

Panel discussion on fisheries and marine environment collaboration for sustainable blue growth

SWIOFC-NAIROBI CONVENTION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

A Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth



Vilankulos/Online, 18-19 November 2021

CONCEPT

BACKGROUND

Healthy ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean are the foundation for sustaining and maximising the potential of the coastal and marine fisheries in the region in support of economic growth, livelihoods and food security now and in the future. How we fish has consequences, not only for the species we target, but also on the wider marine ecosystems and the services they provide us with. Effective coordination and collaboration between fisheries and environmental governance systems will be essential to recognise, understand and address these linkages. Countries in the Western Indian Ocean have committed to cooperate regionally on the protection of the coastal and marine environment through the Nairobi Convention and on fisheries management through the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, SWIOFC. The SWIOFC and the Nairobi Convention have initiated a partnership project with the support of the Swedish government to strengthen sector collaboration in the region on the areas of concern for both fisheries and environmental management (SWIOFC NC PP). This panel session will explore and highlight some of key topics and issues in the marine fisheries/environment nexus to inspire further dialogue and action in the framework of the SWIOFC Nairobi Convention partnership and elsewhere.

TOPICS TO BE ADRESSED

In the context of current developments in the Western Indian Ocean and from their perspective, the panel members will reflect on, highlight and discuss:

- Key issues that the fisheries and environment sectors need to collaborate on more closely to address policy and management priorities for the region
- Working arrangements that can enable this collaboration in practise and what is needed to establish these
- Examples and opportunities to learn from and capitalize on

WHEN AND HOW TO JOIN THE SESSION

This is open online panel session will be held **11:15-12:30 CAT** (12:15-13:30 EAT) on **Friday 19 November 2021**. The session will be screened on-site in Vilankulos at Hotel Nhafudu following on directly after the parallel session 8. *Mangroves and sustainability of the marine environment* and can be accessed online by connecting to the following link:

<https://fao.zoom.us/j/97952754349>

Meeting ID: 979 5275 4349

Passcode: 98138016

PROGRAMME

11:15-11:30 CAT	Welcome and introduction to the session by the hosts
11:30-12:25 CAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated panel discussion: Key issues and working arrangements for collaboration between fisheries and environment in the Western Indian Ocean region - current developments, priorities, opportunities and needs Each panelist initial 7 minutes Q&A and contributions from the audience
12:25-12:30 CAT	Key conclusions, thank you and close of session by the hosts

ON THE PANEL



Hon. Dr. Paubert Tsimanaoraty Mahatante is the **Minister for Fisheries and Blue Economy in Madagascar** leading the way to sustainable blue growth becoming one of main pillars supporting the economic development of Madagascar. Dr. Mahatante has served as Secretary General of the Southern African Non-State Actors platform in Fisheries and Aquaculture (SANSFAFA) within the SADC region and he is a founder of the Southwestern Indian Ocean tuna and tuna-like species network (SWIOTUNA). He has also been leading the “Nutritional security, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and livelihoods” theme of the Western Indian Ocean Governance Network (WIOGEN). Through WIOGEN, SANSFAFA and SWIOTUNA, he has conducted research and advocacy activities to promote sustainable aquaculture and responsible fisheries, especially small-scale fisheries, thereby contributing to the effort to alleviate poverty, ensure food security and promote job creation in Africa. He holds a PhD in applied oceanography and has more than 15 years of experience in the diverse fields of consultancy, leadership, informatics, renewable energy and local development.



Harsen Nyambe Nyambe is the **Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy at the African Union Commission**. He is passionate about driving sustainable development through effective management of natural resources and the environment. He spent most of his professional career in international organisations covering the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Commonwealth Secretariat in addition to the African Union. His experience covers the entire spectrum of environment and natural resources management and specifically biodiversity, climate change, disaster risk reduction, fisheries, forestry, meteorology, multilateral environmental

agreements, sustainable land management, water and sanitation and wildlife management. Mr. Nyambe has also served his native country Namibia in different categories including as a Deputy Director for Forest Management, Coordinator for the National Remote sensing Centre and a Lecturer at the University of Namibia.



Dr Salomão Bandeira is **Associate Professor at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo** and has dedicated a large part of his life to science and research in support of sustainable governance of critical marine and coastal habitats, with a focus on mangrove and seagrass restoration, blue carbon, and ecosystem-based adaptation. He is Mozambique CITES Scientific Coordinator and member of the Advisory Group to the Convention on Biological Diversity for EBSAs

(Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas) and contributes to regional science to policy processes within WIOMSA and the Nairobi Convention. He has co-authored the books “The Maputo Bay Ecosystem” and “A Field Guide to the Mangroves of Africa and Madagascar” and over 80 scientific papers.



Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy is a passionate advocate for small-scale fishers and local marine management. Serving as the National Coordinator of **MIHARI - Madagascar's Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) Network** for 6 years and recently elected President of the Board of MIHARI she has championed LMMAs in Madagascar, now covering over 17% of the country's inshore seabed. Through these LMMAs, local communities can manage and protect both their own fishery practices and biodiversity by combining their

traditional knowledge with the support of conservation practitioners. Ms. Rakotondrazafy won the Whitley Award in 2019 for her success in defending the rights of Madagascar's small-scale fishers and to enable those communities to exchange experiences and strengthen their capacity to manage their resources. Vatosoa is currently working with the Malagasy “think-and-do-tank” INDRi to mobilise actors from government, civil society and private sector to safeguard Madagascar's unique marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

ONLINE HOSTS

Dixon Waruinge, Head of Nairobi Convention Secretariat/UNEP

Vasco Schmidt, Acting Secretary SWIOFC/FAO

Ulrika Gunnartz, Regional Coordinator SWIOFC Nairobi Convention Partnership Project