



Theme 4 Flagship Initiative:

“Harnessing the Potential of the Oceans for Sustainable Development and Peace”

1. Capacity Development for Ocean Knowledge Revolution in Africa
2. Exploring New Opportunities Toward the Sustainable Development of Oceans
3. The Ocean and Climate Resilience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

<i>Title</i>	Harnessing the Potential of the Oceans for Sustainable Development and Peace
<i>UNESCO Regional office focal points</i>	Mika Odido (UNESCO Nairobi) & Paul Hector (UNESCO Cairo)
<i>Geographical scope</i>	Africa
<i>Synopsis and objective</i>	<p>Society now depends on the ocean more than at any time before. It is a vital source of nourishment, directly supporting the livelihood of about 500 million people, especially in the poorest nations. Ocean economies are among the most rapidly growing and promising in the world, providing benefits to many sectors of great economic value, such as fisheries, transport, biotechnologies, energy production, seabed resources exploration, tourism and many others.</p> <p>Oceans are facing multiple environmental stressors (climate change, marine pollution, ocean acidification) engendered by these human activities and resulting in the loss of marine species and degradation of marine and coastal environments. As reported in the First World Ocean Assessment, we assist to a cycle of decline in the ocean health, with changes and losses in the structure and function of the Ocean that challenge the benefits obtained from marine systems. Over the coming decades, a changing climate, growing global population, and increased environmental stressors will have significant yet highly uncertain impacts on food security and human well fare.</p> <p>Adaptation strategies and science-informed policy responses to global change are urgently needed.</p> <p>This is particularly true for Africa where oceans represent a huge opportunity for (Blue) economic growth and employment. We need to properly tap into, maximize benefits and minimize the challenges that the continent' coastlines (more than 30,500 km) are currently facing. Indeed, with 38 coastal countries out of 54 African States, and 90% of regional imports and exports conducted by sea, oceans are crucial for the sustainable development of Africa.</p> <p>The opportunities and challenges highlighted above often become a source of tensions and conflict, locally, regionally and geo-politically on ocean governance and security, including piracy, delineation of ocean borders and sharing transboundary resources. This underpins the need to accelerate intra- and inter-regional dialogue on the culture of peace and non-violence on the African continent.</p> <p>The United Nation's Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) provides a suitable platform for this flagship, to structure and boost scientific efforts through a global research and investment framework to close knowledge gaps and explore more sustainable interventions for harnessing the potential of oceans for sustainable development and peace in Africa.</p>

<i>Axes of intervention and theory of change</i>	Axis 1: Capacity Development for Ocean Knowledge Revolution in Africa
	Improving infrastructure and facilities for research, ensuring training for scientific and technical staff, and translation of ocean science to policy
	<p>The Regional Consultative Workshop on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (27-29 January 2020, Nairobi, Kenya), and the virtual workshop on “Co-designing the Ocean Science we need for Africa” (3 November 2020), offered a crucial opportunity to co-design mission-oriented research strategies and actions in line with the 2030 Agenda and continental and regional initiatives such as the African Union Agenda 2063: ‘The Africa We Want’ and 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMS).</p> <p>Capacity development was identified as a priority, in particular the improvement of infrastructure and facilities for research, provision of training for scientific and technical staff, as well as translation of science to policy.</p>
	<p>Key outputs of axis 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Established university-based ocean innovation incubator hubs improve quality and quantity of research products in ocean and marine sciences with societal applications 1.2. Stronger integration of sciences and greater investment in ocean observing systems with improved science-policy interface for a sustainable ocean governance in Africa 1.3. Focussed ocean literacy programmes, skills development and mentoring enable young African to fit in the job market and creation of new employment opportunities <p>Key partners of axis 1:</p> <p>UNESCO networks (field Offices, Chairs, NATCOMS, ASPnet, etc.), AU, Universities, UNEP, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, Benguela Current Commission, CORDIO, PanAfrican Youth Network for a Culture of Peace; YouthConnekt Africa Hub, Institute for Peace and Security Studies; Indentured Labor Route project, Youth Climate Change Action (YOUCAN)</p>

	<p data-bbox="332 264 1409 296">Axis 2: Exploring new opportunities towards sustainable development of oceans</p> <p data-bbox="332 346 1446 378">Investing in coastal tourism and underwater heritage, and promoting waste management</p> <p data-bbox="332 451 1479 821">Many sites bearing testimony to important historical events, battles, the slave trade, natural disasters, and revolutions are found on the bottom of oceans, rivers, and lakes. Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) can reveal aspects of history that are not yet known or have not been accounted for in written records. As water has been used since the beginning of civilization as a way to connect different worlds, the remains to be found on the seabed are testimony to cultural dialogue and interactions from the beginning of humankind. Conservation and accessibility of Underwater Cultural Heritage sites can generate income: sites can become tourist attractions for those interested in diving and underwater activities. Communities can attain long term benefits through sustainable tourism and cultural industries, and maritime museums can become a source of revenue, inspiration and research as well as a tourism destination.</p> <p data-bbox="332 894 618 926">Key outputs of axis 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="391 963 1409 1031">2.1. Expertise in underwater cultural heritage management and research in Africa developed <li data-bbox="391 1066 1382 1134">2.2. Coastal tourism and underwater cultural heritage enhanced for sustainable development in Africa <li data-bbox="391 1169 1370 1236">2.3. Community engagement in the conservation and protection of underwater cultural heritage, including in waste management <p data-bbox="332 1272 634 1304">Key partners of axis 2:</p> <p data-bbox="332 1339 1479 1507">UNESCO Chair on UCH at Centre for Maritime Archaeology and UCH at Alexandria University; Fondation Mohamed VI de l'Environnement; Surfrider foundation; National Museums of Kenya; Flanders UNESCO Science in Trust Funds, UICN, Regional Office for Culture LAC, CNCU, CITMA, CNPC, CNAP, SNAP, Flora y Fauna, CUBASUB, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands, etc.</p>
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	<p>Axis 3: The Ocean and Climate Resilience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</p> <p>Building climate resilience and adaptation for SIDS</p> <p>In our efforts towards achieving Agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want” and the 2030 Agenda for SIDS deserve a particular attention. SIDS face many challenges due to their unique geographical, biological and historical legacies, as well as their social and economic characteristics. These challenges include small size, high levels of population displacement, vulnerability to natural and human-made disasters and high exposure to economic fluctuations and geopolitical circumstances hinder the SIDS capacity to implement national development goals.</p> <p>The context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the Luanda Biennale for a Culture of Peace, offer the framework to explore the various challenges faced by SIDS, from a social sciences perspective, including through the lens of the UNESCO Declaration on the Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change (2017). The SAMOA Pathway for Sustainable Development of SIDS and the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan also provides a framework for addressing priority issues for SIDS.</p> <p>Key outputs of axis 3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Analysis of ethical principles related to climate change in SIDS 1.2. Research, capacity building and knowledge generation on vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk reduction in SIDS 1.3. Showcasing youth innovation, creativity and engagement as change makers for SIDS 1.4. Climate resilience publication in selected African SIDS <p>Key partners of axis 3:</p> <p>UNESCO networks (field Offices, Chairs, NATCOMS, ASPnet, etc.), Universities, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, PanAfrican Youth Network for a Culture of Peace; YouthConnekt Africa Hub, Institute for Peace and Security Studies; Indentured Labor Route project, Youth Climate Change Action (YOUCAN), etc.</p>
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