

Scientific & Research Pre-Conference Symposium

A Pre-11th Our Ocean Conference Event

14–15 June 2026 | Pride Inn Paradise

2-Day Programme • Parallel Breakout Sessions • 3 Rooms • 6 Themes

Day 1 – Sunday, 14 June 2026

TIME	ROOM A – Plenary Hall Keynotes • Marine Protected Areas • Sustainable Fisheries		ROOM B – Breakout Suite 1 (Shimba Hall) • Marine Pollution • Sustainable Blue Economy	ROOM C – Breakout Suite 2 (Dodori Hall) • Maritime Security • Ocean–Climate Nexus
07:00–08:25	 REGISTRATION Registration Desk – All Delegates			
08:30–09:45	OPENING CEREMONY Plenary Hal All Delegates 08:30–09:00 KMFRI Choir 09:00–09:30 Mijikenda Cultural Performance 09:30–09:45 Remarks: KMFRI Director General & BOM Chair 09:45–10:00 KMFRI BOM Chair Remarks 10:00–10:15 Official Opening by Principal Secretary H.E. Betsy Njagi			
09:45–10:00	 GROUP PHOTO Plenary Hall			
10:00–10:30	 MORNING BREAK Poster Exhibition			
10:30–10:50	 * 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>			
11:00–11:20	 * 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>			
11:30–11:50	 * 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>			
12:00–12:20	 * 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				
12:30–13:30	 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: Amon Kimeli</i>	
13:30–14:45	<i>Revolutionizing community–managed coral restoration in Kenya with low–tech floating nurseries</i> — Omar Farouk	<i>Lagrangian modeling of marine plastic debris transport in the WIO: the interplay of currents, wind, & diffusion along the Kenyan coast</i> — Athman Salim	<i>AI–driven marine data systems for sustainable blue economy governance in East Africa</i> — Geoffrey Ochieng	
14:50–15:05	<i>Community–based no–take zones enhance mud crab populations and fishery yields in Indonesia’s mangrove forests</i> — Adam Miller	<i>Assessment of the impact of abandoned, discarded or lost fishing motors and plastic on the seabed</i> — Déthié Faye A.	<i>Eyes on the sea: a review of maritime domain awareness systems in the Western Indian Ocean</i> — Prof. Dr. Christian Bueger	
15:10–15:25	<i>Scaling inclusive MPAs in Africa: lessons from Namibia’s NIMPA+ programme in the Benguela current region</i> — Carolin Mutorwa	<i>Biodegradable fishing gear</i> — Emma Algotsson	<i>From fragmented to unified: Compilation of the first Western Indian Ocean bathymetry grid</i> — Dr Amon Kimeli	
15:30–15:45	<i>Integrating local and scientific knowledge to understand dynamic social–ecological change in small–scale fisheries</i> — Dr Amber Carter	<i>When circularity meets geography: community–led logistics governance for marine plastic mitigation in small islands of the Indonesian archipelago</i> — Kristanton Irawan Putra	<i>The 4D chain of deterrence: bridging maritime surveillance and legal enforcement against IUU fishing in Africa</i> — Romain Langeard	
15:50–16:05	<i>Advancing MPA planning through systematic conservation and stakeholder engagement</i> — Chun–Pei Liao	<i>Assessment of marine litter on the Mogadishu coastal area: the case of Lido and Urubo beaches</i> — Abdinasir Abdulle Mohamed	<i>Strengthening governance and community institutions to combat IUU fishing in the Western Indian Ocean</i> — Stephen Nyamu Nduvi	
16:10–17:00	 AFTERNOON BREAK *Poster Exhibition			
*NB: All posters will be mounted in the respective thematic session rooms. Presenters are expected 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 Keynotes Keynotes • Marine Protected Areas • Sustainable Fisheries	ROOM B – Breakout Suite 1 (Shimba Hall) • Marine Pollution • Sustainable Blue Economy	ROOM C – Breakout Suite 2 (Dodori Hall) • Maritime Security • Ocean–Climate Nexus
	Sustainable Fisheries • Science & Academia	Sustainable Blue Economy	Ocean–Climate Nexus
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: Ms. Miriam Wainaina</i>	Sustainable Blue Economy <i>Chair: Dr George Rushingisha</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 d’Hotman	<i>Barriers and enablers to blue carbon projects in Africa: a horizon scan analysis</i> — Derrick Omollo
11:50–12:05	<i>PAVE proposal for the West Africa youth blue economy value–chain advocacy, awareness and local capacities development project</i> — Victoria Ujunwa Aghaji	<i>ReefFish: Deep learning–based reef fish monitoring for fisheries management along the East African coast</i> — Jules Gerard	<i>Spatial and socio–ecological characterization of mangrove restoration priority areas in Marracuene, Mozambique</i> — Benedito Lopes Julião 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 & Exhibition		
14:25–16:00	CLOSING CEREMONY Awards & Adoption of Ocean–Climate Declaration Plenary Hall / Arthur Tuda		
18:30–23:30	 NETWORKING RECEPTION & COCKTAIL EVENING		
All times are local (EAT) Programme subject to change * Indicates confirmed speakers			

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

DAY 1 – POSTER SESSIONS

Room A – Plenary Hall		Room B – Shimba Hall		Room C – Dodori Hall	
	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		P6.1 <i>A scalable ship–based system for large–scale marine plastic removal: 100 days, 100,000 tons, \$500 million</i> — Jianwen Zhang		P4.1 <i>Eyes on the sea: a review of maritime domain awareness systems in the Western Indian Ocean</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		P6.2 <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		P4.2 <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		P6.3 <i>Microbial contaminants trail in siganus sutor landed by artisanal fishers along the Kenyan coast</i> — Winnie Kadzo Jefwa		P4.3 <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		P6.4 <i>Reduced plastic pollution for biodiversity conservation and improved communities’ livelihood</i> — Catherine Sezi Mwalugha		P4.4 <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		P6.5 <i>Textile microfibers in the marine environment: sources, transport, impacts and implications for ocean sustainability</i> — Giuseppe Suaria		P4.5 <i>WSR surfel in Bahía de Todos Santos: surf ecosystems, surfonomics and community–led territorial defence</i> — Armando Efrain Olachea García	

DAY 2 – POSTER SESSIONS

Room A – Plenary Hall		Room B – Shimba Hall		Room C – Dodori Hall	
 Sustainable Fisheries	 Sustainable Blue Economy	 Ocean–Climate Nexus			
P5.1 <i>Community led reef closures for octopus fisheries: supporting ecological health and sustainable livelihoods: case Kilwa, Tanzania</i> — Benard Kaitira	P2.1 <i>Circular aquaculture using black soldier fly larvae as a sustainable fishmeal alternative in coastal Kenya</i> — Linah Samra Minangi	P3.1 <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			
P5.2 <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	P2.2 <i>De–risking ocean investment through strategic communication and outreach: linking Kenya blue economy and Namibia waves of change</i> — Rob Barnes	P3.2 <i>Co–producing climate–resilient coastal tourism</i> — David Cabana			
P5.3 <i>Influence of rocky tidal pool characteristics on diversity and abundance of fish in Tudor creek, Kenya.</i> — Immaculate Kinyua	P2.3 <i>Integrated multi–trophic aquaculture as a nature–based solution for climate resilience and livelihood improvement in Kijiweni, Kwale county, Kenya</i> — Ninyoha Hamisi Madzitsa	P3.3 <i>Triple threat in coastal socioecological systems: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution in the Honduran Caribbean</i> — Joel Güity Zapata			
P5.4 <i>Integrating artemia production into Kenya’s blue economy policy framework: opportunities for coastal saltworks and local communities</i> — Sheban Mdzomba Hinzano	P2.4 <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	P3.4 <i>Roadmap for biodiversity net gain in the offshore renewable energy sector</i> — Qiulin LIU			
P5.5 <i>Lessons from AFRIMAQUA: regional collaboration for sustainable and nutrition–sensitive marine aquaculture in Africa</i> — David Oersted Mirera	P2.5 <i>Satellite imagery reveals small–scale fishing activity and industrial encroachment across Africa</i> — David Kroodsmna	P3.5 <i>Sustainable blue energy: unlocking marine renewable potential in the West Indian Ocean</i> — Rodney Mugo			