

CBD #ForCoral Pavilion event package

Title: Seascapes of the Future: NbS, the Blue Economy and the Great Blue Wall

Pavilion: ICRI [#ForCoral Pavilion](#); Blue Zone, Centro de Eventos Valle Del Pacífico (CEVP), Cali, Colombia

Time: Sunday, October 27th from 11:00 – 12:30 (90 minutes)

Event Link: [Great Blue Wall: Africa's Vision for Global Ocean Conservation – COP16 FOR CORAL](#)

Information on the Great Blue Wall: [Home - GREAT BLUE WALL Accelerating and upscaling ocean conservation actions in the Western Indian Ocean](#)

Online video stream: Available via website: [Great Blue Wall: Africa's Vision for Global Ocean Conservation – COP16 FOR CORAL](#)

SESSION OVERVIEW:

The Great Blue Wall (GBW) is a Western Indian Ocean (WIO)-born, African-driven roadmap to achieve a nature-positive world by 2030, aiming at unlocking unprecedented nature-based recovery efforts through dramatically accelerating and upscaling ocean conservation action while enhancing socio-ecological resilience and the development of a regenerative blue economy. The GBW goals are to achieve a net gain of critical blue ecosystems in 2030 by conserving and restoring more than 2 million ha of critical ecosystems and consequently sequestering more than 100 million tons of carbon. It aspires to achieve this by catalysing political leadership and financial support to best-practice coastal and marine protection, conservation and sustainable resource management.

A connected network of projects contributes to the objectives of the GBW:

The [ReSea project](#), funded by Global Affairs Canada, is implemented in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania to promote a gender-responsive regenerative seascapes approach to connect people, nature and climate bringing together governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, communities, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

The [Locally Empowered Area of Protection \(LEAP\) project](#), funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection (BMUV) is implemented in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Seychelles. It aims to improve the management of coastal and marine biodiversity areas in the Western Indian Ocean through adoption of locally relevant protected or conservation area governance frameworks by national governments and non-state actors.

The Western Indian Ocean Coastal and Ocean Resilience (WIOCOR) project, funded by [Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial \(FFEM\)](#), aims to enhance marine and coastal socio-ecological resilience and biodiversity conservation while unlocking a sustainable, inclusive and resilient blue economy in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Bahari Mali (Sustainable Blue Livelihoods in the Tanga-Pemba Seascape) project, funded by the Embassy of Ireland in Tanzania, aims to support the development of a blue

economy while contributing to long-term effective and inclusive conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. This is a three-year project (2022-2025) implemented by IUCN in the Tanga-Pemba Seascape in the northern coast of Tanzania bordering with Kenya.

This session will focus on the implementation of best-practice coastal and marine conservation in the WIO, and the integration of Nature-based Solutions and the Regenerative Blue Economy into Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). The session is structured around two main panels, each addressing critical aspects of the Great Blue Wall initiative.

The first panel will delve into the technical aspects of improving the effectiveness, equitable, and gender-responsive conservation of WIO PA network, including OECMs. This discussion will focus on the tools, techniques, and community engagement strategies that are being used to manage and protect these areas. It will highlight the importance of scientific research, data collection, and monitoring in ensuring the success of conservation efforts. The panel will also address the role of advocacy and biodiversity conservation in supporting the livelihoods of local communities.

The second panel will explore the dynamic interrelation between Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and the blue economy, highlighting how both contribute to regenerative seascapes that restore ecosystems, strengthen community resilience, and foster sustainable economic growth. Within the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, NbS initiatives are increasingly central to the sustainable use of marine resources and climate change adaptation efforts, while also providing opportunities for inclusive economic development. Panellists will provide insights into how regenerative seascapes can enhance biodiversity and climate resilience while driving economic empowerment through the blue economy—particularly for women and youth—through access to nature-based value chains and entrepreneurship.

By focusing on practical implementation and sharing technical knowledge, this event aims to inspire and equip stakeholders with the tools and strategies needed to achieve sustainable ocean conservation and the development of a regenerative seascapes movement.

OBJECTIVES: To share practical strategies and collaborative efforts for accelerating ocean and coastal ecosystems conservation in the Western Indian Ocean, integrating Nature-based Solutions and the Regenerative Blue Economy and empowering local communities and indigenous people to become stewards, managers, and sustainable users of these seascapes.

Agenda

Time	Agenda	Description	Speaker
11:00-11:05	Welcome	Formal welcome from the moderator	Thomas Sberna, Regional Head of Coastal and Ocean Resilience, Eastern and Southern Africa, IUCN
11:05-11:10	Opening Remarks	The session will commence with opening remarks, setting the stage for an engaging dialogue on the Great Blue Wall and its implications for ocean conservation in the Western Indian Ocean.	Celine Heinbecker, Director, Global Affairs Canada
11:10-11:20	Keynote speaker	A keynote address on science informing priority actions needed to realize Regenerative Seascapes and the complementarities between PAs and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs).	Dr. David Obura , Founding Director, CORDIO and IPBES Chair
11:20-11:55	Panel #1:	<i>Bridging Conservation and Communities: Advancing Inclusive and Effective Marine Governance in the Western Indian Ocean</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maike Heidemeyer Head of Science, Odisea 2. tbc 3. Alain De Coromand, Fundraising & Partnerships Manager, SeyCCAT 4. Stephanie Bouziges-Eschmann, Secretary General, Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
11:55-12:30	Panel #2:	<i>Nature-based Solutions and the Blue Economy: Catalyzing Regenerative Seascapes in the WIO Region</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alfredo Giron, Head of Ocean, WEF 2. Laure Katz, Blue Nature Alliance Co-Lead, Conservation International 3. Tony Siantonas, Global Director, Regenerative Business, Technoserve 4. Kristian Teleki, CEO Fauna and Flora