ReSea

STRENGTHENING MARINE CONSERVATION IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

BOOKLET 2

A Compendium of MPA and LMMA Training Resources



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In partnership with Canada

STRENGTHENING MARINE CONSERVATION IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

BOOKLET 2

A Compendium of MPA and LMMA Training Resources

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Booklet 2: ***A Compendium of MPA and LMMA Training Resources***

About this series:

Strengthening marine conservation in the Western Indian Ocean is a two-booklet series developed to support inclusive capacity development for the establishment, management and governance of marine protected areas (MPAs) and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) across the Western Indian Ocean. The series comprises:

Booklet 1: Creating a capacity development plan using Participatory Action Research

Booklet 2: A Compendium of MPA and LMMA Training Resources

Version: 1.0 | October 2026

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Contributions included providing technical input and feedback, sharing information on training resources, drafting resource summaries, and identifying relevant tools.

Acknowledgements: This series was developed through the Regenerative Seascapes for People, Climate and Nature (ReSea) Program, led by Mission Inclusion and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with support from Global Affairs Canada.

We gratefully acknowledge the MPA and LMMA practitioners, managers, facilitators and partners across the Western Indian Ocean whose experience, knowledge and perspectives informed the development of this resource. We also acknowledge the contributions and support of IUCN, Mission Inclusion, WIOMSA, Macquarie University, and the wider ReSea project team throughout its development and review.

Suggested citations:

SERIES:

Horigue, V. (2026). **STRENGTHENING MARINE CONSERVATION IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN** (Booklets 1–2). Version 1.0, October 2026. IUCN ReSea and WIOMSA.

THIS BOOKLET:

Horigue, V. (2026). A Compendium of MPA and LMMA Training Resources. **STRENGTHENING MARINE CONSERVATION IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN**, **Booklet 2.** Version 1.0, October 2026. IUCN ReSea and WIOMSA, viii + 70 pp.

ISBN:

DOI:

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Cover photo: © Blue Ventures

Design & layout: Gordon Arara

About this series

Strengthening marine conservation in the Western Indian Ocean is a two-booklet series that supports inclusive capacity development for the establishment, management and governance of marine protected areas (MPAs) and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) across the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). It offers a participatory process for identifying community-specific needs and co-creating training grounded in local realities, so that learning stays responsive as contexts and challenges change.

Who it is for

Whether you are a conservation professional, a community leader, or someone keen to strengthen your own knowledge and skills, you play an important role in building capacity for marine conservation. The series is designed for:

- Facilitators and trainers – to guide participatory training design and delivery, and help communities and MPA/LMMA teams put their capacity plans into action
- Community leaders, MPA managers and local mentors – to plan and run training sessions
- Government, NGO, civil society, community-based organisation and academic staff – to support governance, learning and capacity development
- Self-learners – to use as a reference for independent study and practice

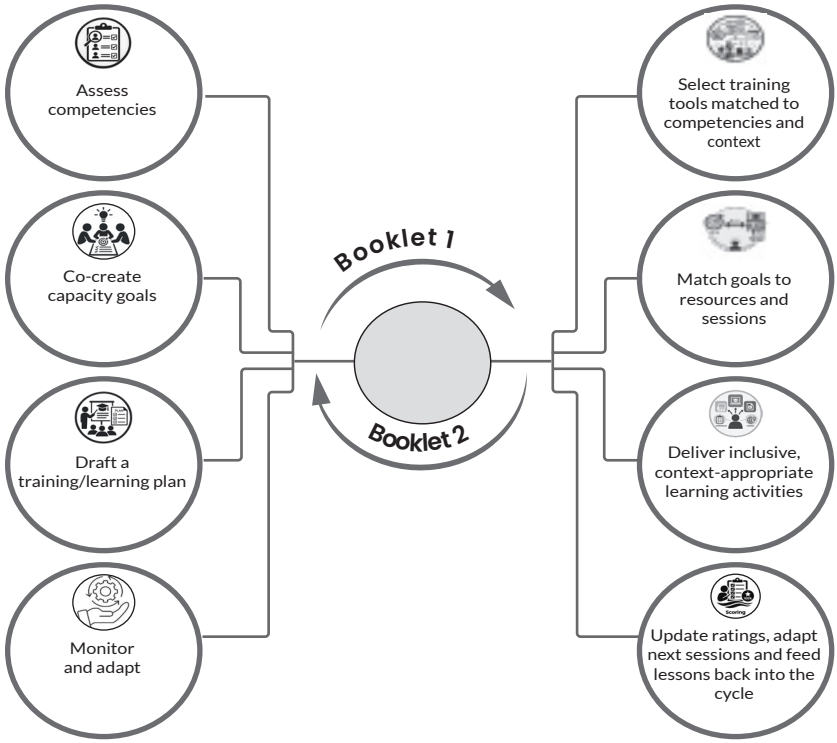
What it helps you do

- Assess competencies and agree what to strengthen, and why
- Turn the results into capacity goals and a practical capacity development plan
- Find training resources that match specific competencies and learning needs
- Plan and deliver training that is accessible, realistic and responsive to your group's preferences
- Reflect on what worked and adapt the plan as needs change

You don't need to be an expert facilitator. You just need to listen, adapt, and use the tools here to support shared learning.

How the two booklets work together

Booklet 1 helps you identify what to strengthen and why. **Booklet 2** shows how to act on those priorities. It picks up in Phase 2 of the Look–Think–Act cycle, helping you think through the most suitable actions and training, and act by choosing and delivering the right learning activities. Used together, the two booklets form a continuous learning loop that links assessment, planning, delivery and reflection.



How the two booklets work together. Booklet 1 takes you from assessing competencies to a capacity development plan; Booklet 2 helps you select, deliver and review the training.

Table of Contents

About this series ..... **iii**

Who it is for iii

What it helps you do iii

How the two booklets work together ..... **iv**

Acronyms and abbreviations ..... **vii**

Introduction **1**

Methods: How training resources were identified and curated **2**

Resource gathering *2*
Screening for curation *2*
Categorisation by competency domain *2*

What to expect and how to use this booklet **4**

Recap of LMMA Competency Areas **5**

Tips for building a training roll-out plan **6**

1. Anchor to Booklet 1 goals and groups *6*
2. Sequence for feasibility (not just importance) *6*
3. Choose delivery formats that match preferences *6*
4. Plan an inclusive schedule *6*
5. Assign clear roles and resources *6*
6. Use a simple quarterly cadence *7*
7. Build monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) into every activity *7*
8. Manage risks and assumptions *7*

Quick planner **7**

Description of available training resources and other materials **8**

Distribution and accessibility of training resources across LMMA competency areas **9**

Summary matrix of training resources 10

Practical tools for conservation decision-making, action and sustainability 16

Bahari Yetu (Toleo la Pili) *17*
Blue Ventures Community Engagement with Data Toolkit *18*
Blue Ventures Fisheries Learning Exchanges: A Short Guide to Best Practice *19*
Blue Ventures LMMA Toolkit *20*
Blue Ventures and WIOMSA – Local Management of Marine Resources *21*
C2O Pacific Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit *22*
COMRED and Blue Ventures Mentorship Guide: A Guide for Effective Community Capacity Building and Mentoring for Coastal and Marine Resource Governance *23*
CORDIO Coral Reef Monitoring in Eastern Africa: A Guide for Communities *24*
CORDIO Sustainable Financing for Community-based Management *25*
CORDIO Guidelines for Assessing Sustainable Financing of LMMAs in East Africa *26*

CORDIO Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange Guide: Strengthening Community-Based Marine Resource Management 27
Creating and Managing MPAs in the Philippines 28
FAO Handbook on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) 29
FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines 30
Fish and People – Fisheries Education Video Series 31
Maliasili Leadership Programs 32
Managing Marine Protected Areas: A Toolkit for the Western Indian Ocean 33
Mangrove Action Project – Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) Training 34
Masifundise Co-management Guide for Small-scale Fishers in South Africa 35
MIHARI – LMMA Reference Guide for Madagascar 36
RAC-SPA – Economic Aspects of Marine Protected Areas 37
Reef Check – EcoDiver Program 38
Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA) – Methodology Manual for Facilitators 39
Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management 40
Socio-economic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers of the WIO (SocMon WIO) 41
WIO-COMPAS Support Toolkit 42
ZSL OSOL Project Toolkit for the Establishment of LMMAs in Mozambique 43

Global frameworks and guidelines for adaptation 44

FAO Integrated Coastal Management Manual 45
FAO Co-management Guidebooks for Coastal Fisheries 46
Finance Tools for Coral Reef Conservation: A Guide (50 Reefs Finance Guide) 47
IUCN – Coaching Manual for the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) 48
IUCN – Practice guidance for protected and conserved area finance 49
IUCN – Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories 50
IUCN – Transboundary Conservation: A Systematic and Integrated Approach 51
The MPA Guide: A Framework to Achieve Global Goals for the Ocean 52
UNESCO Marine Spatial Planning/MSPglobal Initiative 53
WorldFish Fisheries Management 54
WWF – Design and management of MPAs 55

Resource repositories and e-learning platforms 56

Blue Ventures Resources Portal 57
Conservation Finance Alliance – Conservation Finance Knowledge Hub 58
IUCN Library System 59
CORDIO LMMA Portal 60
Learning for Nature E-Learning Hub 61
LMMA Network Learning Centre 62
NOAA – MPA Tools and Training Resources 63
Maliasili Resource Portal 64
Rare Fish Forever Program Portal 65
Reef Resilience Network Trainings and Toolkits 66
SMART – Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool 67
WIOMSA Publications Portal 68
WWF Teaching Resources Portal 69

Supporting networks and institutions 70

Acronyms and abbreviations

BMU.....Beach Management Unit

CA .....Competency Area

CORDIO.....Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean

FPIC .....Free, Prior and Informed Consent

GPS.....Global Positioning System

IFC .....International Finance Corporation

IUCN.....International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

LMMA .....Locally Managed Marine Area

M&E .....Monitoring and Evaluation

MIHARI.....Short for MIHARI Network, the network of locally managed marine area (LMMA) communities in Madagascar

MPA .....Marine Protected Area

NGO.....Non-Governmental Organisation

PAR.....Participatory Action Research

ReSea.....Regenerative Seascapes for People, Climate and Nature

TNC.....The Nature Conservancy

UNDRIP.....United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

WIO.....Western Indian Ocean

WIOMSA .....Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

WIOMPAN....Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Network

WWF .....World Wide Fund for Nature

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Introduction

This capacity development guidebook and training compendium is designed to support inclusive marine conservation in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) by helping facilitators and trainers, whether from government, NGOs, or communities, strengthen the capacity of stakeholders involved in Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) governance.

This series is developed as part of the Regenerative Seascapes for People, Climate and Nature (ReSea) Program, led by IUCN in partnership with Mission Inclusion, and other organisations in the WIO region. ReSea seeks to strengthen biodiversity conservation, enhance climate and socioeconomic resilience of coastal communities, and advance gender-responsive approaches to marine governance. By contributing to these goals, this guidebook and training compendium aim to build the knowledge, skills, and networks needed for effective and inclusive MPA and LMMA capacity development across the region.

While LMMAs are a core focus of the ReSea Program, this guide also addresses MPAs, recognising that both play vital and complementary roles in conservation. In the WIO, MPAs are generally government-managed with trained managers and rangers that protect larger areas, but often lack strong community engagement. On the other hand, LMMAs are community-led and often operate with little to no external support. Each approach faces unique challenges, yet both need practical guidance and skills to plan, establish, and manage their areas effectively. This manual and its companion compendium are therefore designed to meet the needs of both MPA and LMMA practitioners.

The compendium draws on a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach (Whyte, 1991) and the LMMA Competency Framework (WIOMSA, 2026) to identify capacity development needs, co-create learning plans, and support adaptive, community-informed implementation. Using these tools together enables dynamic training design that evolves with local realities, strengthens ownership, and builds governance capacity across different actors.

This resource is structured into two complementary booklets:

- **Booklet 1: Creating a capacity development plan using Participatory Action Research**
  Offers step-by-step guidance for conducting a participatory assessment using the LMMA Competency Framework, and translating results into a capacity development plan.
- **Booklet 2: A Compendium of MPA and LMMA Training Resources (this booklet)**
  Builds on the plans developed using Booklet 1 by providing practical and context-sensitive training resources and customisable learning tools to implement the capacity development plans created using Booklet 1.

Together, the booklets guide you from assessment and planning to action, ensuring training efforts are rooted in both local knowledge and sound governance practice.

Booklet 2 is designed to support two key tasks in Phase 2 (Planning and implementing the process) of the Look–Think–Act cycle:

- Think: Selecting and curating the most relevant training resources based on your group's priority goals, context, and delivery preferences.
- Act: Using those tools to roll out practical, inclusive training sessions that help your team build new skills and knowledge.

Whether you're refining a learning plan or preparing for your first workshop, this compendium helps make sure the training is grounded, inclusive, and doable.

Methods: How training resources were identified and curated

Before explaining how to use this booklet, we first outline how the training materials were reviewed and curated for MPA/LMMA in the WIO. First, we conducted a preliminary desktop scan (with AI-assisted triage and author checks), applied the curation criteria and rating rubric (i.e., Practicality, Utility, Accessibility), and prioritised resources with High or Medium ratings that are adaptable, inclusive, and field-ready. Resources rated "Low" across the three criteria were excluded from this compendium. However, there were cases where resources with "Low" scores in one or two criteria were flagged as "Adaptable – needs contextualisation". This process was guided by the following steps:

Resource gathering

We searched for training manuals, toolkits, handbooks, posters, and multimedia resources from:

- MPA/LMMA implementing partners in the region (e.g., WIOMSA, IUCN, MIHARI, CORDIO, Blue Ventures);
- Global toolkits adapted for African coastal contexts;
- Training resources shared through workshops, focus groups, and consultant submissions; and
- Online resources using ChatGPT (OpenAI) and Google Search.

Screening for curation

We prioritised resources that are practical, adaptable, and inclusive, with specific guidance for delivering sessions to different groups (e.g., women, youth, elders, leaders). Each resource was triaged with ChatGPT (OpenAI) and then checked and revised after an initial read of the materials. We included resources that achieved High or Medium ratings on our curation criteria. Items rated "Low" across the three criteria were excluded from this compendium. Treat the ratings as a subjective, preliminary guide since these are based on reading rather than use of the resource. We strongly recommend that trainers and partners update them after delivery based on real-world use in their contexts (see the "**How to update**" box).

Categorisation by competency domain

We tagged each training tool according to the seven LMMA Competency Areas. Refer to these codes to examine the training resources summary matrix of training resources (p. 10) – competency matrix in the next section. We also noted where tools covered multiple competencies or could be adapted for cross-cutting issues like gender inclusion or climate change adaptation. For more information, see the Recap of LMMA Competency Areas (p. 5).

Criteria used to review resources to be included in this booklet

Criteria	Rating	Description
Practicality	**High**	The resource is field-ready for community use, with clear visuals and checklists, minimal preparation, low-cost materials, and usability across varied literacy and education levels.
	Medium	The resource is usable with some support, brief onboarding, or light adaptation (e.g., facilitator guidance or minor localisation).
	Low	The resource is heavily technical or equipment-dependent and generally requires specialist facilitation and substantial adaptation.
Utility	**High**	The resource directly enables Booklet 1 priority goals and targeted MPA/LMMA competencies through step-by-step, action-oriented guidance.
	Medium	The resource addresses parts of the goal or competency with some actionable elements but may require complementary tools.
	Low	The resource has indirect relevance, is primarily conceptual or high-level, and offers few actionable steps towards the stated goals.
Accessibility	**High**	The resource is open access, available in multiple languages, offline or print-ready, low-bandwidth friendly, and straightforward to obtain.
	Medium	The resource is free or request-based, available in at least two languages or easy to translate, and has moderate technology or bandwidth needs.
	Low	The resource is paywalled or difficult to obtain, available in a single language, and requires high bandwidth with no offline or print option.



How to update the ratings (recommended practice)



After each delivery, log outcomes in Booklet 1, Annex 2, worksheet 9 (Monitoring and reflection log) and update the Matrix row with: revised High/ Medium/Low scores; short note on what worked/what needed adaptation; any new languages/printable assets or case countries.



Over time, resources with repeated High Practicality + Utility in your context should move to your preferred starter set; those with persistent Low scores should be flagged for facilitation/translation or dropped.

What to expect and how to use this booklet

This booklet is structured to help you move step-by-step from planning (Booklet 1) to creating actionable training sessions. This booklet includes:

1. A recap of the Competency Areas. This summarises the seven LMMA Competency Areas, and provides the codes for each that you need to refer to in the summary matrix.

2. A summary matrix of training resources described in this booklet. These shortlisted tools had Medium to High ratings and are tagged by competency, as introduced in the Methods section. This matrix helps you find tools based on:
   - The LMMA competencies you want to build
   - Your target groups
   - Preferred delivery formats (e.g., storytelling, hands-on, visual)

3. Tips for building a training roll-out plan. A quick guide to sequence sessions that match your goals, timeline, facilitators, and resources, align with management-effectiveness reviews, and use Annex worksheets from Booklet 1 (goals, preferences, calendar, monitoring & reflection).

Note: As you deliver sessions, update the Matrix ratings and notes based on real-world use in your context (see "How to update"), so the compendium improves over time.

4. One-page Training Resource Summaries. Expand the information provided for each resource from the summary matrix. For each tool, you'll see:
   - Links or access info
   - Who it's for
   - What it helps you teach
   - How to use it (e.g., format, delivery style)
   - Tips for adapting to your local context



REMEMBER: Start where you are

You don't need to run all the trainings at once. Choose what's most relevant now, test what works, and adjust as you go. Use this compendium to design a training plan that is right for your community, based on the goals and priorities you already identified in Booklet 1.



Tip: Use this booklet alongside the templates in Booklet 1, especially:

- Goal setting table
- Competency-to-training table
- Training preferences list
- Group learning plan
- Calendar and milestone tracker
- Resource mapping

These will help you organise training sessions that are practical, inclusive, and achievable – no matter where you start.

Recap of LMMA Competency Areas

Use these seven code prefixes to navigate the compendium. They appear in the Summary matrix of training resources (p. 11) and on every one-page resource summary. Start by identifying your priority competencies from Booklet 1, then filter the matrix by the matching codes to shortlist resources. The compendium was curated and organised around these same codes, so each entry shows where it contributes (e.g., RM, PMD) and how strongly it performs on Practicality, Utility, and Accessibility. As you deliver sessions, record outcomes in Booklet 1's monitoring log (see Annex 2, worksheet 9) and update resource ratings. Over time, your matrix will reflect what works best for your context while staying anchored to these shared competency tags.

Code and code prefix used to tag each of the LMMA Competency Areas.

Competency Area	Code	Code Prefix	Description
Governance	**CA1**	**G**	Establishes and upholds fair, lawful, and participatory governance that shares benefits, resolves conflicts, and secures community ownership of LMMA decisions.
Planning, management, monitoring and documentation	**CA2**	**PMD**	Plans and manages LMMA activities with co-management strategies, selects and applies tools, monitors and documents results, and uses feedback to adapt.
Communication and stakeholder engagement	**CA3**	**C**	Communicates clearly and inclusively with internal and external stakeholders, engaging marginalised groups, building partnerships, and negotiating and managing agreements.
Financial management and accountability	**CA4**	**F**	Ensures transparent, compliant, and sustainable financing through budgeting, accounting and reporting, tracking fund use, and mobilising diverse revenue sources.
Management and monitoring of subsistence activities and community well-being	**CA5**	**SW**	Supports livelihoods and well-being by managing and monitoring subsistence activities, strengthening food security, and mobilising partnerships that address community needs.
Management of the marine resources	**CA6**	**RM**	Protects and sustainably manages marine ecosystems by identifying threats, implementing and enforcing rules and traditional practices, monitoring ecological change, and adapting actions based on evidence.
Leadership	**CA7**	**LD**	Inspires and guides LMMA actors by modelling integrity, sustaining motivation, nurturing innovation, and stewarding a shared vision for continuous improvement.

Tips for building a training roll-out plan

This section helps you turn your Booklet 1 outputs into a realistic schedule of sessions that people can actually attend and benefit from. Use the **competency codes (e.g., CA1, CA2…) or prefixes (e.g., G, PMD, C, RM, SW, F, LD)** and the **Practicality/ Utility/ Accessibility** ratings in the matrix to choose tools, then follow the steps below to plan, deliver, and iterate. Refer to the Annexes in Booklet 1 to help you.

1. *Anchor to Booklet 1 goals and groups*

- Open the worksheets in Booklet 1, Annex 2: Goal setting (2), Competency to training goals (3), Training preferences (4), Calendar and milestone tracker (5), Group learning plan (6) and Monitoring and reflection log (9).
- Pick 2–3 priority competencies for this quarter and confirm who (e.g., leaders, fishers, women, youth, elders) needs what.

2. *Sequence for feasibility (not just importance)*

- Start with foundational skills and quick wins (e.g., facilitation basics before conflict mediation; visual monitoring basics before reef surveys).
- Check seasonality (e.g., tides, monsoon, farming/fishing seasons, school terms) and cultural calendars to avoid clashes.
- Pair technical sessions with practice tasks between meetings to reinforce learning.
- Be practical and consider the resources (e.g., funds, time, access to experts) available and needed to help organise the training roll-out (see Booklet 1, Annex 2, worksheets 7 and 8).

3. *Choose delivery formats that match preferences*

- Use your Training preferences notes (Booklet 1, Annex 2, worksheet 4) to set format (e.g., storytelling, role-play, hands-on, peer exchange) and language needs.
- Flag offline/ low-bandwidth options and translation needs early, and plan printouts and visual aids.

4. *Plan an inclusive schedule*

- Schedule gender-segregated or youth-first sessions where helpful, then reconvene mixed groups for shared actions.
- Remove participation barriers (e.g., child-minding, transport stipends, safe venues, timing outside peak household hours) and consider these in the resources needed during the roll-out.
- Note all of this in the plan summary (Booklet 1, Annex 2, worksheet 8).

5. *Assign clear roles and resources*

- For each activity, record who leads, co-facilitates, and documents the process, and list materials (e.g., flipcharts, laminated datasheets, GPS/ phones) needed.
- Use the Resource mapping worksheet (Booklet 1, Annex 2, worksheet 7) to confirm trainers, venues, equipment, and any small costs.

6. *Use a simple quarterly cadence*

Plan the training in three-month cycles so that learning, practice and review follow a regular rhythm. For example:

- Quarter 1: 1–2 short sessions + a practice task; log reflections.
- Quarter 2: 1 session + peer sharing/exchange; adapt next steps.
- Quarter 3: Consolidation session + mini-review; prepare next quarter.
- Where possible, time the Quarter 3 mini-review to coincide with with management-effectiveness (ME) reviews. Repeat the competency assessment once a year to track progress across the quarterly cycles.

7. *Build monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) into every activity*

- For each session, set one Knowledge–Skill–Attitude (KSA) check using a quiz, demonstration or reflection, and log it in the Monitoring and reflection log (Booklet 1, Annex 2, worksheet 9).
- After delivery, update the Matrix ratings (i.e., Practicality/ Utility/ Accessibility) and add brief notes (e.g., what worked, what needed adaptation, language translations done).

8. *Manage risks and assumptions*

- Note any dependencies (e.g., equipment availability, permits, sea state) and add a fallback (e.g., indoor version, alternative date, simpler tool).
- Keep sessions short and iterative, rather than trying to do everything at once, to avoid overloading people.

Quick planner

Use these bullets as a guide and paste into your calendar worksheet.

- Priority competencies (codes/prefixes):
- Target groups:
- Selected tools (from matrix):
- Delivery format & language:
- Session dates & venues (Month 1–3):
- Leads & co-facilitators:
- Materials & budget:
- MEL checks (KSA):
- Notes for ME alignment/follow-ups:



REMEMBER

Start small, keep learning, be consistent, and keep updating both your plan and the Matrix as evidence from delivery accumulates.

Description of available training resources and other materials

This section presents 51 curated training resources that support LMMA and MPA governance, planning, management, and community engagement. The collection includes both regional tools widely used in the WIO and global resources that, while not yet applied extensively in the region, offer strong potential for adaptation. All resources were selected for their practicality, adaptability, and relevance for communities, with an emphasis on participatory approaches and inclusivity.

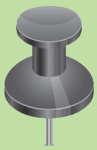
To make navigation easier, the resources are grouped under three sub-headings:

- Practical tools for conservation decision-making, action and sustainability – Highly field-ready resources designed for communities with minimal or no external technical support, such as LMMA toolkits and fisheries learning exchanges.
- Global frameworks and guidelines for adaptation – Broader resources on integrated coastal management, co-management, marine spatial planning, and fisheries governance that can be adapted to the WIO context.
- Resource repositories and e-learning platforms – Online hubs and portals that aggregate multiple toolkits, training modules, and case studies, useful for facilitators, NGOs, and practitioners seeking a wide range of resources and continuous learning opportunities.

Within each sub-heading, resources are organised alphabetically because many tools address multiple competency areas (e.g., governance, resource management, communication, financial accountability). Each one-page summary includes:

- Title and description of the resource and its purpose;
- Intended audience and any prerequisite knowledge or skills;
- Access information with direct links, and where available, case studies showing real-world application.

This structure ensures that facilitators, community leaders, and partners can quickly identify tools that match their capacity development goals and delivery preferences, while also understanding which resources are ready for immediate use and which may require contextual adaptation. The following table provides an at-a-glance summary of all 51 curated training resources, showing their alignment with LMMA competency areas, target users, delivery modes, and resource intensity.



LIMITATIONS

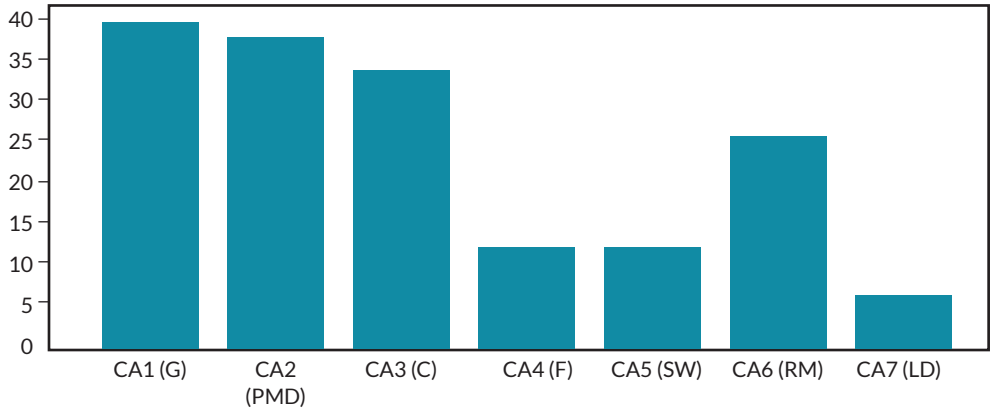
This compendium focuses primarily on training tools and capacity development resources, rather than standalone assessment tools. Assessment tools were included only when they provide sufficiently detailed, practice-oriented guidance, specifically: i) clear instructions on how to apply the tool in real-world settings; ii) the skills, roles, and minimum capacities required to implement it; and iii) practical guidance on how to interpret and report results in ways that directly inform management decisions and/or linked capacity development activities (e.g., training, mentoring, coaching, or adaptive planning).

Distribution and accessibility of training resources across LMMA competency areas

To complement the one-page summaries, we analysed how the curated resources align with the LMMA Competency Areas (Figure 2). Resources are most concentrated in Governance (CA1-G), Planning, management, monitoring and documentation (CA2-PMD), and Communication and stakeholder engagement (CA3-C), with substantial coverage also for Management of the marine resources (CA6-RM). This reflects where the training landscape is strongest, supporting the establishment and day-to-day functioning of MPAs and LMMAs through participatory governance, practical management guidance, and tools for engagement and partnership-building.

In contrast, the graph shows fewer resources for Leadership (CA7-LD), Financial management and accountability (CA4-F), and Management and monitoring of subsistence activities and community well-being (CA5-SW). These gaps matter because leadership, financial sustainability, and socio-economic outcomes often determine whether community-led governance systems endure and whether benefits are equitably realised.

Practicality also varies across competency areas. Many resources tagged to CA1, CA2, CA3, and CA6 are field-ready for local facilitators and communities, with step-by-step guidance and adaptable templates. Finance resources (CA4-F) are fewer and tend to be more technical, often oriented towards organisations and practitioners with specialist knowledge (e.g., economic and business concepts related to conservation finance). Whilst valuable, these tools are not easily applicable in community settings, since they require simplification, contextualised examples and facilitation support. We found that there are also very limited practical leadership resources (CA7-LD) available. In this collection, Maliasili is the main source with explicitly leadership-focused materials and programmes. This highlights the broader scarcity of comparable leadership tools that are tailored for community contexts.



Distribution of training resources across the LMMA Competency Areas (shown by competency code and prefix). Note: Each resource was counted once for every Competency Area it is tagged with in the summary matrix, so a resource can count towards several areas. The totals in the graph therefore exceed the number of resources in the compendium.



Overall, the distribution of training resources highlights priorities for future tool development and adaptation in the WIO. We recommend developing tools for leadership, community-appropriate financial management, and monitoring of socio-economic outcomes and community well-being.

Summary matrix of training resources

Note that the Low-Medium-High ratings below describe the intensity of resources required to run a training activity, where:

- **Low** – Requires minimal equipment or funding, and provides printable and locally deliverable tools.
- **Medium** – May need facilitator training or external materials, offers online versions only, and/or requires adaptation or translation.
- **High** – Requires a certain level of technical expertise and multiple resources such as equipment and travel.

Training resource	Code	Prefix	Target Users	Delivery Mode	Resource intensity
Practical tools for conservation decision-making, action and sustainability					
Bahari Yetu (Toleo la Pili)	CA3, CA6	C, RM	Communities, fishers, youth, educators	Illustrated field guide; group learning; awareness sessions	Low
Blue Ventures Community Engagement with Data Toolkit	CA6, CA2, CA3	RM, PMD, C	Fishers, monitoring teams, youth	Workshops; participatory mapping; data collection & analysis modules	Medium
Blue Ventures Fisheries Learning Exchanges: A Short Guide to Best Practice	CA3, CA7	C, LD	BMU, LMMA & community leaders, peer facilitators	Peer-to-peer exchanges; facilitation techniques; simple M&E	Low
Blue Ventures LMMA Toolkit	CA1, CA6, CA2	G, RM, PMD	Community leaders, LMMA facilitators	Step-by-step guide; community training; monitoring & adaptation tools	Medium
Blue Ventures and WIOMSA – Local Management of Marine Resources	CA1, CA6, CA3, CA4	G, RM, C, F	Community leaders, BMU members, fishers, facilitators	Facilitated workshops; visual guides; legal context overview	Medium
C2O Pacific Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit	CA6, CA2, CA3	RM, PMD, C	Community monitors, local leaders, LMMA committees, resource users (fishers, gleaners), youth	Modular step-by-step field methods; datasheets & example datasets; community training/workshops; repeated monitoring for adaptive management	Medium
COMRED and Blue Ventures Mentorship Guide: A Guide for Effective Community Capacity Building and Mentoring for Coastal and Marine Resource Governance	CA7, CA1, CA3	LD, G, C	Youth, women, BMUs, CBOs	Mentorship sessions; capacity-building modules	Low
CORDIO Coral Reef Monitoring in Eastern Africa: A Guide for Communities	CA6, CA2	RM, PMD	Fishers, local monitoring teams, community rangers	Field-based monitoring; underwater transects; catch monitoring	High

Training resource	Code	Prefix	Target Users	Delivery Mode	Resource intensity
CORDIO Sustainable Financing for Community-based Management	CA4, CA1, CA2	F, G, PMD	CBO, LMMA leaders, treasurers, NGOs, local government	Guidance notes; budgeting exercises; financing options; templates	Medium
CORDIO Guidelines for Assessing Sustainable Financing of LMMAs in East Africa	CA4, CA1, CA2	F, G, PMD	NGOs, BMU treasurers, local government staff	Technical assessments; staged process; analysis & reporting	High
CORDIO Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange Guide: Strengthening Community-Based Marine Resource Management	CA3, CA7, CA1	C, LD, G	Community champions, facilitators, BMU reps	Learning visits; participatory exercises; templates & documentation	Medium
Creating and Managing MPAs in the Philippines	CA1, CA2, CA6, CA3	G, PMD, RM, C	Local government, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs	Step-by-step manual with templates	Medium
FAO Handbook on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)	CA1, CA2, CA6	G, PMD, RM	Governments, practitioners, communities	Guidelines; identification & monitoring frameworks	Medium
FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines	CA1, CA5, CA3, CA6	G, SW, C, RM	States, civil society, communities	Global guidelines; policy & practice reference	Medium
Fish and People – Fisheries Education Video Series	CA3, CA6	C, RM	Students, youth, community educators, NGOs	Short animated videos; lesson plans	Medium
Maliasili Leadership Programs	CA7, CA1, CA3	LD, G, C	NGO & CBO leaders, LMMA coordinators, emerging leaders	Cohort-based training; coaching; leadership practice modules	High
Managing Marine Protected Areas: A Toolkit for the Western Indian Ocean	CA1, CA2, CA6, CA3	G, PMD, RM, C	MPA managers, rangers, community leaders, NGOs	Toolkit/manual; training modules; templates & case studies	Medium
Mangrove Action Project – Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) Training	CA6, CA2, CA3	RM, PMD, C	Communities, practitioners, local authorities	5–10-day workshops; field practice; virtual options	High

Training resource	Code	Prefix	Target Users	Delivery Mode	Resource intensity
Masifundise Co-management Guide for Small-scale Fishers in South Africa	CA1, CA3, CA5	G, C, SW	Small-scale fishers, community leaders	Illustrated guide; step-by-step co-management process	Low
MIHARI – LMMA Reference Guide for Madagascar	CA1, CA2, CA6	G, PMD, RM	Communities, NGOs, government	Reference guide; legal pathways; checklists	Low
RAC-SPA – Economic Aspects of Marine Protected Areas	CA4, CA2, CA1	F, PMD, G	MPA managers, planners, NGOs, government	Economic analysis guidance; valuation concepts; case studies	High
Reef Check – EcoDiver Program	CA6, CA2	RM, PMD	Certified SCUBA divers, marine practitioners	3-day certification; classroom + underwater surveys	High
Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA) – Methodology Manual for Facilitators	CA2, CA3, CA1, CA5	PMD, C, G, SW	MPA managers, facilitators, community reps	Facilitated assessment; focus groups; scoring & action planning	Medium
Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management	CA2, CA3, CA5, CA1	PMD, C, SW, G	Reef/LMMA managers, facilitators, monitoring teams	Step-by-step socio-economic assessment; survey tools; analysis guidance	Medium
Socio-economic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers of the WIO (SocMon WIO)	CA2, CA3, CA5	PMD, C, SW	Coastal managers, LMMA teams, community monitors	Guidelines; indicator sets; survey templates; training workshops	Medium
WIO-COMPAS Support Toolkit	CA7, CA2, CA1	LD, PMD, G	MPA professionals, supervisors, training providers	Competency standards; assessment tools; mentoring support	Medium
ZSL OSOL Project Toolkit for the Establishment of LMMAs in Mozambique	CA1, CA6, CA5, CA3	G, RM, SW, C	Coastal communities, facilitators	Toolkit; staged process; livelihood modules	Medium
Global frameworks and guidelines for adaptation					
FAO Integrated Coastal Management Manual	CA2, CA1, CA5, CA3	PMD, G, SW, C	Practitioners, policymakers, community leaders	Manual; guidelines	Low

Training resource	Code	Prefix	Target Users	Delivery Mode	Resource intensity
FAO Co-management Guidebooks for Coastal Fisheries	CA1, CA3, CA2, CA5	G, C, PMD, SW	States, communities, NGOs	Handbooks; evaluation methods; e-learning	Medium
Finance Tools for Coral Reef Conservation: A Guide (50 Reefs Finance Guide)	CA4, CA2, CA1	F, PMD, G	Conservation practitioners, finance leads, NGOs	Finance guide; tools overview; project finance planning	Medium
IUCN – Coaching Manual for the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET)	CA2, CA1, CA3	PMD, G, C	MPA managers, facilitators, site teams	Manual; facilitation toolkit; templates	Medium
IUCN – Practice guidance for protected and conserved area finance	CA4, CA2, CA1	F, PMD, G	MPA managers, finance teams, NGOs, governments	Practice guide; finance planning steps; case examples	Medium
IUCN – Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories	CA1, CA2	G, PMD	National agencies, MPA managers, NGOs	Guidelines; classification framework; policy tool	Medium
IUCN – Transboundary Conservation: A Systematic and Integrated Approach	CA1, CA3, CA2	G, C, PMD	Governments, regional bodies, NGOs	Framework; cooperation models; case studies	Medium
The MPA Guide: A Framework to Achieve Global Goals for the Ocean	CA2, CA1	PMD, G	Planners, agencies, NGOs	Framework; user manual; interactive platform	Medium
UNESCO Marine Spatial Planning / MSPglobal Initiative	CA2, CA1, CA3	PMD, G, C	Governments, regional bodies, stakeholders	Trainings; publications; digital tools	Medium
WorldFish Fisheries Management	CA6, CA2, CA5, CA1	RM, PMD, SW, G	Local communities, fisheries managers	Publications; training programs; capacity-building	Medium
WWF – Design and management of MPAs	CA2, CA1, CA6, CA3	PMD, G, RM, C	Practitioners, community partners	Guidance; workshops; peer exchanges	Medium
Resource repositories and e-learning platforms					
Blue Ventures Resources Portal	CA1, CA2, CA6, CA3, CA4	G, PMD, RM, C, F	Practitioners, facilitators, communities	Online resource library; toolkits; guidance notes	Low

Training resource	Code	Prefix	Target Users	Delivery Mode	Resource intensity
Conservation Finance Alliance – Conservation Finance Knowledge Hub	CA4, CA2, CA1	F, PMD, G	Practitioners, donors, NGOs, governments	Online knowledge hub; tools; case studies; webinars	Low
IUCN Library System	CA1, CA2, CA6, CA3, CA4	G, PMD, RM, C, F	Practitioners, researchers, policymakers	Online publications library; guidance & reports	Low
CORDIO LMMA Portal	CA1, CA2, CA6, CA3, CA4	G, PMD, RM, C, F	Practitioners, CBOs, NGOs	Online portal; downloadable tools; introductory video	Low
Learning for Nature E-Learning Hub	CA2, CA1, CA4, CA3, CA5	PMD, G, F, C, SW	Government planners, NGO managers, communities	MOOCs; webinars; forums (online)	Low
LMMA Network Learning Centre	CA6, CA1, CA3, CA2	RM, G, C, PMD	LMMA communities, practitioners	Resource library; case studies; toolkits	Low
NOAA – MPA Tools and Training Resources	CA2, CA1, CA3	PMD, G, C	Marine planners, managers, policymakers	Online tools; training materials; guidance	Medium
Maliasili Resource Portal	CA7, CA1, CA3	LD, G, C	NGO/CBO leaders, facilitators	Online portal; leadership & organisational tools	Low
Rare Fish Forever Program Portal	CA1, CA6, CA5, CA3, CA4	G, RM, SW, C, F	Partners, local leaders, practitioners	Portal tools; data; implementation resources	Medium
Reef Resilience Network Trainings and Toolkits	CA6, CA2, CA3	RM, PMD, C	Reef managers, practitioners, local communities	Online modules; toolkits; global case studies	Medium
SMART – Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool	CA2, CA1, CA6	PMD, G, RM	Rangers, analysts, field staff, community monitors	Software; SMART Mobile; online courses	Medium
WIOMSA Publications Portal	CA6, CA2, CA1	RM, PMD, G	Practitioners, students, researchers, managers	Online publications portal; research reports; guidance	Low
WWF Teaching Resources Portal	CA3, CA6, CA5	C, RM, SW	Educators, youth groups, community facilitators	Teaching materials; activities; multimedia resources	Low

Practical tools for conservation decision-making, action and sustainability

These resources are designed for conservation professionals and communities with minimal or no external technical support. They include highly practical, field-ready tools such as MPA and LMMA toolkits, fisheries learning exchange guides, reef monitoring manuals, and mentorship frameworks that have been used or developed for the WIO, or in regions similar to the Eastern and Southern African context. The tools emphasise participatory approaches, local knowledge, inclusivity and accessibility, making them ideal for immediate application, even in community settings.



Bahari Yetu (Toleo la Pili)

Link: https://www.wiomsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/BAHARI-YETU.pdf

Description:

Bahari Yetu is a Swahili-language illustrated guidebook published by WIOMSA and supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. It provides a comprehensive introduction to the marine environment of Eastern Africa and the WIO. It explains physical ocean conditions such as climate, winds, and oceanography, and presents detailed descriptions of marine organisms found along the East African coastline. The guide also introduces readers to human activities that shape coastal systems – including fishing, tourism, energy exploration, and pollution – and highlights important regional and global influences affecting the WIO. The second edition (2023) includes approximately 300 species of marine plants and animals, with Swahili, local, and scientific names, supported by clear illustrations to improve ocean literacy for broad audiences.

Key Features:

- **Written entirely in Swahili with engaging visuals**, making marine science accessible to coastal communities, students, fishers, and educators in the WIO region.
- **Covers ~300 species** with Swahili, local, English, and scientific names; includes locally used terms drawn from different coastal regions (e.g., Tanga, Mafia, Watamu, Mombasa).
- **Draws from and simplifies content** from the authoritative *A Field Guide to the Seashores of Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Islands*.
- **Covers physical oceanography, marine habitats, biodiversity, coastal activities, pollution, and conservation** – making it both a ***learning tool*** and ***community awareness resource***.

Case Studies:

There are no known cases of use of the document. However, the book was recognised as a key educational resource in East Africa, which can be used in community and school outreach to raise awareness of marine species, climate impacts, and sustainable resource use.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Clear, colourful illustrations of species, Swahili names and simplified explanations make it suitable for community education, schools, and MPA/LMMA outreach.
- **Utility: High** – Strengthens foundational ecological knowledge essential for fisheries management, conservation planning, and environmental awareness.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available as an open-access PDF from the WIOMSA portal. Written in Swahili with accessible visuals.

Note: This summary was prepared using AI and has not been verified by a Swahili-speaking reviewer. Content was interpreted from the original Swahili-language guide using publicly available metadata and context.

Blue Ventures Community Engagement with Data Toolkit

Link: https://blueventures.org/toolkits/community-engagement-with-data/

Description:

This toolkit is designed to empower communities by providing them with the tools and knowledge to collect, manage, and use data effectively for conservation and natural resource management. It aims to enhance the capacity of local communities to engage in data-driven decision-making processes, ensuring that conservation initiatives are informed by accurate and locally relevant data.

Key Features:

- **Data Collection Methods:** The toolkit offers guidance on various data collection techniques, including surveys, monitoring, and participatory mapping, tailored to the needs and capacities of local communities.
- **Data Management Tools:** Provides frameworks and tools for organising, storing, and managing data effectively, ensuring that community-collected data is accessible and usable.
- **Capacity Building:** Includes training modules to build the skills of community members in data collection and analysis, empowering them to take an active role in managing their natural resources.
- **Integration with Conservation Planning:** Helps communities integrate collected data into broader conservation and resource management plans, ensuring that their efforts are informed by solid evidence.
- **Emphasis on inclusivity, accessibility and sensitivity** to social issues in feedback sessions.
- **Has a variety of tools and practical exercises**, and the annexes include sample materials.

Case Studies:

- The toolkit describes use and practical experiences from Madagascar, Comoros, Tanzania, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Belize.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – The toolkit is user-friendly, with clear instructions and adaptable methods that can be used in various community contexts.
- **Utility: High** – Directly supports data-driven conservation and management efforts, enhancing the effectiveness of community-led initiatives.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available online, with materials accessible in English, Portuguese and French.

Blue Ventures Fisheries Learning Exchanges: A Short Guide to Best Practice

Link: https://blueventures.org/toolkits/fisheries-learning-exchanges-a-short-guide-to-best-practice/

Description:

This guide is designed to facilitate effective Fisheries Learning Exchanges (FLEs), which are peer-to-peer learning opportunities where community members and stakeholders from different regions come together to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices in fisheries management. The guide provides practical advice on organising and conducting successful learning exchanges, ensuring that participants gain valuable insights that can be applied to their own community contexts.

Key Features:

- **Best Practice Guidelines:** Offers a set of best practices for planning, conducting, and evaluating FLEs, to ensure exchanges are productive and meaningful for all.
- **Facilitation Techniques:** Includes tips and strategies for effective facilitation, helping organisers create an environment that encourages open dialogue and active participation.
- **Participant Engagement**: Focuses on ways to engage participants before, during, and after the exchange to maximise learning outcomes and encourage the implementation of new ideas.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**: Provides tools for monitoring the success of learning exchanges and evaluating their impact on fisheries management practices.

Case Studies:

- Provides specific examples from Madagascar and describes how learning exchanges helped strengthen regional collaboration and enhanced the capacity of local communities to manage their fisheries sustainably.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Practical and user-friendly, with clear, actionable steps that can be easily adapted to different contexts.
- **Utility: High** – Directly supports the sharing of knowledge and best practices in fisheries management, leading to more effective and sustainable practices.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available online with resources that are accessible to a broad audience, including community members and facilitators with varying levels of experience.

Blue Ventures LMMA Toolkit

Link: https://blueventures.org/toolkits/lmma-toolkit/

Description:

This toolkit is designed to assist communities in creating and managing LMMAs. It provides comprehensive guidance on all aspects of LMMA development, from initial planning and stakeholder engagement to long-term monitoring and adaptive management.

Key Features:

- **Comprehensive Planning Framework:** Offers a step-by-step guide to establishing LMMAs, including site selection, stakeholder engagement, and the development of management plans.
- **Community Empowerment:** Focuses on building the capacity of local communities to manage their marine resources effectively, ensuring that LMMAs are sustainable and community-owned.
- **Traditional Knowledge and Scientific Integration**: Encourages the integration of traditional ecological knowledge with modern scientific methods to enhance the effectiveness of marine conservation efforts.
- **Monitoring and Adaptation:** Provides tools for ongoing monitoring of marine resources and mechanisms for adapting management strategies based on observed outcomes.

Case Studies:

- The toolkit has been successfully applied in Madagascar, where LMMAs have been established to protect critical marine habitats, leading to the recovery of fish populations and improved food security for local communities.
- In the WIO region, the toolkit has supported the development of LMMAs that have contributed to the preservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of marine resources.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – The toolkit is user-friendly, with clear instructions and resources that are easily adaptable to various community contexts.
- **Utility: High** – Provides essential tools and guidance for the successful management of marine resources, directly benefiting both the environment and local communities.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available online in English and French, with materials designed to be accessible to a wide range of users, including those with limited technical knowledge.

Blue Ventures and WIOMSA – Local Management of Marine Resources

Link: https://blueventures.org/toolkits/local-management-of-marine-resources/

Citation: Leeney RH, Freeman P, Brayne K, Ricci G (2019). Local Management of Marine Resources: A guide for communities in Kenya and mainland Tanzania. A WIOMSA publication. 30 pp.

Description:

Developed by Blue Ventures, WIOMSA and partners, this guide is designed for community members, BMUs, and local leaders in Kenya and Tanzania seeking practical, participatory approaches to marine resource management, and LMMA establishment and management. The guide is available in both English and Swahili.

Key Features:

- **Community-Led Focus:** Explains the principles and benefits of community-led and co-management approaches, including BMUs, CFMAs (Tanzania), and CMAs (Kenya).
- **Stepwise Process:** Outlines the stages for setting up a locally managed area: initial assessment, planning and design, implementation, ongoing management, and review.
- **Governance & Legal Context:** Details the legal frameworks in Kenya and Tanzania, and the importance of local rules, compliance, and integration with national policy.
- **Committee Skills:** Lists essential competencies for management committees, including governance, communication, financial management, and leadership.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Highlights practical management actions (e.g., seasonal closures, gear bans, mangrove protection) and the importance of integrating local knowledge and culture.
- **Networks & Peer Exchange:** Encourages learning through community networks and peer-to-peer exchanges.
- Intended for community leaders, BMU members, fishers and resource users in Kenya and Tanzania, and facilitators (e.g., NGOs, government) supporting CBNRM.

Case Studies:

- Features real-world examples, such as Wasini BMU (Kenya) and Boma-Mahandakini CMA (Tanzania), demonstrating ecological and social benefits.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Written for direct use by communities, with clear language, visuals, and stepwise guidance.
- **Utility: High** – Supports the full cycle of LMMA establishment and management, from planning to compliance and review.
- **Accessibility: High** – Open access, available in English and Swahili, with region-specific examples.

C2O Pacific Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit

Link: https://c2o.net.au/community-marine-monitoring-toolkit/

Sample resource: *Marshall Islands Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit* – https://c2o.net.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Marshall-Islands_Community-Marine-Monitoring-Toolkit_2021.pdf

Description:

The Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit is a participatory, community-focused monitoring system developed by C2O Pacific to support locally led marine resource management across the Pacific. The toolkit provides simple, standardised, science-based monitoring methods that can be taught, applied, and interpreted by community members, local leaders, and resource monitors without requiring technical equipment or advanced scientific training. The approach balances technical robustness with community accessibility, enabling local groups to understand ecological changes, support adaptive management, and strengthen LMMAs.

Key Features:

- **Modules describing step-by-step field methods** for collecting and interpreting data on coastal resources and ecosystems, including:
  - Fish catch surveys
  - Intertidal invertebrate surveys
  - Coral reef health surveys
  - Mangrove monitoring
  - Seagrass assessments
- **Example datasets and data sheets** to support training and real-time application.
- **Designed for community ownership**, ensuring local leaders can repeatedly apply monitoring without external technical assistance.
- **Incorporates a participatory development process**, aligning with community priorities and local ecological knowledge.
- **Supports local adaptive management**, allowing communities to use monitoring results directly to adjust management rules, closures, or enforcement.

Case studies:

The methodology has been used in the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and other Pacific countries. Each country has a version created and tailored for local ecosystems, common names, and governance systems.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Highly accessible, field-tested, and designed explicitly for community use with simplified scientific methods.
- **Utility: High** – Supports key competencies including monitoring, data use, governance, and community leadership.
- **Accessibility: High** – Open access, with multiple country-specific versions available through the C2O publications library.

Note: The C2O Publications library hosts a broad range of community-focused manuals that can be adapted https://www.c2ofisheries.net.au/publications-library.

COMRED and Blue Ventures Mentorship Guide: A Guide for Effective Community Capacity Building and Mentoring for Coastal and Marine Resource Governance

Link: COMRED Mentorship Guide (PDF)

Description:

This guide offers a structured framework for mentoring and capacity building within coastal and marine resource governance contexts. Developed by COMRED in partnership with Blue Ventures, it emphasises the importance of mentorship in enhancing leadership, governance, and community engagement, particularly among youth and women in BMUs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs).

Key Features:

- **Mentoring Framework:** Outlines principles and practices for effective mentorship, focusing on building trust, setting clear objectives, and fostering mutual growth.
- **Capacity Building Modules:** Provides tools and methodologies for training in areas such as sustainable fisheries management, community mobilisation, and participatory decision-making.
- **Youth and Women Empowerment:** Highlights strategies to involve youth and women actively in leadership roles within BMUs and CBOs.

Case Studies:

Includes practical tools and real-life examples demonstrating the impact of mentorship on community resource management and governance in Kenya.

The guide has been applied in various coastal communities in Kenya, facilitating the development of effective mentorship programs that have led to improved governance structures and increased participation of marginalised groups in marine resource management.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Offers actionable steps and real-world examples that can be readily implemented by practitioners and community leaders.
- **Utility: High** – Serves as a comprehensive resource for organisations aiming to establish or enhance mentorship programs in coastal and marine settings.
- **Accessibility: High** – Available in English and designed with clear language and structure to cater to a broad audience.

CORDIO Coral Reef Monitoring in Eastern Africa: A Guide for Communities

Link: CORDIO Coral Reef Monitoring Guide (2017)

Description:

This community-oriented manual provides a practical and tested methodology for coral reef and fisheries monitoring in support of co-management and LMMA implementation. Designed specifically for coastal communities in Eastern Africa, the guide integrates three underwater survey techniques with fisheries catch monitoring, enabling community members, with minimal supervision, to conduct regular, low-cost monitoring and interpret results to inform local decision-making.

Key Features:

- **Provides detailed step-by-step guidance for three methods:**
  - Belt transects for fish and macro-invertebrate abundance
  - Point intercept transects for benthic cover (e.g., live coral, algae, rubble)
  - Catch monitoring protocols for small-scale fisheries
- **Includes templates** for data collection, manual or digital analysis, and visual interpretation.
- **Emphasises indicator species and metrics** relevant for assessing reef health and fisheries sustainability.
- **Offers practical advice** on survey design, data management, and timing based on local ecological and cultural conditions.
- **Field-tested** by fishers and community rangers in Kenya, with broader applicability across the WIO region.

Case Application:

Used successfully in Kenya's Kuruwitu and Pate marine conservation areas and other BMUs, the guide contributes to increased community ownership of reef health monitoring and supports adaptive management of LMMAs.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Designed for field use by trained community teams with basic snorkelling skills.
- **Utility: High** – Links monitoring to adaptive management and decision-making at the local level.
- **Accessibility: Medium** to **High** – Freely available; training recommended for first-time users.

Related Platform:

This guide is part of the broader CORDIO LMMA Portal, which hosts this and other tools supporting community-led marine resource governance across the WIO.

CORDIO Sustainable Financing for Community-based Management

Link: https://cordioea.net/local-marine-resource-management/sustainable-financing/

Internal reports included:

- Desk-based Review of Sustainable Financing for Community-Based Marine Management
- LMMA Financing Assessment & Sustainable Financing Assessment (SFA) Protocol

Description:

This resource provides a structured overview of sustainable financing for LMMAs and community-based marine management in the WIO. It addresses chronic funding shortages, clarifies the real costs of LMMA management, and introduces tools for diagnosing financial gaps and identifying suitable financing instruments. CORDIO East Africa and The Landscapes and Livelihoods Group developed this work through a combination of desk reviews, stakeholder assessments, and the creation of a Sustainable Financing Assessment (SFA) protocol. The approach is grounded in "systems thinking", integrating ecological, social, political, and economic dimensions of community-based marine management.

Key Features:

- **Defines financial sustainability for LMMAs** in the WIO context as stable, long-term, appropriately allocated funding that supports effective and efficient community-based marine management.
- **Used a diagnostic process based on systems thinking** (e.g., needs →constraints →stakeholders → solutions) based on the conservation finance logic from Meyers et al. 2020.
- **Summarises LMMA challenges**, identifies types of costs, clarifies who bears those costs, and maps financing gaps.
- **Lists and defines financing tools** (e.g., user fees, taxes, trust funds, subsidies, blended mechanisms) using examples where available.
- **Includes the Participatory SFA Protocol** to assess financing status of LMMAs, based on field interviews, participatory costing, and stakeholder perspectives.
- **Grounded in community realities and emphasises** understanding local cost burdens, stakeholder incentives, and opportunities emerging directly from communities.

Case studies:

The SFA protocol has been applied to assess LMMA financing in Kenya together with BMUs, county fisheries departments and NGOs, and to understand cross-country financing constraints in Tanzania, Mozambique and Seychelles.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – Useful for facilitators and LMMA committees, but the concepts require guided explanation for community-level application.
- **Utility: High** – It directly supports financial planning for LMMA sustainability, offering diagnostic tools and financing options.
- **Accessibility: High** – Materials are available through CORDIO's website.

CORDIO Guidelines for Assessing Sustainable Financing of LMMAs in East Africa

Link: CORDIO LMMA Sustainable Financing Guidelines

Description:

This assessment protocol is a technical guide developed by CORDIO East Africa to help practitioners understand the financial status of LMMAs. It outlines a structured, step-by-step methodology for diagnosing financing constraints and opportunities, with the goal of informing the development of sustainable financing mechanisms. The guide offers a flexible framework that can be adapted to other contexts.

Key Features:

- **Six-stage process:** assessment scoping, desk review, assessment planning, field-based assessment, analysis and reporting, and communicating results.
- **Focuses on selected site-level stakeholders** – mainly community management entities and local government staff – limiting broader community participation in the initial phase.
- **Offers a detailed structure** for assessing income sources, funding portfolios, and management resourcing gaps.
- **Linked to Conservation Investment Planning**, which serves as Step 1 in the development of Conservation Investment Plans.

Case study:

This tool was applied in Kenya across several co-managed areas to assess financial flows, constraints, and opportunities. It guided interviews with BMUs, County Fisheries staff, and NGOs to identify underfunded activities and explore potential revenue streams. The results helped shape conversations around more sustainable and diversified funding strategies for marine conservation.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – Requires financial expertise and planning capacity; not intended for general community use without facilitation.
- **Utility: High** – Offers a solid diagnostic foundation for developing sustainable financing strategies for LMMAs.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – Available online in English, Portuguese and Swahili; methodology is adaptable, but may require technical support for implementation given the nature of sustainable financing research and development.

Related Platform:

This guide is part of the CORDIO LMMA Portal, which hosts additional toolkits on coral reef monitoring, governance, and co-management in the WIO region.

CORDIO Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange Guide: Strengthening Community-Based Marine Resource Management

Link: CORDIO Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange Guide (2024)

Description:
This guide provides a step-by-step approach for organising and facilitating peer-to-peer learning exchanges between coastal communities engaged in local marine resource management. The guide is designed to strengthen learning, collaboration, and innovation across LMMAs by helping communities share knowledge and lessons while building leadership and adaptive capacity through structured, participatory exchange visits.

Key Features:

- **Structured into four phases:** foundational engagement, sustained contact, learning outcomes, and change at scale.
- **Applies the Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability, Reinforcement** or ADKAR change model to guide learning and behaviour change.
- **Includes interactive and participatory methods:** field visits, listening triangles, snowballing, Eco Quest digital game, Ocean Guardians card game, and hands-on demonstrations.
- **Offers detailed guidance** on planning, facilitation, evaluation, and sustainability of exchanges.
- **Emphasises** inclusivity, community empowerment, and long-term mentoring.
- **Additional resources include:** i) templates for planning checklists, evaluation forms, and documentation; ii) guidance on gender-sensitive facilitation and inclusive participation; and real-life scenarios and quotes that illustrate key principles.

Case Application:

A regional peer-to-peer learning exchange involving BMUs from Kenya and Tanzania. Model sites (i.e., Ushongo, Sange, Stahabu, Kipumbwi) shared conservation practices with pilot sites (i.e., Mkunguni, Munje, Mtwapa, Kanamai). Activities included workshops, field visits, and collaborative exercises. Participants learned about reef balls, octopus closures, sea turtle conservation, Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups, and work planning. Feedback from each BMU was documented, and an M&E framework was applied.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Offers a detailed, adaptable framework with real-world examples and tools.
- **Utility: High** – Promotes mutual learning and empowers communities to adapt solutions to their context.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely downloadable and available in English, Swahili, and Portuguese, increasing regional relevance and usability.

Related Platform:

This guide is part of the CORDIO LMMA Portal, which hosts additional toolkits on coral reef monitoring, financing, and governance in the WIO region.

Creating and Managing MPAs in the Philippines

Link: Creating and Managing MPAs (PDF)

Authors: Alan T. White, Porfirio M. Aliño, and Anna Blesilda T. Meneses

Description:

This comprehensive guide provides a practical framework for the establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Philippines. It emphasises a participatory, community-based approach, integrating scientific principles with local knowledge to ensure effective conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

Key Features:

- **Step-by-Step Process:** Outlines a clear sequence for MPA establishment, including site selection, stakeholder engagement, management planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- **Community Involvement:** Highlights the importance of involving local communities in decision-making processes to foster stewardship and compliance.
- **Legal and Institutional Framework:** Provides guidance on navigating the legal requirements and institutional arrangements pertinent to MPAs in the Philippines.
- **Management Tools:** Offers practical tools such as templates for management plans, enforcement strategies, and monitoring protocols.
- **Case Studies:** Includes examples of successful MPA implementations to illustrate best practices and lessons learned.

Case Application:

The manual has been widely used across various coastal communities in the Philippines, serving as a foundational resource for NGOs, local government units, and community organisations engaged in marine conservation efforts.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – The guide provides actionable steps and tools that are readily applicable in field settings.
- **Utility: High** – Serves as a valuable resource for practitioners aiming to establish or enhance MPAs.
- **Accessibility: High** – Written in clear language and supplemented with illustrative examples, making it accessible to a broad audience.

FAO Handbook on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Link: https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/822cfedc-a209-4b73-ac2e-b3cb4c10f3eb/content

Description:

Provides guidelines and best practices for identifying, recognising, and supporting OECMs in marine and terrestrial environments, focusing on biodiversity conservation outside traditional protected areas. OECMs are areas that are not primarily designated as protected areas but still achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. The handbook is intended to help governments (e.g., fisheries management agencies, regional fisheries authorities), conservation practitioners, and communities integrate OECMs into broader conservation frameworks.

Key Features:

- **Guidelines for Identification:** Offers clear criteria and guidelines for identifying fisheries OECMs, ensuring that areas that contribute to conservation are appropriately recognised and managed.
- **Governance and Management:** Provides recommendations on governance models and management practices that ensure OECMs are effectively contributing to biodiversity conservation while respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- **Integration with Conservation Strategies:** Emphasises the importance of integrating OECMs into national and regional conservation strategies, alongside traditional protected areas, to achieve broader conservation goals.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Includes tools and frameworks for monitoring the effectiveness of OECMs and reporting on their conservation outcomes in line with international biodiversity targets.

Case Studies:

- While the handbook is global in scope, it draws on regional workshops and pilot evaluations (e.g., WIO and Mediterranean) to illustrate how fisheries area-based management tools (ABMTs) can be assessed as OECMs. Examples include co-managed areas, seasonal closures, and gear-restricted zones that deliver biodiversity benefits beyond fishery targets.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality:** **Medium** – While the guidelines are comprehensive, applying them may require technical expertise and coordination with multiple stakeholders, particularly in regions with complex governance structures.
- **Utility:** **High** – Provides a valuable tool for expanding conservation efforts beyond traditional protected areas, contributing to global biodiversity targets.
- **Accessibility:** **High** – Provided by FAO, it is freely accessible online, supporting wide dissemination and use.

FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

Link: https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/edfffbfc-81e5-4208-a36f-334ff81ac10f/content

Description:

These globally endorsed guidelines provide a comprehensive framework aimed at supporting the sustainability of small-scale fisheries. They emphasise a human rights-based approach and focus on the needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups in small-scale fishing communities.

Key Features:

- **Human Rights-Based Approach:** Advocates for the recognition and protection of the human rights of small-scale fishers and fish workers, including access to resources, including access to resources, participation in decision-making, and secure livelihoods.
- **Sustainable Resource Management:** Promotes responsible fishing practices that conserve fishery resources and ecosystems to ensure long-term viability of small-scale fisheries.
- **Social Development:** Addresses access to education, health care, social protection, gender equality, and youth empowerment.
- **Governance and Participation:** Encourages inclusive, transparent, and participatory governance, with emphasis on co-management and community-led decision-making.
- **Economic Development:** Supports value chain improvements, market access, and decent work conditions.
- **Disaster Risk and Climate Change:** Recognises the vulnerability of small-scale fishers to climate impacts and promotes resilience-building strategies.
- **Global Applicability:** Designed for use by states, civil society, and development partners across diverse contexts.

Case Studies:

While the guidelines are not prescriptive, they have informed national policies and programs in regions such as:

- **West Africa:** Strengthening governance and access rights.
- **Southeast Asia:** Enhancing food security and integrating small-scale fisheries into national development plans.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality:** **Medium** – Intended for policymakers but applicable at community levels with guidance.
- **Utility:** **High** – Addresses a critical sector of coastal communities reliant on fisheries.
- **Accessibility:** **High** – Available in multiple languages and formats.

Fish and People – Fisheries Education Video Series

Link: https://www.russellkelley.info/video/corporate/fish-and-people/

Description:

Fish and People is a five-module animated video education series developed by Russell Kelley and Dr Simon Foale for the Solomon Islands education system. It uses engaging storytelling and visual animation to explain complex fisheries science and management concepts in an accessible way. Originally designed for high school students, the series is now widely used across the Indo-Pacific, including by NGOs and community educators in Kenya, Papua New Guinea, and beyond.

Key Features:

- Modular structure with five short videos (approx. 10 minutes each), each focused on a key fisheries concept:
  - **Plenty More Fish in the Sea?** – Explores fish population limits and overfishing
  - **Where Do Fish Come From?** – Introduces fish life cycles and reproduction
  - **How to Make More Fish!** – Explains biological traits that affect population recovery
  - **Larval Lifeboats Near and Far** – Covers larval dispersal and scales of management
  - **Fish and People, Today and Tomorrow** – Links human population, markets, and technology to fishing pressure
- Uses creative animation to depict invisible or hard-to-film processes like larval dispersal and ecological dynamics.
- Includes lesson plans and educator guides for classroom or community use.
- Designed for localisation and translation; suitable for use in Pacific, African, and Southeast Asian contexts.
- Available on Russell Kelley's website (link above) and Vimeo.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Short, visual, and modular; ideal for workshops, classrooms, and community outreach.
- **Utility: High** – Builds foundational understanding of fisheries science and management.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – Requires internet or video download tools; educator guides available on request.

Note: Videos are hosted on YouTube and Vimeo. Users can stream online or use widely available third-party YouTube downloaders to access offline versions for community use.

Maliasili Leadership Programs

Link: https://maliasili.org/our-work/leadership

Description:

Maliasili delivers a suite of long-term leadership programs designed specifically for African conservation leaders, including many from the WIO. The programs target mid to senior-career professionals, supporting personal growth, organisational leadership, and collaborative capacity across Africa's conservation sector. Maliasili developed some of these programs in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Blue Ventures, making them directly relevant to MPAs and LMMAs in the region. The curriculum is structured around three core themes:

1. **Leading Self** – Developing an understanding of leadership styles, personal strengths and decision-making
2. **Leading Teams** – Enabling leaders to manage teams, foster innovation, resolve conflicts and secure funding
3. **Leading Collaborations** – Strengthening leaders' ability to build strategic partnerships and influence conservation policy

Key Features:

They have multiple leadership programs. Maliasili runs several leadership programs, including:

- African Conservation Leadership Network
- African Marine Conservation Leadership Program
- LeadUp
- Madagascar Environmental Leadership Program

These 12-month leadership programs all have:

- Blended-learning model that integrates self-paced online modules, virtual meetings, and personalised coaching.
- Intensive in-person workshops, offering hands-on training in strategic leadership, organisational development, and conservation innovation.
- Curriculum grounded in values-based and systems-level leadership, addressing Africa's rapidly evolving conservation context.

Case studies:

Their programs have supported hundreds of African conservation professionals, and over 60 leaders from different organisations in the WIO. These leaders have secured funding, influenced national and regional policy, and supported community-driven conservation.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality:** **Medium** to **High** – Designed for real-world conservation settings, combining flexible learning with hands-on workshops. These might not be suitable for individuals with lower levels of literacy.
- **Utility:** **High** – Strengthens leadership, organisational performance, and collaboration.
- **Accessibility:** **Low** to **Medium** – The programs are open to leaders but require a selection process, and the materials are not open access.

Managing Marine Protected Areas: A Toolkit for the Western Indian Ocean

Link: https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/8643

Description:

This toolkit is a comprehensive, hands-on resource designed to support MPA managers, practitioners, rangers, and planners in the WIO. Developed collaboratively by IUCN, WIOMSA, UNEP, WWF, and the Coastal Zone Management Centre, it acts as a first point of reference for day-to-day MPA management challenges. It consists of 78 theme sheets, each addressing a practical issue, method, or problem faced in the field. The toolkit aims to strengthen management effectiveness, governance, planning, conservation practice, and sustainable use across MPAs in the WIO and is also applicable to sites beyond the region.

Key Features:

The toolkit is designed as a ring-binder resource, enabling easy updating and modular use. It has two parts – **The Management Process**, and **Conservation and Sustainable Use** – with 78 theme sheets, each giving practical guidance, references, recommended procedures, and relevant examples. The topics covered across the two parts include:

- Legislative and institutional frameworks
- Participatory processes
- Conflict resolution and gender inclusion
- Planning and reporting
- Human resources, safety, and emergency procedures
- Financial planning, revenue systems, and valuation
- Equipment and infrastructure
- Fisheries management, tourism management, and conservation actions

Case Studies:

- Most theme sheets include short case studies illustrating real examples from MPA sites across the WIO. These examples demonstrate practical application of tools for problem solving, planning, enforcement, community engagement, and conservation management.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Designed to be a hands-on, in-the-field operational reference with clear steps, concepts, and examples.
- **Utility: High** – Covers nearly all competencies required for effective MPA management, from governance to enforcement, finance, and ecological management.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – Open access and available as a freely downloadable PDF; modular format supports training, induction, and self-study.

Related platforms:

This toolkit is available on several platforms, such as the WIOMSA Portal and the Nairobi Convention clearing house mechanism.

Mangrove Action Project – Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) Training

Links: https://mangroveactionproject.org/restoration-training/; https://mangroveactionproject.org/resource-category/education-materials/

Description:

The Mangrove Action Project's CBEMR training equips individuals and communities with the ecological knowledge, technical skills, and participatory tools needed to restore and conserve mangrove ecosystems. The training emphasises a holistic, science-based approach that integrates ecological, hydrological, and socio-economic factors, with strong community involvement at its core.

Key Features:

- **CBEMR Methodology:** Focuses on restoring natural hydrology and biodiversity through community-led, site-specific restoration strategies.
- **Tailored Workshops:** Trainings are customised to local contexts and typically span 5–10 days, combining theory sessions with field trips, equipment demonstrations, and group activities.
- **Online and In-Person Options:** Offers flexible formats, including virtual workshops for global participants and site consultations for specific restoration needs.
- **Ecological and Social Integration:** Covers mangrove ecology, stressor analysis, restoration planning, monitoring, and community engagement.
- **Global Network:** The Mangrove Action Project (MAP) facilitates a global CBEMR practitioner network and listserv with over 500 members, promoting peer learning and collaboration.

Case Studies:

- Indonesia (Bengkalis Island): Participants conducted hydrological assessments and designed restoration strategies tailored to local conditions.
- Kenya (Matondoni Village): Community members gained practical restoration skills and committed to sharing CBEMR knowledge locally.
- El Salvador & The Bahamas: CBEMR applied to post-disaster recovery and canal revitalisation, enhancing natural regeneration and resilience.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Designed to be highly practical, with a focus on real-world application and community involvement in mangrove restoration efforts.
- **Utility: High** – Provides communities with essential skills and knowledge for effective mangrove restoration and conservation.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – While the training is available to a wide audience, access may depend on the availability of local workshops or online resources.

Masifundise Co-management Guide for Small-scale Fishers in South Africa

Link: https://www.masifundise.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Co-Management-Guide-2017-EN.pdf

Description:

This guide offers a practical introduction to co-management for small-scale fishing (SSF) communities. It explains how community members, government, and other stakeholders can share responsibilities and decision-making in managing local marine and coastal resources. The guide is written in plain language with illustrations to make it accessible to community-level users.

Key Features:

- **Introduces key concepts** such as co-management, governance, rights, responsibilities, and power-sharing in the context of SSF.
- **Explains step by step** how to establish a co-management arrangement.
- **Includes visual tools** (e.g., diagrams of structures and decision-making processes).
- **Emphasises** equity, participation, and customary rights, aligned with the SSF policy.
- **Offers guidance** on developing local co-management committees and by-laws.

Case Studies:

The guide is based on work with small-scale fishing communities in South Africa, where it has been used to support fishers in engaging with government to co-develop local management structures under the SSF policy.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Designed specifically for use in small-scale fishing communities with minimal prior training or resources.
- **Utility: High** – Helps communities understand their rights and responsibilities under co-management frameworks.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available online and uses plain language and visuals to support low-literacy contexts.

MIHARI – LMMA Reference Guide for Madagascar

Link: https://mihari-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Guide-de-référence-des-LMMA-à-Madagascar.pdf

Description:

This national reference guide, developed and published by the MIHARI Network and partners in 2020, defines the concept of LMMAs in Madagascar. It provides a shared framework for communities, NGOs, and government actors to recognise, establish, and strengthen LMMAs through participatory and legally grounded processes.

Key Features:

- **Common LMMA Definition:** Clarifies what qualifies as an LMMA in Madagascar, including core principles of sustainable and community-based resource management.
- **Legal Pathways:** Outlines three legal mechanisms for LMMA recognition:
  - *Dina* (customary local conventions),
  - Transfer of Management (TGRH/TGRN),
  - Protected Areas (IUCN Category V/VI).
- **Criteria and Indicators:** Provides a checklist of criteria and means of verification for communities to assess their LMMA status and progress.
- **Governance Tools:** Includes guidance on stakeholder roles, participatory governance, and adaptive management.
- **Strategic Role:** Supports national efforts to expand marine protection and improve local stewardship of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Case Studies:

Used by over 200 LMMA associations across Madagascar, the guide has helped unify diverse local efforts under a common framework. It also informs MIHARI's national database and advocacy for legal recognition of LMMAs.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality:** **High** – Designed for use by communities and facilitators with minimal technical background.
- **Utility:** **High** – Supports legal recognition, self-assessment, and national coordination of LMMAs.
- **Accessibility:** **Medium** – Available in French; community-friendly versions and tools are under development.

Note: This summary was prepared using AI and has not been verified by a French-speaking reviewer. Content was interpreted from the original French-language guide using publicly available metadata and context.

RAC-SPA – Economic Aspects of Marine Protected Areas

Link: https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_spa/ev2006.pdf

Citation: Becker, N. & Choresh, Y. (2006). *Economic Aspects of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*. UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA.

Description:

This book introduces practitioners to the fundamentals of economics as applied to natural resource management, with emphasis on how economic reasoning can strengthen the planning, management, and evaluation of MPAs. It explains why MPA management often cannot rely on market forces alone due to market failures, and why tools such as Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) and non-market valuation are essential for sound decision-making. The publication serves as a conceptual foundation for integrating economic thinking into MPA governance.

Key Features:

- **Uses economic efficiency** as a guiding principle and recommends decisions based on comparing costs and benefits.
- **Explains market failures**, particularly how MPAs face externalities, public-good characteristics, and common-property issues.
- **Highlights common property dynamics** by explaining how unregulated fishing can lead to overexploitation or collapse, requiring regulation and MPA management measures.
- **Introduces and explains the strengths and weaknesses** of two key approaches for valuation of non-market benefits of MPAs.
- **Demonstrates how economics is critical for MPA planning**, including treatment of time (discounting), risk, uncertainty, and equity considerations.
- **Explains why most MPAs must generate** their own revenue and why designing a management plan and financial plan is essential for long-term sustainability

Case studies:

The book describes and synthesises experiences of economic analysis in MPAs in the USA, particularly how economic valuation was used to support decisions on tourism development, fisheries regulation and conservation trade-offs.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Low** to **Medium** – The concepts are clearly explained but quite technical, and include mathematical equations. This is more applicable for technical staff in governments and NGOs, and can only be used to facilitate data gathering through surveys with communities.
- **Utility: High** – It directly supports financial planning for MPAs due to the integration of economic reasoning into conservation and other spatial management decision-making. It also provides survey questionnaires that can be tailored for use in other contexts.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – The book is available in English, open access and concise, which makes it a useful training reference.

Reef Check – EcoDiver Program

Link: https://www.reefcheck.org/tropical-program/about-ecodiver/

Description:

The Reef Check EcoDiver Program is a globally recognised citizen science training course that equips certified SCUBA divers with the skills to monitor coral reef health using standardised scientific protocols. Participants contribute valuable data to support reef conservation efforts locally and internationally. The program blends ecological education with hands-on underwater survey experience.

Key Features:

- Three-day certification course that combines classroom instruction with fieldwork. Participants learn reef ecology, indicator species identification, and survey techniques.
- Standardised protocols for data collection feed into the Global Reef Tracker and inform marine park management, fisheries policy, and international conservation reporting.
- Has a global network of EcoDivers across >100 countries and territories, contributing to reef monitoring and conservation.
- Certified EcoDivers can join Reef Check expeditions in locations such as Indonesia, the Maldives, and the Caribbean.

Regional Availability:

In the WIO, Reef Check EcoDiver training is currently available in Madagascar, Mayotte, and Réunion.

Access & Cost:

The course is not free. Costs vary by location and provider, and EcoExpeditions can be expensive.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality:** **Medium** – Requires SCUBA certification and dive experience; best suited for trained divers and marine practitioners.
- **Utility:** **High** – Builds capacity for reef monitoring and contributes to global conservation data.
- **Accessibility:** **Medium** – Available in select regions; course fees, dive prerequisites, and travel may limit access.

Note: This is a technical course requiring prior SCUBA diving experience. It is hosted online, and some materials may be downloadable or provided by trainers. Since this course offers certification, it is also strict when it comes to assessments.

Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA) – Methodology Manual for Facilitators

Link: https://www.iied.org/14659iied

Additional access: https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/social-assessment-protected-areas.pdf

Citation: Franks, P and Small, R (2016) Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA). Methodology Manual for SAPA Facilitators. IIED, London

Description:

The SAPA Methodology is a relatively simple, low-cost, and standardised approach for assessing the positive and negative social impacts of protected and conserved areas on local communities. SAPA provides a structured process for understanding how conservation actions affect local well-being, equity, and governance, and how these impacts can be made fairer and more beneficial. The manual guides facilitators through a multi-stakeholder process designed to identify social impacts, validate findings, and support joint action planning to address inequities and strengthen community benefits. SAPA is suitable for any type of protected or conserved area, regardless of governance model.

Key Features:

- **Low-cost and rapid methodology** for assessing real – experienced or perceived – social impacts around protected areas.
- **Participatory process** combining:
  - Community meetings to identify significant social impacts
  - A household survey examining well-being, governance, and equity
  - Stakeholder workshops to validate findings and plan actions
- **Designed for equity and well-being monitoring**, supporting more just and socially responsible protected area management.
- **Eight-step process** typically completed in 3–6 months, leading to results, recommendations and an action plan
- **Accessible and facilitator-friendly**, requiring basic social science skills and prioritising use by national or local institutions rather than external consultants

Case studies:

SAPA has been piloted and used in multiple African countries, including Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. The methodology is relevant to the WIO region and has been used alongside other social assessment methods (e.g., SocMon).

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Straightforward, low-cost, and adaptable; suitable for field teams with basic facilitation and survey skills.
- **Utility: High** – Enables managers to understand and improve equity, well-being, and social outcomes of conservation, supporting Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) commitments and protected area governance assessments.
- **Accessibility: High** – Widely available online through IIED, SPREP, ICRI libraries, and in multiple languages.

Note: The 2018 version is available at https://rris.biopama.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/SAPA2018.pdf.

Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management

Link: https://icriforum.org/documents/socioeconomic-manual-for-coral-reef-management/

Description:

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management is a global reference guide designed to help coral reef managers, practitioners, and researchers understand and assess the social, economic, cultural, and livelihood dynamics surrounding coral reef–dependent communities. Developed under the GCRMN, the manual provides a comprehensive set of variables, indicators, participatory tools, and survey methods that support the integration of human dimensions into coral reef monitoring and management.

It serves as the parent global manual from which regional guidelines such as SocMon Caribbean, SocMon Southeast Asia, and SocMon WIO were developed. It is widely used as a foundation for socioeconomic monitoring across tropical coasts and is regularly applied in MPAs, LMMAs, and community-based management initiatives around the world.

Key Features:

- Comprehensive set of socioeconomic indicators, covering:
  - Livelihoods, income sources, resource dependence
  - Governance, participation, tenure, and institutions
  - Perceptions of environmental change and management effectiveness
  - Social vulnerability, resilience, culture, and heritage
- Guidance on data collection methods: household surveys, focus groups, key informant interviews, participatory mapping, market observations, and secondary data review.
- Designed as a practical field manual, supporting managers in designing human-dimension monitoring programs that complement biophysical reef monitoring.
- Forms the basis of all regional SocMon programs, including SocMon WIO, SocMon SEA, SocMon Caribbean, and others, each of which is a simplified adaptation of this global framework.
- Prioritised indicator lists to help managers choose variables suited to local context and management needs.

Case studies:

The manual synthesises global experience across 6 active SocMon regions, which collectively include dozens of coastal communities conducting long-term socioeconomic monitoring.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium–High** – Comprehensive and globally focused; extremely useful but often requires facilitation or adaptation for local contexts.
- **Utility: High** – Foundational human-dimensions framework widely used in coral reef management, MPA planning, and LMMA governance.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available online through ICRI and GCRMN repositories; also underpins regionally translated guidelines.

Socio-economic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers of the WIO (SocMon WIO)

Link: https://gcrmn.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Socioeconomic-Monitoring-Guidelines-for-Coastal-Managers-of-the-Western-Indian-Ocean-SocMon-WIO-2006.pdf

Citation: Malleret-King D, Glass A, Wanyonyi I, Bunce L, Pomeroy B. 2006. Socio-economic Monitoring guidelines for coastal managers of the Western Indian Ocean, SocMon WIO. CORDIO East Africa publication. (Version 1). 108 pp.

Description:

The SocMon WIO guidelines provide a practical, field-ready framework for conducting socio-economic assessments in coastal and marine areas of the WIO. Developed as a simplified companion to the GCRMN global socioeconomic manual, the guidelines help coastal managers understand how people use, depend on, and perceive coastal and marine resources. SocMon WIO was designed for use in real management contexts, offering prioritised socioeconomic variables, simplified data-collection methods, analysis steps, and case examples tailored to WIO coastal communities. The guidelines support adaptive management, enabling managers to integrate community perspectives, livelihood realities, and social dynamics into coastal and MPA decision-making.

Key Features:

- Prioritised socioeconomic indicators relevant to WIO coastal contexts, including livelihoods, resource dependence, governance, perceptions, and vulnerability.
- Simplified data-collection tools for interviews, focus groups, participatory mapping, and observation.
- Step-by-step assessment process, including planning, selecting variables, collecting and archiving data, analysis, and application for management.
- Designed for field use, with clear instructions for practitioners and availability in local languages.
- Supported by regional networks, including CORDIO East Africa, GCRMN, NOAA, Sida, WIOMSA, and IUCN-ESARO.
- Can be combined with training delivered by regional SocMon coordinators.

Case studies:

SocMon WIO has been applied in multiple WIO countries, including Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar. These applications have helped assess community livelihoods, resource use patterns, coastal dependence, and social impacts of marine protected areas. The ICRI SocMon Resource Library also hosts global reports and regional case studies that document how SocMon has been used worldwide covering 27 countries.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Developed specifically for field practitioners (i.e., coastal managers, community resource users, fishers); simple methods, local-language versions, and low-cost tools.
- **Utility: High** – Strengthens social baseline understanding, stakeholder engagement, monitoring for adaptive MPA/LMMA management, and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely downloadable, widely circulated through ICRI, GCRMN, and other global and regional databases; available in English, French, Portuguese and Swahili.

WIO-COMPAS Support Toolkit

Link: https://www.wiomsa.org/publications/introducing-the-western-indian-ocean-wio-compas-support-toolkit/

Description:

The WIO-COMPAS Support Toolkit is a self-paced, practical guide developed by WIOMSA to strengthen the competencies of MPA practitioners, especially supervisory staff and site managers (WIO-COMPAS Level 2) across the WIO. It is designed to enhance real-world competence in ocean conservation area planning, management, and leadership. The toolkit aims to build resilient, effective MPAs by equipping practitioners with operational guidance aligned with the WIO-COMPAS professional certification standards. WIOMSA describes it as "more than a manual—an invitation to strengthen leadership, foster collaboration, and accelerate action toward thriving MPAs in the WIO and beyond."

Key Features:

- Competence-based technical guide aligned with WIO-COMPAS assessment standards, focusing on real-world skills rather than theory.
- Targeted for supervisory and site-level managers, providing practical tools to improve day-to-day MPA operations and decision-making.
- Self-paced, free, and openly accessible, allowing managers to use it independently or as part of professional development programs.
- Includes comprehensive sections on: MPA planning; Management effectiveness; Leadership; Stakeholder engagement; Ecosystem management; and Operational procedures.

Case Studies:

While the toolkit itself is primarily a competence-support guide, it is part of the wider WIO-COMPAS ecosystem, which has:

- Certified MPA professionals across nine WIO countries, forming a regional leadership network.
- Documented real examples of effective MPA management and competence application across ranger, site-manager, and policy levels.
- These examples inform the design and recommended practices within the toolkit.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Created for field-level managers to use immediately; supports practical tasks aligned to daily MPA operations.
- **Utility: High** – Directly tied to WIO-COMPAS competencies, making it ideal for strengthening MPA staff skills and supporting professional certification.
- **Accessibility: High** – Free, self-paced, and available in English from the WIOMSA portal.

Related information:

WIO-COMPAS website provides more information on certification levels, competence areas, and the MPA PRO community.

ZSL OSOL Project Toolkit for the Establishment of LMMAs in Mozambique

Link: CORDIO LMMA Portal – Toolkit Section

Description:

Developed through the Our Sea Our Life project by ZSL and partners, this toolkit provides a participatory and stepwise approach for establishing LMMAs in coastal Mozambique. Grounded in field experience from Cabo Delgado Province, it supports communities in sustainably managing marine resources through co-management, inclusive governance, and livelihood diversification.

Key Features:

- The guide is organised around eight stages of LMMA establishment:
  1. Community identification and site selection
  2. Community engagement and awareness – Initial sensitisation on marine conservation, rights, and responsibilities.
  3. Baseline ecological and socio-economic assessment
  4. Community capacity development on marine management, governance, and co-management principles
  5. Co-development of management plans, rules and structures
  6. Legal validation and alignment with national frameworks
  7. Implementation and monitoring
  8. Evaluation and adaptive management
- Alternative livelihood modules: i) Creating Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and, Sustainable horticulture as a complementary livelihood.
- Templates for meeting facilitation, rule-setting, boundary mapping, and data recording.
- Strong emphasis on equity and inclusion, with specific recommendations for integrating youth and women into LMMA governance.

Case Studies:

Applied in multiple coastal villages in Cabo Delgado, the toolkit supported the creation of functional LMMAs through co-designed processes. It contributed to national learning on community-led marine governance and informed assessments using tools

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Designed for use by communities with facilitation support.
- **Utility: High** – Supports LMMA establishment, governance, and livelihood integration.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – Available via partner portals; facilitation may be needed for full use.

Related Platform:

This toolkit is hosted on the CORDIO LMMA Portal (CORDIO is a partner in the Our Sea Our Life project). The portal also hosts additional toolkits on coral reef monitoring, financing, and governance in the WIO region.



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Global frameworks and guidelines for adaptation

These resources provide internationally recognised frameworks and best practices on integrated coastal management, co-management, marine spatial planning, and fisheries governance. While some have not yet been widely applied in the WIO region, they offer strong potential for adaptation and alignment with global biodiversity and climate targets. They are most relevant for planners, policymakers, and organisations seeking to strengthen governance and strategic planning.

FAO Integrated Coastal Management Manual

Link: https://www.fao.org/4/Y1290E/y1290e03.htm#TopOfPage

Description:

Aimed at practitioners and policymakers, this manual is designed to support the sustainable management of coastal areas, integrating agriculture, forestry, and fisheries into a holistic approach. It provides a framework for planning, implementing, and monitoring integrated coastal management practices, with a focus on balancing environmental conservation with the needs of local communities.

Key Features:

- **Integrated Approach:** The manual emphasises the integration of various sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, to manage coastal areas sustainably and holistically.
- **Participatory Planning:** Encourages the involvement of local communities and stakeholders in the planning process, ensuring that management strategies are inclusive and address local needs.
- **Environmental and Socioeconomic Focus:** Balances ecological conservation with socioeconomic development, aiming to protect coastal ecosystems while supporting the livelihoods of those who depend on them.
- **Guidelines and Best Practices:** Provides practical guidelines and best practices for managing coastal resources, including techniques for reducing environmental impact and enhancing resource sustainability.

Case Studies:

- Application in Southeast Asia: The manual has been used in various Southeast Asian countries to develop integrated coastal management plans that protect vital ecosystems while supporting agriculture and fisheries.
- Success in the Caribbean: In the Caribbean, the manual has supported efforts to manage coastal areas in a way that promotes both environmental health and economic development, particularly in the context of tourism and fisheries.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Designed to be actionable and adaptable to local contexts.
- **Utility: High** – Provides essential tools and strategies for managing coastal areas in a way that is both environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – Freely available online in multiple languages, and easily accessible to policymakers and practitioners, and potentially community leaders.

FAO Co-management Guidebooks for Coastal Fisheries

Links: ***General FAO Repository:*** https://openknowledge.fao.org (search term: co-management)

Best Practices Handbook: https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd2212en

Evaluation Guidebook: https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/f395306c-2174-4fb0-9105-5e188024f440

Description:

These complementary guidebooks from FAO provide a comprehensive framework for designing, implementing, and evaluating co-management systems in coastal fisheries. Rooted in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, they support participatory governance, institutional strengthening, and adaptive management. The 2024 handbook consolidates lessons from the Coastal Fisheries Initiative across six Global South countries, while the 2022 evaluation guidebook offers a structured methodology for assessing co-management effectiveness.

Key Features:

- Defines co-management as a shared governance model between communities, governments, and other stakeholders and presents a typology of co-management arrangements (i.e., instructive, consultative, cooperative, delegated).
- Offers step-by-step guidance for planning, implementing, and evaluating co-management systems and plans, including detailed indicators for assessing governance, ecological, social, and economic outcomes.
- Promotes enabling conditions such as legal recognition, tenure rights, inclusive participation, and financial sustainability.
- Provides tools for participatory research, stakeholder analysis, and adaptive management.

Case Studies:

The guidebooks draw on field experience from: i) CLPAs in Senegal: Local councils co-managing shrimp and mollusc fisheries; ii) Sasi in Indonesia: Traditional Indigenous management systems formally recognised by government; iii) Mangrove co-management in Peru: A 20-year contract with fisher associations to manage the Tumbes National Mangrove Sanctuary and, Sardinella co-management in Côte d'Ivoire: Participatory research and legal reforms to support stakeholder-led governance (with Fisheries Performance Assessment Tool, FPAT).

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Offers adaptable tools and templates for diverse contexts, including low-resource settings.
- **Utility: High** – Strengthens governance, equity, and sustainability in small-scale fisheries.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available online in multiple languages (e.g., English, Spanish, Portuguese), and supported by e-learning modules and case studies (e.g., FPAT e-learning https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=530 and training for scientists - https://fisheriesperformancetoolkit.com/_site/docs/Course_P0_Overview.pdf).

Finance Tools for Coral Reef Conservation: A Guide (50 Reefs Finance Guide)

Link: https://icriforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/50+Reefs+Finance+Guide.pdf

Citation: Iyer, V., Mathias, K., Meyers, D., Victurine, R., & Walsh, M. (2018). Finance Tools for Coral Reef Conservation: A Guide. Prepared for 50 Reefs by WCS with assistance from the Conservation Finance Alliance.

Description:

Produced for the 50 Reefs initiative by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Conservation Finance Alliance, this guide provides a comprehensive overview of finance tools and mechanisms that can support coral reef conservation, developed for the 50 Reefs initiative. It outlines how to diagnose funding needs, develop business plans, and select appropriate financing instruments to diversify funding sources for reef protection. The guide compiles proven and emerging conservation finance solutions, with emphasis on practical applications for reef managers, governments, NGOs, and partners working on coral reef ecosystems.

Key Features:

- Overview of reef finance challenges and funding gaps, describing current issues in financing coral reef protection.
- Business planning guidance, including assessing options, structuring financial plans, and designing revenue strategies.
- Detailed description of multiple finance instruments, including:
  - Government expenditures
  - Regulated markets
  - Taxes and fees (e.g., access fees, green taxes)
  - Biodiversity offsets
  - Nature bonds, debt swaps, and debt-for-adaptation
  - Reef insurance
  - Conservation trust funds
- Comparative analysis to evaluate which tools are most suitable for specific reef contexts.

Case studies:

The guide provides examples and applied experience from global coral reef finance initiatives, including: i) Innovations from the International Coral Reef Initiative's reef-finance work; ii) Financing pilots referenced in supporting papers used by the 50 Reefs initiative; and iii) Lessons from conservation finance applied across multiple reef geographies.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality**: **Medium** – The tool is comprehensive but technical. Facilitators may need to translate concepts for community use.
- **Utility: High** – Directly supports financial planning for reef conservation, enabling informed selection of finance instruments.
- **Accessibility: High** – Open-access PDF, available in English, structured and easy to download.

IUCN – Coaching Manual for the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET)

Link: https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2022-022-En.pdf

Description:

This manual provides a hands-on methodology for assessing and improving protected area management effectiveness using IMET, a structured approach widely promoted by the BIOPAMA programme in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. It contains facilitation guidance, templates, scoring rubrics, and adaptive management tips to translate assessment findings into action. Intended for protected area (PA) and MPA managers, site teams, facilitators, and capacity-building practitioners.

Key Features:

- Includes a step-by-step IMET process, from preparation and data collection to analysis, prioritisation, and action planning.
- Has facilitation guidance and templates, specifically coaching prompts, worksheets, and reporting formats to run participatory effectiveness assessments.
- The manual has a strong adaptive management focus, and shows how to link results to governance, planning, and operational improvements.
- Supports iterative learning and institutional strengthening.
- Compatible with IMET software and printable formats.

Case Studies:

It builds on a highly used METT, which was developed and fielded under BIOPAMA that has application examples across Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific regions. The manual is designed to be adapted beyond those regions.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Very operational with clear facilitation steps and ready-to-use templates.
- **Utility: High** – Strengthens planning, monitoring, and adaptive management at site level.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available from the IUCN Library.

IUCN – Practice guidance for protected and conserved area finance

Link: https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/GPG-037-En.pdf
Citation: Meyers, D. et al. (2025). Practice guidance for protected and conserved area finance. IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines Series No. 37.

Description:

This guide provides a comprehensive framework for strengthening sustainable finance in Protected and Conserved Areas (PCAs). It explains the role of conservation finance in achieving ecological, social, and economic outcomes and offers structured guidance for conducting strategic and practical financial planning. It is intended for governments, marine and terrestrial protected area agencies, NGOs, communities, and partners seeking to develop or improve financing systems that support long-term conservation effectiveness.

Key Features:

- Describes why investment in PCAs is critical and how finance and economics contribute to conservation outcomes.
- Provides detailed descriptions of financing mechanisms and tools relevant to protected and conserved areas.
- Offers step-by-step guidance for assessing financial needs, planning finance strategies, and linking them to PCA management goals.
- Supports agencies, NGOs, and communities in improving financial governance, planning, and sustainability within conservation systems.
- Contributes to IUCN WCPA's Good Practice Guidelines, designed to strengthen capacity across diverse conservation actors.

Case studies:

The guide synthesises global learning from diverse PCA systems and financing models, illustrating how conservation finance tools are applied across regions to support biodiversity protection, sustainable use, and community benefits.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – Detailed and comprehensive; usable with facilitator support and adaptation for community or LMMA settings.
- **Utility: High** – Directly strengthens financial planning and management competencies relevant to MPAs, LMMAs, and national PCA systems.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available from the IUCN Library.

IUCN – Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories

Link: https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/pag-021.pdf

Description:

This best-practice guidance sets the global standard for defining and classifying protected and conserved areas, explaining how to apply the six IUCN management categories (Ia–VI) and align them with different governance types (state, shared, private, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities). It supports consistent designation, reporting, and policy alignment across countries and programs. Intended for national agencies, PA/MPA managers, planners, and NGOs that need a common language and defensible method for classification and communication.

Key Features:

- Practical guidance on assigning categories Ia–VI and recognising governance arrangements to improve comparability and reporting.
- Step-by-step considerations for category assignment, documentation, and quality control, building on WCPA best practice.
- Supports CBD reporting and national frameworks that require clear, consistent PA/MPA classification.
- Emphasises equity and rights-based approaches in governance recognition.
- Includes diagrams, checklists, and case-based decision support for practitioners.

Case Studies:

The guidebook compiles global practice examples illustrating category application and governance recognition across diverse contexts (including terrestrial and marine areas), to help practitioners understand trade-offs and decision points.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – Highly usable as a reference and policy tool, but local rollout may require facilitation and training (especially for community audiences).
- **Utility: High** – Provides the standard for category assignment and reporting that many countries and agencies follow.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available from the IUCN Library.

IUCN – Transboundary Conservation: A Systematic and Integrated Approach

Link: https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-023.pdf

Description:

This guide provides a framework and toolbox for designing and managing conservation areas that span national borders. It explains governance options, cooperation mechanisms, and conflict-sensitive approaches that help partners jointly plan, manage, and monitor shared ecosystems (terrestrial and marine). Intended for governments, regional bodies, PA/ MPA authorities, NGOs, and facilitators engaged in cross-border collaboration.

Key Features:

- Why transboundary? Makes the case for joint action where ecological systems and species move across borders.
- Includes options for formal and informal agreements for governance, joint planning, and institutional setups.
- Stepwise guidance for stakeholder engagement, information sharing, monitoring, and adaptive management in a transboundary context.
- Provides strategies for negotiation and participatory decision-making.
- Suggests indicators and reporting mechanisms for shared outcomes.

Case Studies:

Includes illustrative cases of transboundary conservation partnerships and "parks for peace", showing enabling conditions and lessons for long-term cooperation. Used as a critical resource in the design of the Kenya–Tanzania marine transboundary conservation area.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – Clear roadmap and tools, but implementation depends on political will and facilitation capacity across jurisdictions.
- **Utility: High** – Directly supports MPA/LMMA planners where ecological units or fisheries cross borders.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available from the IUCN Library.

The MPA Guide: A Framework to Achieve Global Goals for the Ocean

Links: https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abf0861 – published in Science by Grorud-Colvert et al.; User Manual (2023) – practical application guide

Description:

The MPA Guide is a science-based framework that provides a globally consistent language and structure for describing, planning, and evaluating MPAs. It helps practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders align local MPA actions with national and global biodiversity and climate goals (e.g., the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework). Initially published in Science in 2021, the framework was expanded into a 2023 User Manual that translates the conceptual model into practical tools for implementation.

Key Features:

Classifies MPAs based on two key dimensions:

- **Stage of Establishment:** Proposed, Designated, Implemented, Actively Managed.
- **Level of Protection:** Fully Protected, Highly Protected, Lightly Protected, and Minimally Protected.
- Links MPA characteristics to expected ecological and social outcomes, including biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and community benefits.
- Addresses both ecological effectiveness and social equity, emphasising participatory governance and transparency.
- Includes visual tools, planning templates, and scenarios to help countries and stakeholders navigate trade-offs in MPA design and communicate outcomes clearly.

Case Studies:

The MPA Guide has informed national and regional MPA planning in:

- **Kenya:** Used to assess gaps in protection and improve management of MPAs and community-managed areas.
- **Indonesia,** Costa Rica, Pacific Islands, and the Mediterranean: Applied to evaluate existing MPAs and guide strategic expansion towards 30×30 goals.
- **Global NGOs and regional bodies:** Adopted as a benchmark for area-based conservation planning and reporting.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – Highly structured and technical; best suited for planners and agencies. Community-level use may require facilitation or adapted materials.
- **Utility: High** – Enables consistent, transparent assessment and strategic planning of MPAs across scales.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available online in English and other languages, with a dedicated interactive platform and accompanying materials to support adoption and use.

UNESCO Marine Spatial Planning/MSPglobal Initiative

Link: https://www.mspglobal2030.org/

Description:

The MSPglobal Initiative is an intergovernmental project led by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The initiative aims to promote cross-border and transboundary Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes worldwide, enhancing the sustainable management of marine resources and ensuring that human activities at sea are carried out in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. The platform offers publications and trainings for MSP and transboundary MSP.

Key Features:

- Promotes cooperation between neighbouring countries on the management of shared marine resources, helping to address transboundary issues like pollution, habitat degradation, and resource depletion.
- The initiative supports the exchange of knowledge and experiences among countries and regions, fostering a global network of MSP practitioners.
- Provides access to a wide range of digital tools, resources, and platforms that support the development and implementation of MSP processes, including training modules, data repositories, and case studies.
- The initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14, which focuses on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources.

Case Studies:

MSPglobal has supported the development and implementation of MSP processes in various regions, including the Mediterranean, the Baltic, and the Caribbean. These case studies demonstrate how countries can collaborate on marine planning to achieve common goals. The initiative organises workshops and training sessions worldwide to build the capacity of national and regional stakeholders in MSP.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – Provides practical guidelines and tools that can be adapted to different contexts, but it requires coordination with government institutions. Content is also designed for governments and intergovernmental bodies.
- **Utility: High** – Enables structured and effective spatial planning of marine areas. There are practical tools that can be used to help communities map marine resources, assess environmental impacts and participate in monitoring with support from conservation professionals.
- **Accessibility: High** – Resources and training materials are freely available online.

WorldFish Fisheries Management

Link: https://worldfishcenter.org/publications

Description:

WorldFish provides a comprehensive suite of resources designed to improve fisheries management, particularly in developing countries. These resources are often integrated within the MPA and LMMA frameworks, focusing on sustainable practices that balance the needs of communities with the health of marine ecosystems.

Key Features:

- Offers practical tools and methodologies for assessing fish stocks to help fisheries managers and local communities monitor fish stocks and understand the impact of fishing practices on marine biodiversity.
- Resources include strategies for managing fishing effort to prevent overfishing and ensure the long-term sustainability of fish stocks, such as guidelines on setting catch limits, implementing seasonal closures and establishing no-take zones.
- Emphasises the importance of involving local communities in the management of fisheries, and provides guidance on how to engage communities in the decision-making process, ensuring that fisheries management strategies are locally appropriate and culturally relevant.
- There are training programs and educational materials to build the capacity of local fishers, community leaders, and fisheries managers. These programs are designed to enhance skills in sustainable fishing practices, stock assessment, and resource management, empowering communities to take an active role in conserving their marine resources.
- The resources are designed to be used within the broader context of marine conservation, aligning fisheries management with the goals of protecting biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services. This integration is crucial for ensuring that fisheries management contributes to the overall health of marine environments.

Case Studies:

Implemented in various regions, including the Pacific Islands and Africa, where it has improved fisheries management and local livelihoods.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Tailored for local communities and fisheries managers with varying levels of expertise.
- **Utility: High** – Addresses critical aspects of sustainable fisheries management that communities need to understand.
- **Accessibility: High** – Available online with extensive supporting documentation.

WWF – Design and management of MPAs

Link: https://wwf.panda.org/discover/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/coraltriangle/solutions/marine_protected_areas/

Description:

WWF provides practical guidance and tools for designing and managing MPAs, with a focus on biodiversity conservation, fisheries sustainability, and community engagement. Resources are tailored to regional contexts such as the Coral Triangle and the Western Indian Ocean, and emphasise ecosystem connectivity, stakeholder participation, and long-term effectiveness.

Key Features:

- MPA design principles and zoning guidance.
- Species-specific tools (e.g., shark and ray conservation).
- Community-based co-management approaches.
- Capacity building through workshops and peer exchanges.
- Policy integration with national conservation strategies

Case Studies:

WWF's MPA tools have been applied in Global South countries including Indonesia, the Philippines, Mozambique, and Madagascar. In Mozambique, WWF worked with communities to integrate shark conservation into local MPA planning. In Indonesia, they supported the development of MPA networks in the Coral Triangle. These examples highlight the tools' adaptability to diverse ecological and governance contexts.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High –** Field-tested tools and adaptable frameworks for diverse marine contexts.
- **Utility: High –** Supports biodiversity goals, fisheries management, and community resilience.
- **Accessibility: Medium –** Resources are freely available, but may require navigation through regional portals or WWF partner sites since this main website link has been archived. Various resources are also available in regional websites, including WWF Africa, MedPAN, etc.



Resource repositories and e-learning platforms

This group features online portals and hubs that consolidate multiple toolkits, training modules, and case studies. They are particularly useful for facilitators, NGOs, and community practitioners with advanced knowledge and skills who need access to a wide range of resources and continuous learning opportunities. These platforms often include downloadable materials, interactive courses, and links to global networks.

Blue Ventures Resources Portal

Link: https://blueventures.org/resources/

Description:

The Blue Ventures Resources Portal is an open-access platform offering guides, toolkits, manuals, research papers, and practical field resources developed from more than two decades of community-based conservation work across the tropics. The portal is designed to support LMMA and MPA practitioners, community organisations, partner NGOs, researchers, and local leaders seeking practical, field-ready materials on coastal management, fisheries co-management, community engagement, climate resilience, and conservation science.

Resources are published in multiple formats and often translated or locally adapted, maintaining Blue Ventures' commitment to open knowledge sharing and accessible, community-centred conservation tools.

Key Features:

- All toolkits, guides, and publications are freely available online and designed for a wide range of audiences.
- Comprehensive resource library, including:
  - Toolkits for community engagement, adaptive management, fisheries learning, and monitoring.
  - Academic articles and conservation science papers.
  - Multimedia learning and data engagement tools.
- Each publication is rooted in long-term field experience, community partnerships, and collaborative research.
- Resources emphasise practical, low-cost, and community-applicable methods adaptable to LMMA contexts worldwide.

Case studies:

The resources presented are rooted in research and development experiences in Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and other countries. The resources on Madagascar provide insights from over 15 years of LMMA management, including the establishment of the country's first locally managed marine area, while other lessons discuss experiences of community engagement, governance and alternative livelihood models.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Toolkits are field-tested, written in accessible language, and designed for direct use by community groups and practitioners.
- **Utility: High** – Covers critical LMMA competencies including governance, monitoring, communication, fisheries co-management, and community engagement.
- **Accessibility: High** – Open-access, downloadable, and with toolkits available in several languages.

Conservation Finance Alliance – Conservation Finance Knowledge Hub

Link: https://www.conservationfinance.info/

Related information: CFA White Paper https://www.conservationfinancealliance.org/cfa-white-paper; Webinars and other resources: https://www.conservationfinancealliance.org

Description:

The Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA) Knowledge Hub is a global repository of tools, guidance documents, literature, and case studies focused on raising, managing, and planning finance for conservation. It expands on the financing instruments introduced in the CFA White Paper and provides deeper, more technical resources for designing and implementing sustainable financing systems for MPAs, LMMAs, and other conservation initiatives. It supports practitioners in understanding how to diversify revenue streams, draft business plans, strengthen financial governance, and build long-term financial sustainability.

Key Features:

- Comprehensive resource library and literature base covering conservation trust funds, payment for ecosystem services (PES), blue carbon, tourism fees, blended finance, offsets, and other financing instruments.
- Business planning tools to support financial strategy development for protected and conserved areas.
- Fundraising guidance including donor engagement, proposal development, and revenue diversification models.
- Financial management and accountability resources for budgeting, tracking expenditures, and reporting.
- Capacity-building materials suitable for facilitators, government planners, NGOs, and local managers.

Case studies:

The platform provides examples such as conservation trust funds in Africa, the Caribbean, and Micronesia; marine and coastal revenue models based on tourism, user fees, and sustainable fisheries; PES and climate-finance pilots demonstrating how local communities and governments structure conservation revenue. These illustrate how financing mechanisms operate under diverse governance and cultural settings.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Low to Medium** – Usable with facilitator support, because many materials are technical and require interpretation or contextualisation for community audiences.
- **Utility: High** – Strongly supports financial planning and governance competencies with clear, actionable guidance.
- **Accessibility: Medium to High** – Open-access platform, with downloadable PDFs. Language availability varies, but most resources are available in English and French.

IUCN Library System

Link: https://portals.iucn.org/library/ and https://portals.iucn.org/library/lists/general/all/all/all/view

Description:

The IUCN Online Library System is the central, open-access digital repository for all IUCN publications, including guidelines, global standards, best-practice manuals, technical reports, policy briefs, and training resources. Users can search both the IUCN Publications Database and the IUCN Headquarters Library Catalogue, which together house thousands of documents covering conservation science, protected area management, species assessments, governance, finance, and global policy processes. The collection reflects IUCN's global mandate and includes contributions from IUCN Commissions, global programmes, regional offices, and partner institutions. Publications often draw from international case studies, multi-stakeholder experiences, and globally recognised conservation frameworks, and many are available in multiple languages.

Key Features:

- Comprehensive searchable database of all IUCN publications, including digital access to many full-text PDFs.
- Wide range of resource types, such as best-practice guidelines, global standards, technical manuals, reports, and policy recommendations.
- Global coverage with case studies and guidance from diverse ecological and governance contexts.
- Supports conservation practitioners, policymakers, students, NGOs, researchers, and MPA and LMMA managers.
- Includes historic and contemporary materials, preserving IUCN's institutional memory and scientific integrity.
- Integrated with IUCN's Open Access policy to increase availability of conservation knowledge.

Case studies:

Publications integrate global field experience, including African, Asian, Latin American, European, and Pacific case studies, offering practical lessons for region-specific adaptation. Many guidelines are used to inform protected area planning, governance reforms, co-management arrangements, and marine spatial planning.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Offers direct access to globally recognised best-practice tools widely used in conservation planning and management.
- **Utility: High** – Essential reference library covering nearly every thematic area relevant to MPAs, LMMAs, biodiversity. conservation, governance, and finance.
- **Accessibility: High** – Open access to most publications; powerful search functions and multi-language availability.

CORDIO LMMA Portal

Link: https://cordioea.net/local-marine-resource-management/overview/

Description:

This online platform provides access to tools, research, and resources to support community-led marine resource management in the WIO region. It serves as a knowledge hub for practitioners, researchers, and community-based organisations engaged in LMMAs and co-management processes. The 9-minute introductory video, "Locally Managed Marine Areas in Africa", presents successful cases of LMMAs in Djibouti and Kenya, with particular emphasis on Kuruwitu marine sanctuary in Kenya.

Key Features:

- Centralised access to training resources, policy briefs, and scientific publications relevant to local marine management.
- Includes guidance on governance,
- ecological monitoring, social-ecological assessments, and participatory planning.
- Offers practitioner-generated tools and methods grounded in field experience from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Madagascar.
- Regularly updated with regional news, workshop outputs, and downloadable tools.

Case Studies:

The platform features examples from LMMAs in Kenya and Tanzania where resources have supported community learning, improved ecological monitoring, and helped facilitate co-management negotiations with government agencies.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality:** **Medium** to **High** – Intended for facilitators, NGOs, and practitioners; some tools may require technical background.
- **Utility:** **High** – Supports adaptive management, planning, and documentation of community-based conservation, and includes an introductory short film.
- **Accessibility:** **High** – Open-access and regionally curated; materials are downloadable and linked to real-world applications. Some of the materials are available in English, French and Swahili.

Learning for Nature E-Learning Hub

Link: https://www.learningfornature.org/en/

Description:

Learning for Nature is a global e-learning platform developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support capacity building for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and nature-based solutions. It offers free, certified online courses designed for government planners, NGO managers, scientists, and technical experts, while also providing accessible resources for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The platform promotes peer learning and knowledge exchange through webinars, podcasts, discussion forums, and interactive tools. Courses vary in language availability, including English, Spanish and French, which widens access.

Key Features:

- Offers certified Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on biodiversity finance, nature-based solutions, protected areas, ecosystem services, and climate adaptation with interactive formats such as webinars, readings, quizzes, podcasts, and discussion forums.
- Connects learners to global networks such as BIOFIN, Equator Initiative, NBSAP Forum.
- Provides community-focused resources on Indigenous rights, sustainable livelihoods, and local governance.
- Courses are offered as scheduled facilitated courses, self-paced courses or webinar series, to suit different levels of technical expertise.
- Multilingual content supports inclusive participation across regions.

Course Examples:

- **Biodiversity Finance MOOC:** Helps countries develop finance plans for biodiversity.
- **Nature for Life Dialogues:** Explores nature-based solutions for climate and development.
- **Community Voices:** Highlights Indigenous and local knowledge in conservation.
- **Protected Areas Management:** Strengthens governance and planning for protected areas.

Case Studies:

Used by over 10,000 learners across 160+ countries, the platform has supported national biodiversity planning and community-based conservation.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Designed for technical users, with adaptable content for communities.
- **Utility: High** – Strengthens planning, policy, and implementation capacity across sectors.
- **Accessibility: High** – Free, but online only. Most courses are offered in several languages, and some offer certification.

LMMA Network Learning Centre

Link: https://lmmanetwork.org/learning-centre/

Description:

The LMMA Network Learning Centre is an online platform designed to support the learning and capacity-building needs of communities and practitioners involved in LMMAs across the Pacific Islands and beyond. The Learning Centre provides access to a wealth of resources, including guidelines, best practices, and case studies that empower communities to effectively manage their marine resources.

Key Features:

- **Resource Library:** The Learning Centre offers a comprehensive library of documents, toolkits, videos, and other resources that cover various aspects of marine management, including planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- **Capacity Building:** Focuses on enhancing the skills and knowledge of local communities and practitioners, ensuring they are equipped to manage their marine resources sustainably.
- **Community Engagement:** Emphasises the importance of community involvement in conservation efforts, providing tools and methods to facilitate effective stakeholder engagement.
- **Traditional Knowledge Integration:** Promotes the integration of traditional ecological knowledge with modern scientific practices, ensuring that conservation efforts are culturally appropriate and effective.

Case Studies:

The Learning Centre features case studies from Pacific Island communities, such as those in Fiji and Palau, where the LMMA approach has led to significant improvements in marine resource management and biodiversity conservation. These case studies highlight the practical application of the tools and methodologies provided by the LMMA Network.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – It is designed to be user-friendly, with resources organised in a way that is easy to navigate and apply in real-world contexts.
- **Utility: High** – Provides a valuable set of tools and knowledge that directly supports the sustainable management of marine resources, including LMMA management.
- **Accessibility: High** – Freely available online to a wide range of users, including community members, NGOs, and conservation practitioners.

NOAA – MPA Tools and Training Resources

Link: https://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/resources/training/

Description:

The NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center offers a robust suite of tools and resources to support the design, implementation, and evaluation of MPAs. These resources are intended for marine planners, managers, and policymakers working in the U.S. and globally. The platform emphasises science-based decision-making, stakeholder engagement, and effective governance.

Key Features:

- MPA inventory and classification tools.
- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- Stakeholder engagement guides.
- GIS and spatial data portals.
- Training materials and publications.

Case Studies:

While NOAA's tools are U.S.-based, they have been adapted for use in Global South contexts through partnerships and technical exchanges. For example, NOAA's classification and monitoring frameworks have informed MPA planning in the Philippines, Belize, and Tanzania, helping local agencies align with international standards and improve management effectiveness.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – Offers technical tools and guidance for planners and managers at various levels, but the content will need further translation for communities.
- **Utility: High** – Supports evidence-based MPA design, monitoring, and adaptive management.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – Freely available online with user guides, tutorials, and downloadable resources available in English.

Maliasili Resource Portal

Links:

Full resource library: https://maliasili.org/resources

Leadership Tips & Tools: https://maliasili.org/resources/tips-and-tools

Description:

Maliasili's Resource Portal is a comprehensive learning library designed to help African conservation organisations strengthen leadership, management, partnerships, communications, and strategy. The portal consolidates toolkits, guides, templates, publications, and practical tips developed from Maliasili's work with conservation NGOs across Africa. Resources are written in clear, accessible English and presented with engaging visuals, making them easy to use for practitioners, managers, and leadership trainees. While the platform hosts a wide range of organisational development materials, the Tips and Tools section is particularly valuable for leadership development, organisational strengthening, and capacity-building. These resources complement the Maliasili leadership programs by offering practical, ready-to-use guidance that teams can apply immediately.

Key Features:

The Tips & Tools page provides high-value guides that are designed to be hands-on, actionable and easy to integrate into leadership training, team facilitation or organisational planning sessions. These resources come with illustrations, diagrams, checklists and planning templates that support visual learning and facilitation. Guides in the portal include:

- **The Maliasili Toolbox –** Practical guidance on strategic planning, theory of change, work planning, management routines, fundraising, budgeting, communications, and organisational strategy.
- **Building Strong Partnerships –** Insights and case studies on designing and managing effective partnerships between NGOs and local organisations.
- **Management Fundamentals –** Simple explanations of core management principles.
- **Other Guides –** Practicing Prioritization, Foundations of Funding, Communicating Climate Toolkit, Creating Effective Annual Work Plans, Strategic Planning Workbook, Strategic Communications, and more.

Case studies:

There were no specific case studies mentioned in the guides, but these were developed for the African context, including the WIO.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Easy-to-use guides and templates with visuals; immediately applicable to real organisational challenges.
- **Utility: High** – Supports leadership training, governance, communications, strategic planning, and partnerships, and includes easy-to-use templates.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – All resources are open-access, downloadable, and written in simple English.

Rare Fish Forever Program Portal

Link: https://portal.rare.org/en/

Description:

The portal is an extensive online resource designed to support the implementation of Rare's Fish Forever program, which focuses on community-led management of coastal fisheries. The portal provides a wide range of tools, data, and resources to help local leaders, conservation practitioners, and partners effectively manage marine ecosystems and secure the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Key Features:

- **Community-led Management:** The program emphasises a behaviour-centred and rights-based approach, encouraging communities to take active roles in managing their local fisheries and marine resources.
- **Tools and Data:** The portal offers various tools to monitor and manage fisheries, including ecological data, fisheries production assessments, socioeconomic surveys, and guidance on building resilience to climate change.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Resources for monitoring and evaluation are provided to ensure that the impact of conservation efforts is effectively measured and reported.
- **Implementation Resources:** The portal includes detailed guidelines and resources to support the on-the-ground implementation of the Fish Forever program, helping communities establish networks of marine reserves and manage access to fisheries sustainably.

Case Studies:

The Fish Forever program has been implemented in multiple countries, including Mozambique, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brazil, and Palau. Each of these regions has seen positive outcomes in terms of improved fisheries management and the protection of marine biodiversity. It has built strong partnerships with local governments and communities, enabling them to implement sustainable fishing practices that benefit both people and nature.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – The portal is designed to be user-friendly, providing easy access to a wide range of resources that can be tailored to specific community needs.
- **Utility: High** – The tools and resources available on the portal are directly applicable to managing fisheries and marine ecosystems, making them highly valuable for conservation efforts.
- **Accessibility: Medium** – While the portal is a comprehensive resource, it is primarily intended for partners and implementers of the Fish Forever program. Access to certain tools and data might require specific login credentials.

Reef Resilience Network Trainings and Toolkits

Link: https://reefresilience.org/

Description:

This resource offers comprehensive online training modules, toolkits and other resources designed to support coral reef managers and practitioners in effectively managing and protecting coral reef ecosystems. The resources provide guidance on a range of topics related to reef resilience, including climate change adaptation, fisheries management, and coral restoration. They were created with input from global experts and are intended to be practical, user-friendly, and adaptable to various local contexts.

Key Features:

- **Climate Change Adaptation:** Offers strategies for managing coral reefs in the face of climate change, including tools for assessing vulnerability, planning for resilience, and implementing adaptive management practices.
- **Fisheries Management:** Provides guidance on sustainable fisheries management practices that help maintain the balance of marine ecosystems while supporting local livelihoods.
- **Coral Restoration:** Includes techniques for coral restoration, such as coral gardening and transplantation, to help restore degraded reef areas and enhance biodiversity.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Features tools and methods for monitoring reef health, evaluating the effectiveness of management strategies, and adapting practices based on the latest scientific insights.

Case Studies:

The toolkits include case studies from around the world including Kenya, Indonesia, the Philippines and Caribbean countries, showcasing successful applications of resilience strategies in different reef ecosystems. These case studies illustrate how communities and reef managers have implemented the toolkit's recommendations to achieve positive conservation outcomes.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: Medium** – The trainings and toolkits are designed to be practical and actionable, providing clear guidelines and step-by-step instructions that can be easily applied in the field. However, some technical content may require additional training and adaptation for community use.
- **Utility: High** – They offer essential tools and strategies for managing coral reef ecosystems, making them highly valuable for reef managers, conservation practitioners, and local communities.
- **Accessibility: High** – Extensive online materials available in multiple languages (e.g., Swahili and French) that are also regularly updated based on the latest scientific information and best practices. There is also a supportive network for users.

SMART – Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool

Link: https://smartconservationtools.org/en-us/

Description:

SMART is an open-source platform and suite of software and analysis tools designed to help conservationists – from scientists to rangers and communities worldwide – manage and protect wildlife and wild places. It's a standardised system for collecting, storing, communicating, and analysing data on activities such as anti-poaching patrols, wildlife sightings, and threat assessments. Developed by an alliance of conservation organisations, SMART aims to move key information efficiently from field staff to decision-makers, supporting data-driven, adaptive management for improved conservation performance across both terrestrial and marine protected areas. The platform's approach focuses equally on cutting-edge technology, capacity development, and empowering a global community of practitioners.

Key Features:

- **Modular Software Components:** Includes the core Desktop application, SMART Mobile for field data capture, and SMART Connect for centralised multi-site data sharing and administration.
- **Comprehensive Training Resources:** Provides a full ecosystem of free online courses, technical training manuals, and a Resource Library for continuous capacity building.
- **Customisable for Diverse Applications:** The software is flexible and can be customised to suit site-specific needs, supporting applications in law enforcement, biodiversity monitoring, and resource management.

Course Examples:

- **SMART for Data Analysts and Database Administrators:** An online course focused on data models, advanced analysis, and reporting best practices.
- **SMART for Technical Personnel and Field Staff:** An online course covering software installation, configuration, and practical field data collection procedures using SMART Mobile.

Case Studies:

It has been adopted as the primary monitoring and reporting tool in over 1,000 conservation sites across more than 70 countries. In Kenya, SMART has been implemented in the Laikipia landscape to enhance consistency in data collection.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Customisable tools essential for rigorous, field-based data collection, analysis, and conservation management implementation.
- **Utility: High** – Directly strengthens governance, planning, and implementation capacity by providing the standardised system necessary for adaptive management.
- **Accessibility: High** – Online training courses and technical manuals are all provided free of charge, with resources available in multiple languages.

WIOMSA Publications Portal

Link: https://www.wiomsa.org/publications/

Description:

The WIOMSA Publications Portal is the central online hub for accessing the full range of scientific, technical, policy, educational, and outreach publications produced or supported by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). It is designed to make marine science knowledge accessible, policy-relevant, and impactful by offering open-access materials that bridge research, practice, and decision-making in the WIO region. The portal houses a comprehensive collection of WIOMSA outputs from the WIO Journal of Marine Science, reports, toolkits, policy briefs, newsletters, book series and special publications (e.g., MPA Outlook Report, Critical Habitats Report), and is continuously updated as new materials are produced. WIOMSA emphasises science communication, knowledge sharing, and evidence-based policy support through this platform.

Key Features:

- Contains an organised and searchable library to help users quickly find materials by theme, type, or region.
- Supports science-to-policy communication through the WIOMSA & Nairobi Convention Science to Policy series.
- Focus on impact-oriented communication to help ensure scientific research supports sustainable blue economy priorities and evidence based environmental governance in the WIO.
- Includes practitioner-focused materials, such as manuals, MPA toolkits, and guidelines designed for conservation managers, community groups, and implementers.
- Publishes competitive research grant outputs, including books, manuals, and special editions produced through MASMA and WIO COMPAS programmes.

Case studies:

All the publications in the portal are either about the WIO or created for the WIO.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality: High** – Wide range of open-access, easy-to-download materials supporting training, implementation, research, and policy influence.
- **Utility: High** – Essential knowledge repository for MPA/LMMA practitioners, researchers, educators, and decision-makers across the WIO.
- **Accessibility: High** – Fully open-access, regularly updated, and organised into clear categories.

Related Platforms:

- *WIOMSA Resources Centre: https://www.wiomsa.org/our-resources/*
- *WIOJMS Portal: https://www.wiomsa.org/publications-2/wio-journal-of-marine-science/*

WWF Teaching Resources Portal

Link: https://www.worldwildlife.org/teaching-resources and https://www.worldwildlife.c teaching-resources/toolkits

Description:

The WWF Teaching Resources Portal provides a wide range of curriculum-aligned educational toolkits, lesson plans, and activity guides designed mainly for primary and secondary school learners. While originally developed for schools in higher-income countries, these resources include adaptable exercises, visuals, and foundational nature concepts that can be repurposed for community education, youth groups, and environmental awareness activities in the WIO. The portal covers core conservation themes such as species protection, forests, oceans, biodiversity, climate change, food systems, and sustainability, presented through age-appropriate activities, interactive learning tools, and educator guides.

Key Features:

- Species-focused toolkits for young learners, covering tigers, sea turtles, polar bears, elephants, freshwater dolphins, and monarch butterflies. These toolkits introduce ecological roles, threats, and real-world conservation actions.
- Thematic modules on biodiversity, climate change, forests, oceans, and sustainability for upper-primary and middle-school learners.
- Our Planet Educator Guides accompany the Our Planet documentary series and support deeper learning on ecosystems, human impact and conservation action.
- Teacher-ready materials including lesson plans, posters, worksheets, and interactive classroom presentations that can be adapted for community workshops.
- Cross-curricular integration across geography, science, literacy, outdoor learning, and citizenship.

Case studies:

While there are no actual descriptions of use of the resources, apart from testimonials from teachers, some of the toolkits can be adapted in WIO community settings (e.g., sea turtles, elephants, biodiversity, and Our Planet educator guides). The climate change toolkit that explains and presents exercises on human impacts can be adapted for mangroves, coral reefs, and coastal erosion.

Evaluation:

- **Practicality:** **Medium** to **High** – Designed for classrooms, but many exercises are simple, visual, and adaptable for community workshops.
- **Utility:** **Medium** to **High** – Strong for environmental awareness and conservation education; less focused on technical management skills.
- **Accessibility:** **Medium** – Free, open-access resources with downloadable PDFs and guides available in English. An email account and some personal information (name, postcode) are required to download the materials.

Supporting networks and institutions

Name of Institution	Website
Blue Ventures	https://blueventures.org
CORDIO East Africa	https://cordioea.net
Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA)	https://www.feta.ac.tz
International Union for Conservation of Nature Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (IUCN – ESARO)	https://iucn.org/our-work/region/eastern-and-southern-africa
Likhulu Foundation	https://likhulu.org.mz
Maliasili	https://maliasili.org
MIHARI Network	https://mihari-network.org/
WIO Mangrove Network	https://wiomn.org/
WIOMPAN – Network of MPA Managers	https://wiompan.org
WIOMSA	https://www.wiomsa.org/
World Wide Fund for Nature – South West Indian Ocean Regional Programme (WWF – SWIO)	https://www.wwf-swio.org
Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI)	https://wrti.go.ke