

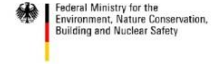


BLUE SOLUTIONS

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On behalf of



of the Federal Republic of Germany

Regional Forum on Solutions for Oceans, Coasts and Human Wellbeing in Africa

Zanzibar, Tanzania - Early June 2016



Background Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems are fundamental for human well-being as they provide valuable services and play a crucial role in sustaining global ecological equilibrium. Agenda 2063 of the African Union, *'The Africa We Want'*, aspires to a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, highlighting Africa's blue economy as a major contributor to continental transformation. The Nairobi Convention calls for blue economy approaches as pathways for sustained economic growth, food security, poverty eradication, job creation and environmental sustainability. Today, these vital marine and coastal services are under threat from habitat loss, overfishing, pollution and climate change. Lack of regulation and enforcement, as well as insufficient awareness, communication and coordination between multifaceted actors have additional adverse effects.

Across our planet, however, multiple examples of inspiring "blue solutions" which successfully help overcome challenges to sustainable development and human wellbeing in the marine and coastal realm can be found.

Objective The four-day Regional Forum provides a platform for practitioners and decision-makers from Africa to

- **Enable mutual learning and support knowledge transfer** on experiences.
- Inspire participants and **facilitate the adaptation of successful experiences** towards the implementation of sustainable solutions in marine and coastal contexts.

Participants The Regional Forum provides a platform for African **institutions, practitioners and decision-makers involved in marine and coastal planning, management and governance.**

The number of participants is targeting about 100 people. Should you wish to participate yourself or to nominate someone, please [contact the organization team](#). Participants from the region interested in sharing their success stories ("solution providers") will have priority.

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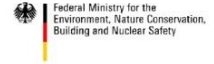


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Call for Solutions

You have the opportunity to **share your successful experiences** related to marine and coastal planning, management and governance for sustainable development. Your solution will be uploaded onto the “[Solution Explorer](#)” online platform and if submitted until 30th November considered for presentation at the Regional Forum.

Blue solutions are successful approaches that ...

- ... address challenges to sustainable development and human wellbeing in the marine and coastal realm and contribute to maintaining or improving the status/health of biodiversity and ecosystems
- ... are effective and have been applied with a demonstrated impact
- ... are scalable with elements of your solution that have the potential for upscaling or replication in other contexts.

Submitted solutions can fall into one of the Blue Solutions Initiative’s focal areas (marine and coastal spatial planning and management, marine protected areas, ecosystem services, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable finance), or address related issues such as sustainable fisheries, tourism, marine litter, educational or capacity development measures, etc. For presentation at the forum, solutions illustrating a range of topics and different levels of implementation (from local to multi-national, hands-on to policy) will be selected.

Please find all information on the call for solutions and the submission process on our website. Here you can also download the blue solutions template to document your experience. www.bluesolutions.info/africaforum

During the forum, the presentation of solutions will provide the basis for discussions around experiences and an interactive exchange on regional learning. We also encourage you to share any video or other media material on your solution to be considered for presentation in a special session during the event.

Language The Regional Forum will be officially held in **English and French** with simultaneous translation. If required, Portuguese translation can be arranged. Solutions can be submitted in English and French.

Organizers The Regional Forum is being organized by the Blue Solutions Initiative partners and will be convened in collaboration with the Abidjan Convention, the Nairobi Convention, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association as well as the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Contact Please contact Janina Korting (janina.korting@giz.de or bluesolutions@giz.de) for more information.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for news on the Blue Solutions Initiative and the Regional Forum.

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