Perspectives on Capacity Building Needs and demands of the Ocean Sciences Stakeholders in Africa

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Key Discussion Points of Panel Session

**Major Highlight:** Skills required by ECOPs to be employable and retainable in the Ocean Sciences (formal and informal sectors) value chain on the continent.

Skills and opportunities in ocean sciences as well as field data collection and analyses.

Mapping of stakeholders and opportunities in the ocean sciences value chain.

Engagement of the private-sector/small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in ocean sciences uptake and promotion.

ECOPs perspectives on ocean stakeholder demands - ocean and earth observation data, information, products and/or services.

ECOPs mentoring by Seniors (ocean science evidence producers, brokers and/or users) from within and outside the Africa continent.
Coastal Hazards and African Coastal Countries

Sea-level rise, quickened by climate change, will increase the height of tides and storm surges causing the floodplain to grow over time.

Erosion (the loss of large amounts of sand) happens during storm events such as nor’easters, sou’easters, and hurricanes. “Critical erosion areas” are those that see an erosion rate above a certain threshold.

Storm events cause shoreline change through winds, wave action, and storm surge. Size, intensity, speed, and frequency of storm events determine the extent of shoreline modification and destruction.

Tidal flooding and flooding caused by severe weather can inundate coastal areas. With higher sea levels, more frequent storm events will have the potential to cause increased flooding, resulting in public safety risks and property damage.


Source: CIA The World Factbook, 2008

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ECOPs in Africa

**ECOPs** include individuals working in **ocean research and/or practice**, including, but not limited to:

- academia, industry, consultancy, foundations, non-profit organizations, and **government positions** who identify as being early in their career.

This includes professionals that are near the beginning of their career trajectory (Satterthwaite et al., 2022).
Major Highlight: Employability Skills Required by ECOPs in Africa to Address Demands of Ocean Sciences Stakeholders/Information Users

- Sustainable Ocean Management in Africa
- Ocean and Human Health in Africa
- Unlocking the Blue Carbon Potential of Africa
- Fisheries and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries in Africa
- Strengthening Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems and Community Resilience
- Ocean Observations and Forecasting Systems for Africa
- Digital Twin for Africa – Establishing an African Ocean Knowledge Hub
- Strengthening capacities and skills of African Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs)
- Regional Ocean Literacy Programme for Africa

Source: UN Decade of the Ocean Roadmap for Africa
Ocean Stakeholders Mapping and Opportunities in the Value Chain

Public: resource users

Private Sector: resources extractors

Government: resource mangers and decision makers

Social Enterprises: ocean advocacy

Media: ocean literacy

• Enter(Edu)tainment – skits, short films, documentaries, plays, full length movies,...
ECOPs Mentoring by Seniors (Ocean Science Evidence Producers, Brokers & Users)

**Ocean Sciences Evidence Producers** – Senior Researchers and Scientists in Universities, Research Institutes, Ocean Observing Organisations

**Ocean Sciences Evidence Brokers/Intermediaries** – Senior Professionals/Lobbyists in Academies, Think Tanks, Intergovernmental Organisations, NGOs/NPOs,…

**Ocean Sciences Evidence Users** – Decision Makers at local, state, national, regional and global levels, Marine Resource Managers, Industries, Private Sector,…
Acknowledgement
Thank You.
Medaase.  
Oyiwaladon. 
Adupe.  
Daalu.  
Nagode.  
Merci.