Jefwa	P3.3 <i>Hydrospatial architecture for resilient marine observation in small island developing states</i> — Francesca Adrienne
P1.4 <i>Mapping uneven impacts of coastal degradation: local knowledge as a pathway to equitable ocean governance in Inhambane Bay, Mozambique</i> — Horacio Madiva	P2.4 <i>Reduced plastic pollution for biodiversity conservation and improved communities' livelihood</i> — Catherine Sezi Mwalugha	P3.4 <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> — Deanna Richburg Zetterling
P1.5 <i>Seasonal protected areas as a tool for enhancing sea turtle conservation in Seychelles</i> — Alice Mascarenhas	P2.5 <i>Textile microfibers in the marine environment: sources, transport, impacts and implications for ocean sustainability</i> — Giuseppe Suaria	P3.5 <i>WSR model in Bahía de Todos Santos: surf ecosystems, surfonomics and community-led territorial defence</i> — Armando Efrain Olachea García

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

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