



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



Decade Collaborative Centre
Indian Ocean Region



ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD FOUNDATION (E2F) @ INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL DECADE CONFERENCE (IO- CON) 2024 REPORT HYDERABAD, INDIA



INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL DECADE CONFERENCE (IO-CON) 2024

Bridging billions to Barcelona

- An Official Prelude to the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference 1-3 February 2024
- **Organized by Decade Collaborative Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (DCC-IOR)**
- Under the *Ambit* of **UN Ocean Decade (2021-30)**
- Hosted at **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, Hyderabad, India.
- With technical support of **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), UNESCO**
- Sponsored by **Ministry of Earth Sciences (Government of India)**.

E2F Member Present

1. Achare Elvis Ayamba – Founder & Executive Director at Environment and Food Foundation (E2F)



Objectives of IO-CON 2024

1. To involve and engage stakeholders of the Indian Ocean Region in Ocean Decade activities.
2. To provide a platform for deliberating on the future priorities for the Ocean Decade Challenges that are emerging via the Vision 2030 process with focus to the IOR and feed regional inputs to the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona in April 2024.
3. To interact and network among the IOR stake holders including the national decade coordination committees of the Region.
4. To provide a platform to voice the concerns and expectations of the stakeholders from ECOPS, Academicians, Industries, Social Scientists, NGOs and other ocean stakeholders.

Our key objectives

1. Influence discussions and decisions so that proposed solutions reduce Ocean threats and benefit local coastal communities
2. Explore partnerships and collaboration with like-minded Individuals, Networks and CSOs to collectively influence outcomes / comprehensive solutions that benefit African people and Ocean.



Our Key Messages

- **Ocean Literacy, skills, knowledge, research, data and technology for all:** Addressing the Ocean-climate and biodiversity crises calls for transformative policies, commitment to hold each other to account and to monitor progress. This will happen once Africa has a capacity to undertake research and embraces formal science, local knowledge and citizen science. The continent requires significant investment in local, national and continental research and knowledge institutions. Currently there is no draft resolution on investment in research and knowledge development. We also need an ocean literate society who know and understands the values and services of the Ocean for human wellbeing, culture and sustainable development.
- **Understand and beat marine pollution:** We need to investigate the root sources of land and sea-based sources of pollutants and contaminants especially plastics and their potential impacts on human health and Ocean ecosystems. We also have to develop solutions to remove or mitigate them.
- **Ecosystem restoration and sustainable use:** To address the climate and biodiversity crises and save humanity, we must enhance Ocean ecosystems functions through the sustainable management of mangrove forests, wetlands, and biodiversity. Ecosystems have intrinsic values, support local and national livelihoods and economies. Governments are urged to adopt an ambitious resolution and solutions that enhance legal and sustainable use, conservation, fair and equitable benefits sharing and accountability.
- **Ocean climate nexus:**

E2F's main focus

During the IO-CON, E2F member present was following different key discussions on United Nations Ocean Decade challenges. See the list below;

1. Challenge 1: Understand and beat marine pollution.
2. Challenge 2: Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity.
3. Challenge 5: Unlock Ocean-based solution to climate change.
4. Challenge 6: Increase Community resilience to Ocean hazards.
5. Challenge 9: Skills, Knowledge and technology for all.
6. Challenge 10: Change humanity's relationship with the Ocean.



Main sessions and key feedbacks on the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 white Papers

Session 1:

Challenge 1: Understand and Beat Marine Pollution

Challenge 2: Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity.

Main feedbacks/recommendations

- Reduce pollution (organic chemical and plastics).
- Reduction waste and loss.
- Boost circularity
- Science to support trade certification requirements.
- Digitization-capitalize on telecom (5G, 6G), AI and Blockchain
 - . Improve efficiency and sustainability of industry.
 - . Traceability.
 - . Marketplace.
- - Habitat restoration (Coral and mangroves). Particularly important in areas with high population density.
- Bycatch reduction.

Session 2:

Challenge 5: Unlock Ocean-based solution to climate change.

Challenge 6: Increase Community resilience to Ocean hazards.

Main feedback/recommendations

- Respond to climate change and other human impacts.
- Sea level rise is particularly challenging.
- Impacts of acidification on corals and algae and uncertainties about pollution and microbiology with potential ecosystems impacts deserve science attention.
- Develop common principles for environmental impact assessment applicable to all sectors.
- Contrasting local conditions needs and challenges.

Session 3:

1. **Challenge 9: Skills, Knowledge and technology for all.**
2. **Challenge 10: Change humanity's relationship with the Ocean.**

Main feedback/recommendations

- Emphasized on priority drivers of pro-ocean behaviours (knowledge systems, education, communication, cultural connection).
- Emphasized on the barriers, enablers, and motivators of pro-ocean behaviour.
- Priority actions and measuring progress (key actions, who enables these actions, resources required and performance indicators).
- Need of a matrix to identify human relationship with the Ocean and data required to measure it.
- Move out of human centric thinking practice.
- What we can innovate to undo our wrong doings to the Ocean.
- Invest in capacity building.
- Ocean literacy for finance sectors.
- Youth involvement in decision making for smooth transitioning of information over generations.
- Technology driven education in Ocean protection and awareness.
- Involvement of private sectors.
- Youths concern over profitability vs sustainability to be addressed.
- UNESCO/The GLOBE program may include Ocean education.

Session 3:

Challenge 9: Skills, Knowledge and technology for all.

Challenge 10: Change humanity's relationship with the Ocean.

Major gaps pointed in the White Paper:

- Normes/rules/punishments needed to be included in the white paper.
- Inclusion of indigenous knowledge systems and knowledge transfer across communities and countries.
- Sharing of benefits of marine economy with people who protect marine ecosystems. Inclusive agile marketing.
- Training the trainers to pass the knowledge to the local communities.
- Include more ECOPs in marine protection activities.
- Coastal communities should be made part in the policy making process.
- Documentation of indigenous wisdom. It's validation and integration with decision support systems and prediction systems.
- Co-development of language for scientific and society.
- Integration of Ocean protection plan with the village level development plans.



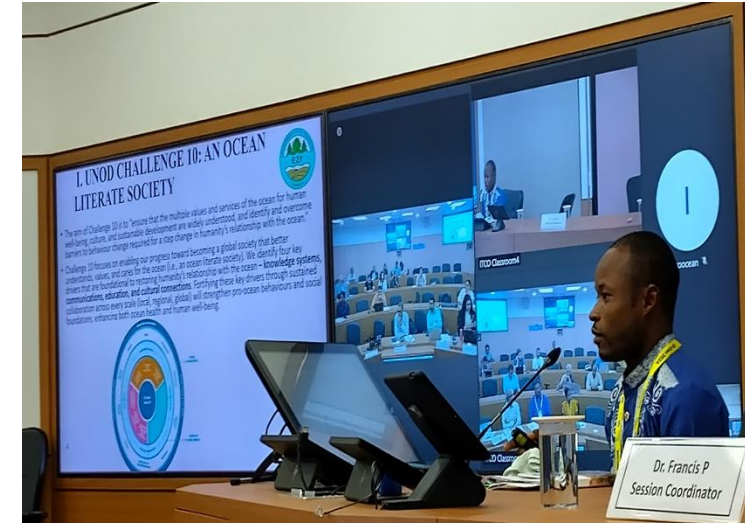
Highlights of E2F's Participation

Speaking engagements: Ocean Education as a strategy to face Ocean- climate issues

1. Our representative did a 15 minutes presentation on this topic.

Key Highlights from his presentation:

- Why Ocean education is important; Key to implement SDG14, triggers behaviour change, promotes circular economy, changes the paradigm.
- The way forward is to develop the IECCATi approach; Information, Education, Communication, Culture, Adaptation, Resilience, Training and innovation.



Speaking engagements: Ocean Education as a strategy to face Ocean-climate issues

CLOSING REMARKS

- **Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.** (Nelson Mandela)
- I believe that the world's failure to embrace such holistic approaches lies at the root of the imbalances that are propelling our Ocean's destruction. We cannot continue to make the same mistakes.
- Enhance Ocean Education and capacity building within the indigenous people and local communities.
- Support ECOPs and indigenous-led Ocean and climate actions; Material, Technical and Financial assistance.
- Including indigenous people and ECOPs in the planning and management of these MPAs.
- We must work with the indigenous peoples and ECOPs at their pace. Never impose on them.
- Conservation needs effective co-management and equitable governance.
- Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC), must be considered as owners of projects not beneficiaries.



PRESENTATION OF THE OCEAN DECADE VISION 2030 CHALLENGE 10 WHITE PAPER

- **Main Highlights:**

- Challenge 10 is connected to all other challenges.
- Challenge 10 is all about people and their behaviour.
- Drivers to help us change behavior;
 - . Knowledge
 - . Education
 - . Communication
 - . Culture





Connect with Environment and Food Foundation (E2F)

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