OUR OCEAN
KENYA 2026
16–18 JUNE

PRESS KIT

Contents

Mombasa, Kenya
16-18 April 2025

#OurOceanKenya

MEDIA ADVISORY

11TH OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE
Location: MOMBASA, KENYA
Date: JUNE 16-18, 2026

Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future

The Government of Kenya will host the 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC11), bringing together leaders from government, science, civil society, youth, and the private sector to accelerate ocean action and turn collective ambition into meaningful progress.

The Our Ocean Conference will be held on African soil for the first time, spotlighting Africa's ocean leadership, coastal cultures, and the strategic importance of the Western Indian Ocean. Hosted under the theme "Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future", the conference will highlight the deep connections between ocean health, culture, livelihoods, and economic resilience, while driving concrete commitments to protect the ocean amid escalating pressures from climate change, illegal fishing, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Why it matters

Covering more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface, oceans are critical to life on the planet, producing over half of the oxygen humans breathe, regulating the climate, and supporting billions of livelihoods. However, they are under severe threat from climate change, overfishing, marine pollution, biodiversity loss, and maritime insecurity. By hosting OOC11, Kenya seeks to leave a lasting imprint on global ocean governance, one that ensures future generations inherit a resilient, productive, and just ocean" Hon. Hassan Ali Joho E.G.H, Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs.

Since 2014, more than 2,900 commitments worth over US$169 billion worldwide have been recorded, with OOC11 introducing a strengthened architecture for tracking delivery.

OUR OCEAN KENYA 2026 16-18 JUNE

Core areas of action

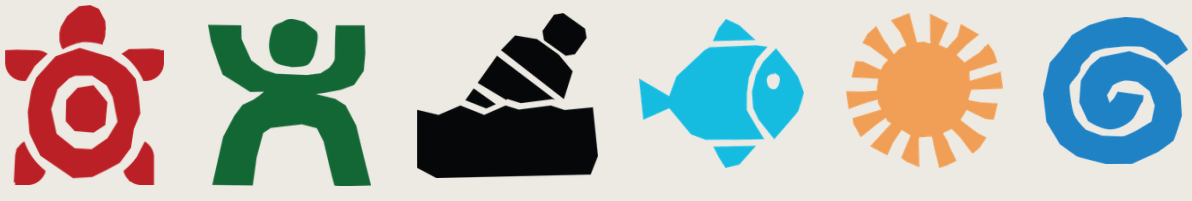
OOC11 will advance commitments and partnerships across six priority action areas: Marine Protected Areas, Sustainable Blue Economy, Ocean–Climate Nexus, Sustainable Fisheries, Marine Pollution and Maritime Security.
As host, Kenya will use OOC11 to:

- Mobilise private-sector engagement and investment in the sustainable blue economy
- Empower and elevate young ocean leaders
- Catalyse ocean finance at scale
- Strengthen regional cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Advance marine conservation and restoration aligned with climate goals and the 30x30 target

Media note

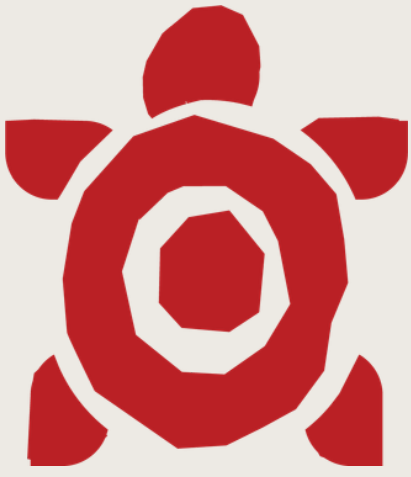
Further details on programme highlights, speakers, media accreditation, and interview opportunities will be shared in the lead-up to the conference.

For more information, visit Our Ocean Kenya - Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future or email: ooc11.kenyansecretariat@blueeconomy.go.ke and oocsecretariat@wri.org.



FACTS & STATISTICS

Marine Protected Areas



IN DECEMBER 2022

world governments agreed to ensure that by 2030 at least 30% of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other area-based conservation measures – the "30 by 30" target – as part of the landmark "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework."

Well-designed, effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are proven, science-based tools for

OCEAN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

and management. They are also increasingly recognized for their contribution to climate action, sustainable livelihoods, and food security.

Studies report that

UP TO 72%

of assessed threatened marine species are known to occur within MPAs, highlighting their significant biodiversity benefits [i]

As of May 2026, just 3.4% of the ocean is fully or highly protected, encompassing about 7.3% of national maritime areas worldwide and less than 1% of the High Seas. [iv]

As of May 2026, about

9.8% of the global ocean

is protected in MPAS. [ii]

But not all these MPAs are effectively implemented. MPA quality is lagging behind quantity. Only about one-third of the area designated within these MPAs provides a level of protection that is likely to yield meaningful conservation benefits. [iii]

- ***The 100 largest MPAs make up 89% of the global MPA area.*** Most of the largest, fully and highly protected MPAs are in isolated overseas territories or around small island states. [v]
- ***Governments are falling short on delivering the 30 by 30 target*** and achieving effective biodiversity protection due to the slow implementation of management strategies and failure to restrict the most harmful human activities.

There is a huge disparity in effective MPA implementation around the world. Just 2 countries have effectively protected more than 30% of their waters, Palau (77.6%) and the UK (42.7%, primarily in its overseas territories). [vi]

URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED

to meet the 30 by 30 target in the next 4 years, but the last 25 years prove that rapid progress is possible. In 2000, only 0.7% of the ocean was covered by MPAs; since then, there has been a 14-fold increase. [vii]

The 2025 Ocean Protection Gap report estimates that achieving 30x30 requires

$15.8 billion annually

Today, just $1.2 billion flows to marine protection – leaving a $14.6 billion ocean protection gap. [viii]

Conserving 30% of the ocean could unlock

~$85 billion p.a. by 2050

by preserving natural coastal defences; avoiding the costs of carbon emissions from seagrass loss; and reducing profit losses from declining, overexploited fisheries. Protection and conservation will also enhance coastal tourism, boost fishery yields outside protected areas and generate powerful economic multipliers. [ix]

The 2022 IPCC AR6 Report found that MPAs have great potential to address climate change mitigation and adaptation in marine ecosystems, but are currently too fragmented to provide integrated responses to the increasing and cascading risks from climate change in the ocean. Strategic, coordinated conservation planning can yield MPA networks that are more ready for climate change. [x]

Creating regional networks of Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas (LSMPAs) is one of the best ways to conserve global ocean biodiversity, facilitate climate resilience, increase species survival, and support livelihoods.

On 17 January 2026, the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement or 'High Seas Treaty') entered into force, becoming legally binding international law and marking a historic moment for ocean protection. ***Over 85 countries have so far ratified the High Seas Treaty*** (including Kenya, on 23 September 2025). [xi]

- The ***BBNJ Agreement*** provides a framework to enhance the protection and management of marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction, which is essential for meeting the 30 by 30 target. Governments and organizations are already laying the groundwork for establishing MPAs in critical biodiversity hotspots in the High Seas under the BBNJ Agreement. Kenya has a total marine area of ~164,061 km2 (to the limit of its EEZ), of which ~545 km2 (0.4%) is protected within 10 implemented or actively managed MPAs (according to the MPA Guide, May 2026). [xii]

- ***Kenya has declared its commitment to meeting the 30 by 30 target*** in its national waters as part of the Ocean Conservation Pledge.

- ***The Western Indian Ocean region is also committed to 30 by 30***, including through the implementation of the Great Blue Wall, launched at COP26 in Glasgow. This major Africa-led initiative aims to create interconnected protected and conserved marine areas ("seascapes") to counteract climate change and global warming in the WIO region while unlocking the potential of the blue economy to drive nature conservation and sustainable development outcomes. [xiii]

- MPA commitments made during ten years of Our Ocean Conferences (2014-2024) have made an outsize contribution to the 30x30 target. ***The 2025 OOC Progress Report estimates that 2% of implemented MPAs were announced at OOCs***, equivalent to over 8.7 million km2 or 2.4% of global ocean area. [xiv]

- Since 2014, ***483 MPA commitments have been made at OOCs*** (not including OOC 9), but this action area reported the lowest total funding pledge, approximately $6.7 billion (4% of the total) and $0.9 billion delivered. These MPA actions have been concentrated in the Atlantic and Pacific ocean basins. [xv]

- The 11th OOC, in Kenya, will serve as a platform for participants to accelerate actions to achieve the '30 by 30' target, close regional MPA gaps, including in the Indian Ocean basin and High Seas, and propose pathways to greater investment in effective MPA management, enforcement and community participation.

Links

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Marine Pollution

ABOUT 80%

of all pollution in the ocean originates on land – including plastics, heavy metals, toxic substances, persistent organic compounds (such as pesticides and industrial chemicals), hydrocarbons and radioactive waste from industrial, agricultural, municipal and mining activities. The remaining 20% coming from boats and other marine sources, such as fishing and off-shore industries. [xvi]

The impacts from localized coastal pollution can be far-reaching as it travels on ocean currents and accumulates in marine organisms through the food chain, undermining the resilience of marine ecosystem and posing risk to human health through contaminated fish and shellfish. The most effective way to combat marine pollution is to stop it at the source before it enters the ocean.

ABOUT 85% OF ALL MARINE LITTER IS PLASTIC [XVII]

Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped into the world's ocean, rivers, and lakes. That adds up to 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste leaking into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers and seas every year. [xviii]

It is estimated that

75 TO 199 MILLION TONNES

of plastic is currently found in our ocean. [xix] Each year, at least 11 million tonnes of plastic leaks into the ocean. [xx] Without coordinated global action across the plastic life-cycle from production to disposal, the annual flow of plastic into the ocean is projected to nearly triple by 2040 and the stock of plastic will quadruple. By 2050, there could be more plastic in the ocean than fish. [xxi]

- ***Marine debris, primarily plastic, is impacting at least 800 species of marine life*** [xxii], while microplastics have been found in many species, including fish, shrimp, and mussels destined for human consumption. Millions of marine creatures, including 100,000 marine mammals and 1 million seabirds, and thousands of sea turtles, sharks and other species are killed by marine plastic pollution every year. [xxiii]

- Scientific studies have found ***anthropogenic debris***, primarily made up of plastic, on ***77 out of 84 reefs*** surveyed in the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Ocean basins – including remote and uninhabited central Pacific atolls. [xxiv]

Plastic debris has created at least 5 giant garbage patches in the ocean, whirlpools of plastic waste debris ranging in size from large, abandoned fishing nets to tiny microplastics smaller than 5mm in size. The largest — the Great Pacific Garbage Patch — covers an area twice the size of Texas. [xxv]

ABANDONED, LOST OR OTHERWISE DISCARDED FISHING GEAR

(ALDFG), also called "ghost gear", which endangers marine species – including many on the IUCN Red List – through entanglement or ingestion, constitutes about 10% of marine plastic. [xxvi]

Plastic pollution is a global, cross border problem demanding global action. In December 2022, governments launched formal negotiations for a legally binding Global Plastics Treaty, following the adoption of a UN Environment Assembly resolution in March 2022.

- Although the target was to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024, the latest negotiation session, INC-5.2 in Geneva in August 2025 ***adjourned without reaching consensus***. A new Chair of the INC was elected at INC 5.3 in February 2026, and it is now hoped that substantive negotiations of the Treaty text will resume at INC 5.4 in late 2026/early 2027. [xxvii]

- While the large majority of States support the adoption of a strong, legally binding Global Plastic Treaty that tackles the full plastic life-cycle, disagreements remain over measures for reducing overall plastic production, the elimination of certain plastic products, chemicals of concern, and extended producer responsibility, with the ***strongest resistance coming from a small group of major oil-producing countries***.

- ***Kenya is a global leader in the fight against plastic pollution***. In 2017, it passed a law to ban plastic bags, still one of the most stringent laws of its kind globally. In 2020, the ban was extended to single-use plastics in protected natural areas.xxviii Kenya's updated plastic packaging regulations came into effect in March 2026, introducing strict licensing, extended producer responsibility and recycled content requirements on manufacturers, importers, and distributors of products including plastic carrier bags and plastic films. [xxix]

- ***Kenya was also one of the first African countries to sign the UNEP Clean Seas initiative*** to rid waterways of plastic waste and, in 2025, it joined the Global Plastic Action Partnership. [xxx]

OOC11 WILL HIGHLIGHT PATHWAYS TO REDUCE PLASTICS AT SOURCE strengthen circular and community-driven solutions, and support continued global cooperation toward a legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution.

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Climate Change

THE OCEAN AND CLIMATE ARE INTRINSICALLY LINKED

Ocean protection is key to confronting climate change and cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is vital for protecting ocean health.

Our GHG emissions are impacting the ocean in unprecedented ways, making it warmer and more acidic, and leading to sea level rise, more frequent marine heatwaves, melting polar sea ice and ice sheets, deoxygenation, species migration, changes in ocean circulation and stratification, and extreme weather.

The ocean regulates the global climate and is the largest carbon sink on Earth.

IT HAS ABSORBED ABOUT 90% OF EXCESS HEAT

generated by GHGs since the 1970s [xxxi], and about 30% of global CO2 emissions. [xxxii]

All of the past 11 years (2015–2025) rank among the 11 warmest on record. 2025 was the third-warmest year, following the unprecedented high temperatures observed in 2023 and 2024, which was the hottest year since measurements began in 1850. 2024 was the first year that the average global temperature exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and 2023-2025 was the first time a three-year period has exceeded the 1.5°C limit. [xxxiii] 2025 also saw exceptional near-surface air and sea surface temperatures, extreme events, including floods, heatwaves and wildfires.

- ***2024 was also the warmest year on record for the ocean.*** During 2024, the annual average sea surface temperature for non-polar regions reached a record high of 20.87°C. That is 0.51°C above the 1991–2020 average. [xxxiv]

- ***The average sea surface temperature (SST) over the extrapolar oceans remained historically high throughout 2025***, despite the absence of El Niño conditions. 2025 was the third-highest on record for SST and ranks as the warmest La Niña year on record. [xxxv] The rate of ocean warming from 2005-2024 was more than twice that from 1960-2005. [xxxvi]

- ***Ocean warming leads to degradation of marine ecosystems***, biodiversity loss, migration of fish stocks, and reduction of the ocean carbon sink. It fuels tropical storms and contributes to sea-level rise.

- ***Temperatures are rising faster at the Poles and the frozen parts of Earth's surface*** – the cryosphere – are melting at an alarming rate.

All of the 19 lowest September minimum ice extents have occurred in the last 19 years (2007-2025). In March 2025, Arctic winter sea ice reached the lowest annual maximum extent in the 47-year satellite record. [xxxvii]

In September 2025, Antarctic sea ice reached the third lowest in the 47-year satellite record. The record low maximum occurred in 2023. [xxxviii] Melting from the Greenland and Antarctic Ice Sheets is responsible for about 25% of the total sea-level rise, and this proportion is rising. [xxxix]

- ***The rate of sea level rise has doubled since satellite measurements began in 1993.*** In 2024, global mean sea level was the highest on record. The rate of increase from 2015-2024 was double that from 1993–2002, increasing from 2.1 mm per year to 4.7 mm per year. [xl]

- ***A scientific analysis in 2023 showed the top 2,000 meters of the ocean were absorbing 10 zettajoules more heat in 2022 than in 2021.*** [xli] That's equivalent to every person on Earth running 40 hairdryers all day, every day. [xlii] Ocean temperatures have risen further since then.

- ***Research shows that climate change has driven a 50% increase in marine heatwaves between 2011-2021.*** Once recent study found that the summers of 2023 and 2024 experienced nearly 3.5 times as many marine heatwave days compared to any previous year on record. [xliii] Marine heatwaves are projected to become more long-lasting, frequent, and intense, threatening to disrupt marine food webs and ocean biodiversity.

- ***C02 in the atmosphere is absorbed by the ocean leading to ocean acidification.*** Ocean acidity has increased by 26% since the industrial era. Some prediction models expect a 150% increase in acidity by 2100. The current rate of ocean acidification is ten times faster than any other period during the preceding 55 million years, presenting a threat to marine life, including shellfish and coral reefs. [xliv]

As ocean temperatures rise, oxygen solubility decreases leading to ocean acidification. In the last 50 years, open-ocean "oxygen-minimum" zones have expanded by an area the size of the EU and the volume of ocean water completely devoid of oxygen has more than quadrupled. [xlv]

The IUCN Red List includes over 1,550 marine species at risk of extinction and finds that climate change is impacting at least 41% of all threatened marine species. [xlvi] 44% of reef corals and 38% of sharks and rays are currently threatened with extinction. [xlvii]

About 898 million people, over 10% of the global population, live in low-elevation coastal zones. [xlviii] People in Africa, South Asia, South and Central America, and small island states are 15 times more likely to die from climate disasters. [xlix]

Africa produces less than 4% of global emissions despite being home to 19% of the global population. [l] Coastal nations in the Global South contribute less than 10% of global emissions, yet face the harshest climate impacts. [li]

- ***Small islands and other low-lying coastal areas and deltas are on the front line of climate change***, threatened by rising sea levels, coastal flooding, erosion and habitat loss, extreme weather events and storm surges, and shifting fish stocks. These impacts seriously compromise the livelihoods of coastal communities that depend on ecotourism and marine resources. The population of low-lying coastal zones is projected to reach more than one billion by 2050. [lii]

- ***At warming levels beyond 1.5°C, climate risks escalate rapidly.*** Limiting global heating to 1.5oC will make a significant difference to ocean-climate risks and give communities more time to adapt.

- Coral reefs are one of the habitats most at risk. IPCC reports estimate that a temperature rise of 2oC would eliminate ***99% of coral reefs,*** whereas 1.5oC would lead to losses between 70 and 90%. [liii]

- Climate-induced declines in ocean health and services are predicted to cost the global economy up to $428 billion per year by 2050 and $1.98 trillion by 2100. [liv] ***Strengthening the nexus between the ocean and climate action is critical.***

- "Blue carbon" coastal ecosystems like mangroves and seagrasses sequester and store vast amounts of carbon, at rates up to five times higher than other ecosystems, such as terrestrial forests. [lv] Studies estimate that as much as 1.02 billion tonnes of CO2 are being released annually from degraded coastal ecosystems, equivalent to 19% of emissions from tropical deforestation globally. [lvi] [lvii]

- ***Our ocean is a major ally in confronting the climate crisis.*** An updated 2023 report commissioned by the Ocean Panel found that seven ocean-based action areas, including decarbonizing the shipping sector, scaling up offshore renewable energy, protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems, and ocean-based tourism, could reduce the emissions gap needed for the 1.5oC pathway by up to 35%. [lviii]

- The combined impact of these ocean-based solutions could reduce GHG emissions by an estimated 4-14 GT CO2e by 2050 in 2050 – the upper range of which is equivalent to 4 times the 2021 emissions of the 27 EU member states. [lix]

- Kenya's updated NDC, submitted in April 2025, commits to a 35% reduction in emissions below a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario by 2035. [lx] ***Kenya is already a leader in East Africa on climate action***, with about 90% of its electricity generated from renewable sources and a national strategy to achieve universal access to clean cooking materials by 2028. [lxi]

OOC11 aims to drive ambitious ocean-climate action to support global climate goals. Ocean climate action is critical for coastal nations that face rising temperatures, sea level rise, and extreme weather. OOC11 will spotlight the roles of blue carbon ecosystems, nature-based resilience, and climate finance in supporting adaptation efforts and strengthening coastal communities.

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Sustainable Blue Economy

With an annual economic value estimated at

$2.5 TRILLION

the Blue Economy is equivalent to the world's 7th largest economy. [lxii]

In 2023, the Blue Economy consisted of $1.3 trillion in services and $900 billion in goods— making up about 7% of world trade. It encompasses ocean-based industries ranging from tourism, fisheries and pharmaceuticals to biotechnology and clean energy, and supports over 600 million jobs worldwide. [lxiii]

- ***The global Blue Economy has grown 2.5 times since 1995***, outpacing the 1.9-fold expansion of the world economy as a whole, with developing economies driving much of this growth. [lxiv] Significant further growth is expected, particularly in offshore wind, marine aquaculture, and fish processing, as well as in emerging industries such as marine-based plastic substitutes, marine biotechnology, and low-carbon marine foods.

- The African Union (AU) estimates that the ***Blue Economy*** currently generates nearly ***US$300 billion for the continent, creating 49 million jobs***. [lxv] The AU projects that this could rise to $405 billion and 57 million jobs by 2030, offering major opportunities for sustainable growth. [lxvi] The blue economy is a vital source of jobs, food security, and economic opportunity across Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.

- Ocean-based industries and economies are vital for countries and communities, but many are not sustainable, equitable or resilient.

- ***Over 80% of all internationally traded goods travel by ship.*** [lxvii] But the shipping industry emits around 1,000 million tonnes of CO2 annually. Maritime trade is responsible for about 3% of all global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. If the sector were a country, it would be the world's 6th largest GHG emitter. [lxviii]

Actions to decarbonize shipping so far have been inadequate and too slow, but in 2023 countries agreed to cut shipping emissions by at least 20% from 2008 levels by 2030, at least 70% by 2040, and to reach net zero emissions by around 2050. In April 2025, governments agreed the landmark IMO Net-Zero Framework to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 – applying to large ocean-going vessels over 5,000 gross tonnage, which account for 85% of marine shipping CO2 emissions. But, in October 2025, divisions prevented the adoption of the framework and discussions were adjourned for one year. [lxix]

FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS ARE AMONG THE MOST TRADED FOOD COMMODITIES IN THE WORLD

The latest FAO State of World Fisheries report states that over 230 countries and territories were involved in the international trade of aquatic products, reaching a record value of US$195 billion – a 19% increase from pre-pandemic levels in 2019. In low- and middle-income countries, the total net trade of aquatic animal products reached US$ 45 billion – greater than that of all other agricultural products combined. [lxx]

An estimated 61.8 million people are employed in the fisheries primary production sector, mostly in small-scale operations. Asia provided 85% of these jobs. Some 500 million people rely on small-scale fisheries for their livelihoods, including 53 million involved in subsistence fishing – 45% of whom are women. [lxxi]

Building a sustainable blue economy should be integrated into global plans for addressing climate change and the biodiversity crisis. According to a report by the Ocean Panel, investing US$2.8 trillion in just 4 ocean-based solutions—offshore wind, sustainable ocean-based food production, decarbonization of international shipping, and conservation and restoration of mangroves—would yield a net benefit of $15.5 trillion by 2050, empower local fishers and communities, and create 12 million net jobs. [lxxiv]

Coastal habitats provide protection from storms and floods for hundreds of millions of people and are a source of jobs, revenue and food. Coral reefs support over 500 million people around the world by providing food, income, coastal protection, etc. They provide over $375 billion per year in goods and services. [lxxii]That includes contributing $36 billion a year to global tourism, benefitting over 100 countries and providing food and livelihoods to local people. [lxxiii] But coral reefs are at existential risk due to ocean warming and acidification.

- ***Tourism represents about a third of the blue economy***, the largest share in export value, according to UNCTAD. [lxxv] The World Tourism Organization foresees that the future of travel and tourism will contribute significantly to the creation of new jobs worldwide. But the infrastructure needed to sustain this growth in economic activity is putting further pressure on natural resources, biodiversity and local communities.

- The Covid-19 pandemic caused massive disruption and loss to the tourism industry and the sector continues to be highly vulnerable sector to climate change. ***Now there is an opportunity to build a sustainable, resilient, equitable tourism recovery.***

- ***Sustainable tourism could play an essential role in action against climate change*** and contribute significantly to the global creation of new jobs worldwide. Concrete actions in the industry have the potential to help mitigate the devastating consequences of climate change while regenerating our ecosystems, biodiversity and communities.

- Over 200 organizations have also become signatories of the ***Global Tourism Plastics Initiative***, which pledged to eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and items by 2025. [lxxvi]

- Kenya's Blue Economy holds vast untapped potential to drive sustainable economic growth, create jobs, and improve livelihoods while preserving marine and inland ecosystems.

- In ***February 2026, the Government of Kenya launched its National Blue Economy Strategy 2025-2030***, as a central pillar of Kenya's long-term development blueprint, Kenya Vision 2030. Under the strategy, the Government aims to increase annual earnings from the blue economy from about 40 billion Kenyan shillings to 350 billion by 2030, including by tripling fish production from the current 163,000 metric tons to more than 450,000 metric tons within five years. [lxxvii]

- 00C11 aims to unleash the potential of the blue economy by promoting investment in sustainable blue industries, encouraging innovation and ocean-based entrepreneurship, and strengthening pathways for inclusive growth.

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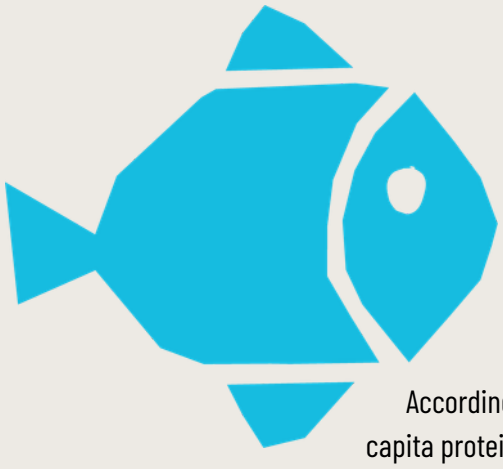
Sustainable Fisheries



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES ARE VITAL

for feeding the global population, for the livelihoods and culture of coastal and island people, for protecting and restoring ocean biodiversity, and for fighting climate change.

According to FAO, aquatic animal foods contributed to at least 20% of the per capita protein supply from all animal sources to 3.2 billion people in 2021. [lxxviii]

The most recent FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture report (2024) estimates that global fisheries and aquaculture production surged to 223.2 million tonnes in 2022, with 185.4 million tonnes of aquatic animals and 37.8 million tonnes of algae. Aquaculture surpassed capture fisheries for the first time, producing 94.4 million tonnes of aquatic animals, representing 51% of the world total and a record 57% of production destined for human consumption. [lxxix]

MARINE CAPTURE FISHING PRODUCED 79.7 MILLION TONNES OF FISH IN 2022, ABOUT 43% OF GLOBAL AQUATIC ANIMAL PRODUCTION. [lxxx]

The most recent FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture report (2024) estimates that global fisheries and aquaculture production surged to 223.2 million tonnes in 2022, with 185.4 million tonnes of aquatic animals and 37.8 million tonnes of algae. Aquaculture surpassed capture fisheries for the first time, producing 94.4 million tonnes of aquatic animals, representing 51% of the world total and a record 57% of production destined for human consumption. [lxxix]

- ***Marine capture fishing*** produced 79.7 million tonnes of fish in 2022, about ***43% of global aquatic animal production.*** [lxxx]
- ***Small-scale fisheries contribute an estimated 40% of the global catch*** and support 90% of the capture fisheries workforce. About 500 million people rely on small-scale fisheries for their livelihoods, including 53 million involved in subsistence fishing – 45% of whom are women. [lxxxi]
- FAO's 2025 review of the state of the world's marine fishery resources estimates the proportion of marine stocks fished within biologically sustainable levels at 64.5% for the base year (2021), with 35.5% percent of stocks classified as overfished. The proportion of overfished stocks continues to increase at a rate of approximately 1% per year in recent times, which is a significant concern. [lxxxii]
- Deep-sea fisheries face major challenges. ***Only 29% of deep-sea stocks*** (not including Antarctica) ***were sustainably fished in 2021.*** [lxxxiii] Given their long lifespans, deep-sea species are particularly vulnerable.

More positively, FAO reports that tunas and tuna-like species are demonstrating the impact of strong management action, with

87% OF STOCKS CONSIDERED SUSTAINABLE

in 2021 and 99.3% of landings coming from biologically sustainable stocks. This is particularly due to the implementation of effective management plans by fishing nations through regional fisheries management organizations. [lxxxiv]

Research indicates that sustainably rebuilding overfished stocks could increase fisheries production by 16.5 million tonnes (and annual revenues by US$ 32 billion) and raise the contribution of marine fisheries to the food security, nutrition, economic growth and well-being of coastal communities. [lxxxv]

- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a huge problem that threatens ocean biodiversity, livelihoods and food security. [lxxxvi] ***IUU fishing equates to approximately 11-19% of reported global fisheries production***. According to a study cited by WTO, the total economic losses caused by IUU fishing are estimated to be as high as US$ 50 billion. [lxxxvii]

- ***IUU fishing is estimated to cost Africa US$ 11-13 billion every year***, threatening food security and coastal economies. [lxxxviii]

- ***Experts estimate that governments spend $22 billion a year in subsidies that drive overfishing***. [lxxxix] Most of these subsidies go to industrial fishing fleets, primarily targeted at artificially lowering fuel and vessel construction costs.

- After more than 20 years of negotiations, WTO member states reached a landmark Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in June 2022 to prohibit subsidies for vessels and operators engaged in IUU fishing and to impose bans on subsidies that support fishing in overfished stocks and unregulated high seas. The Agreement entered into force on 15 September 2025, once it had been ratified by two-thirds of WTO Member States. [xc]

- The 2019 IPBES report on global biodiversity concluded that fishing has had the greatest impact on marine biodiversity in the past 50 years out of all human activities. [xci]

- FAO estimates that about 35% of the global fish harvest is lost or wasted. [xcii] Reducing fish loss and waste would reduce pressure on stocks and contribute to sustainability and food security.

- ***A sustainable fishing future requires responsible, well-managed, certified fisheries***. Fishery certifications help guarantee good practices in the industry, aligned with the interests of aware consumers committed to conserving biodiversity for the future of all. The use of advanced technologies for tracking fish and fishing vessels at sea, at port, and across the supply chain can help achieve these goals.

- The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region is the sixth-largest fishing area in the world in terms of landings. According to FAO, total landings in the WIO increased to approximately 5.5 million tonnes in 2021. [xciii]

- ***In 2021, 63% stocks assessed in WIO were within biologically sustainable levels***, a similar result to the estimate of 62.5% obtained in 2019. [xciv]

- ***Kenya's fisheries sector contributes about 0.5% of the national GDP and about 2% of the national export earnings.*** It employs over 60,000 fishers directly and an estimated 1.2 million people directly and indirectly within the fishing, production, and supply chain. The sector is dominated by the catch from inland freshwater bodies, particularly Lake Victoria, while coastal and deep-sea fisheries deliver over 10% of the total annual national fishery production in Kenya. Approximately 80% of Kenya's fisheries production is landed by small-scale artisanal fishers. [xcv]

- Marine fisheries are an important source of food, income and livelihood for Kenya's coastal communities. The Kenyan Government recently revealed that Kenya loses an estimated KSH 45 billion (~US$350 million) a year to IUU fishing, which erodes tax revenue, undermines the legal fishing industry and weakens coastal economies. [xcvi]

- ***Sustainable and equitable fisheries management is essential for food security and economic stability***. OOC11 will advance efforts to combat IUU fishing, promote science-based management, and protect the rights and livelihoods of artisanal and small-scale fishers.

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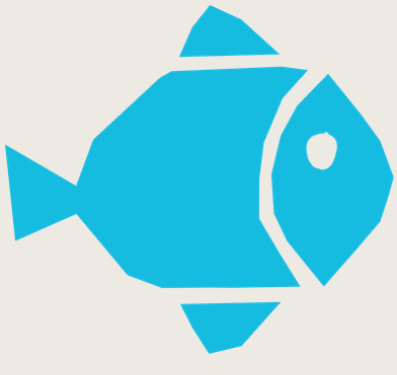

Maritime Security

SAFE AND SECURE SEAS

underpin sustainable blue growth and regional stability. Maritime security is essential for creating a safe and accessible maritime environment, encompassing trade and shipping routes, fisheries, ports, and other marine infrastructure such as pipelines, oil and natural gas platforms, and trans-oceanic telecommunications cables.

Piracy and armed robbery, drug and arms smuggling, human trafficking and unsafe migration, IUU fishing, illegal transportation and dumping of hazardous waste, and the emerging threat of cybercrime, all threaten the safety of life and property at sea, the human rights of the maritime workforce, the operation of ocean-based industries, marine wildlife, and freedom of navigation.

- UNCTAD estimates that, at the start of 2025, a global felt of 60,300 large merchant ships (over 1000 gt) were carrying the bulk of the world's trade across sea. [xcvii] ***Maritime security is vital for the functioning of the global economy.***

- ***Global maritime piracy and armed robbery increased in 2025***. ICC's International Maritime Bureau (IMB) annual Piracy and Armed Robbery Report recorded 137 incidents against ships in 2025, compared to 116 in 2024 and 120 in 2023. It reveals that 121 vessels were boarded, four vessels were hijacked and two fired upon, as well as 10 attempted attacks. [xcviii]

- The reported use of guns continues to rise. In 2025, guns were reported in 42 incidents compared to 26 in 2024. The Singapore Straits Singapore Straits, Gulf of Guinea, and East Africa are among the most affected areas. [xcix]

- In 2024, the number of crew members taken hostage or kidnapped increased, with 126 individuals taken hostage in 2024 compared to 73 in 2023 and 41 in 2022. [c]

- IUU fishing can be a highly profitable multi-billion-dollar organized crime that robs poorer countries of vital natural resources and massively undermines efforts to sustainably manage fisheries.

- IUU fishing is also often an indicator of other types of crime at sea, including labour and human rights violations, human trafficking and slavery, money laundering, and tax fraud.

The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement to specifically target IUU fishing. Its objective is to prevent vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches, blocking them from national and international markets.

Maritime insecurity is increasing in the Western Indian Ocean, affecting trade, stability and livelihoods in coastal communities. In December 2025, UNECA revealed that maritime threats are costing the region US$ 1.14 billion annually. [ci]

- ***International shipping and seafarers are frequently caught up in geopolitical conflicts.*** The conflict that began in late February 2026 led to up to 20,000 seafarers have been stranded on some 2,000 vessels in the Persian Gulf. [cii]

- ***Maritime security is essential for Kenya due to its strategic location along the East African coast***, with the ports of Mombasa and Lamu located near the world's busiest international shipping lanes and critical gateways for trade in the land-linked countries of East and Central Africa. Kenya has established the Kenya Coast Guard Service as a dedicated maritime security agency and developed the National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS), which outlines Kenya's approach to addressing unlawful acts of piracy, illegal fishing, illegal wildlife trade, smuggling and transnational crimes that threaten maritime safety and security. [ciii]

- Innovative solutions with sufficient financing and resources, and that highlight the need for regional and global collaboration, are needed to combat maritime security threats as many countries have limited resources for effective ocean surveillance.

- ***OOC11 will support cooperation to address maritime crime***, strengthen monitoring and information sharing, and promote coordinated action across the Western Indian Ocean.

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[cii] Chokepoints and conflict: How the Hormuz crisis is exposing global shipping vulnerabilities, UN News, 26 April 2026: https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/04/1167383
[ciii] Kenya as a maritime nation: https://kenyaforimo.go.ke

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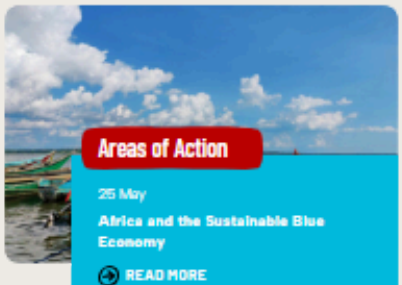

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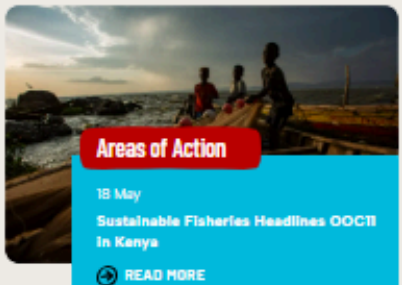

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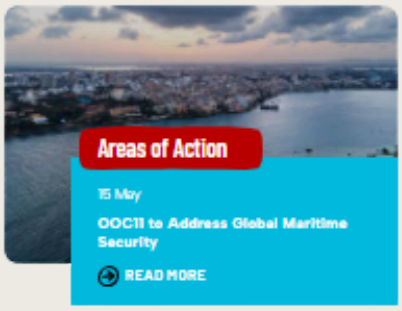

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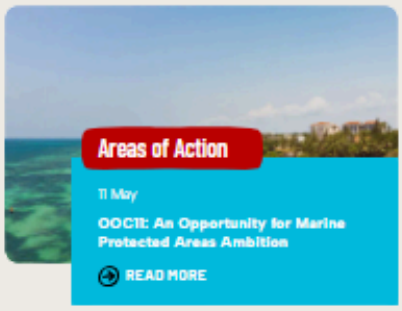

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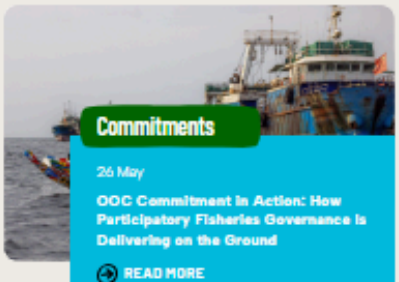

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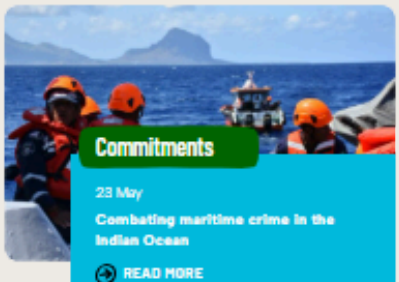

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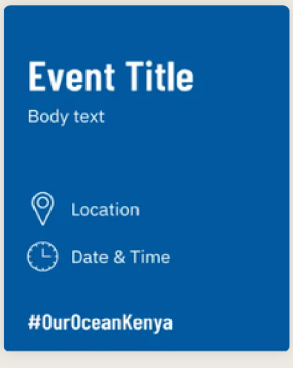

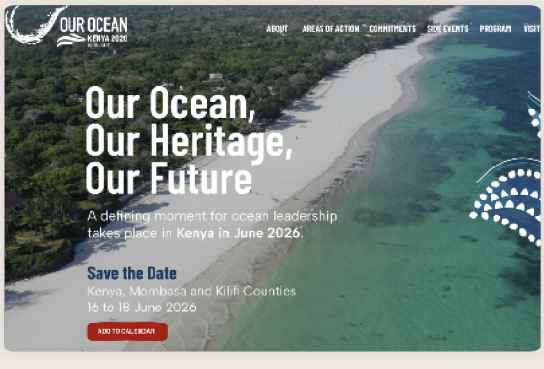

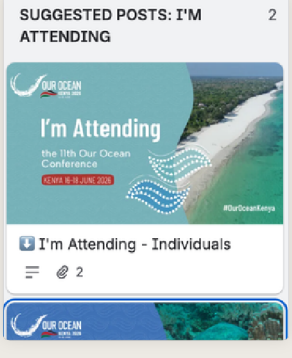

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