

# MAPPING OA MONITORING AND RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICY IN AFRICA

[www.wiomsa.org](http://www.wiomsa.org) | [www.oaalliance.org](http://www.oaalliance.org)

## Supporting National and Regional Responses to Climate-Ocean Change

There are multiple impacts of climate change to our ocean including ocean warming, acidification, deoxygenation, sea-level rise, more frequent and intense storms, marine heat waves, and loss of marine life and habitat. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports alert us to the trends and projections of these changing ocean conditions and warn of the impacts to marine species, ecosystems and communities that depend on them.

Western Indian Ocean (WIO) marine ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the cumulative impacts of ocean acidification and climate change. The risks across the region and Africa are both ecological and developmental.

While the IPCC reports tell us about global trends, there is an ongoing need for downscaled regional information to inform national responses to ocean acidification (OA) and climate-ocean change.

Bodies like the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association ([WIOMSA](http://www.wiomsa.org)) are critical players in increasing regional scientific knowledge, prioritizing projects at local scales, and are well placed to provide decision makers and communities with information on current and emerging marine socio-ecological threats posed by OA.

To support national responses to climate-ocean change, managers and decision-makers must understand and harness linkages between OA science & monitoring and policy priorities across the WIO region and the continent.

## Connecting OA Science to Decision Making and Policy Priorities

The [OA Alliance](http://www.oaalliance.org) is partnering with WIOMSA on a policy communications project that will contribute towards enhancing OA monitoring, research, and vulnerability assessments in the WIO region, by illuminating their relationship to consequential climate adaptation, marine management, and sustainable development policy goals.

The policy communications project flows from the Western Indian Ocean Acidification Monitoring Project established by WIOMSA in conjunction with regional institutions and experts. The project resulted in the [Western Indian Ocean OA Report](#) released in 2022. The report examines the state of OA and makes recommendations for future research and information priorities across 6 countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

Next steps for the OA project include expanding monitoring programmes and moving forward on key recommendations of the report. To be successful, we must ensure existing and expanded OA activities are understood by policy makers and utilized to inform local and regional policy, management, and adaptation strategies now and into the future.



*“It may seem that ocean acidification is a concern for the future. But OA is occurring now, and the urgent need for decision support is already quite evident. This includes information on the consequences of acidification, and also how affected groups can adapt to these changes.”*

WIOMSA OA Report, 2022.

## Mapping OA Monitoring and Research Recommendations to Policy in Africa

Working together, we have a unique opportunity to engage additional stakeholders at continental, regional, and domestic levels that can be called upon to take up support for OA research and monitoring across their respective mandates and leverage regional funding opportunities for continuing this work.

Deliverables in 2023:

- Short publication “Mapping OA Monitoring and Research Recommendations to Policy and Management Portfolios across the WIO region” providing larger narrative and context for decision makers.
- Policy map highlighting linkages to OA efforts across climate, marine management, and development goals.
- Communication and outreach materials to highlight the WIOMSA OA project & illuminate OA’s relevance to existing policy priorities.
- Expanded community of OA practice comprised of scientists, resource managers, policy makers, regional and intergovernmental bodies across the continent responsible for setting and implementing large scale policy goals.

## Join Us

We are seeking your engagement and value your guidance as we co-design products and deliverables that best support our shared goals and reach unique constituencies! To learn more about the project visit [WIOMSA’s Ocean Acidification Monitoring Projects page.](#)



## OA Information Is Important for Achieving Policy Priorities in Africa

	Global	Regional	Domestic
<b>Climate Adaptation Goals &amp; Targets</b>	Paris Agreement on Climate Change	African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan  EAC Climate Change Master Plan  SADC Regional Resilience Framework	National Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Climate Adaptation Plans
<b>Marine Management Goals &amp; Targets</b>	Global Biodiversity Conservation  Restoration and Sustainable Use Goals (Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework)  SDG Goal 14	Nairobi Convention and constituent protocols and decisions	National MPA programs, fisheries management strategies
<b>Sustainable Development Goals &amp; Targets</b>	UN – SDG Goals including goal 1,2,7, 13, 14, 17.	Africa Agenda 2063 Africa Blue Economy Strategy  East African Community (EAC) Development Strategy  Southern African Development Community (SADC) Vision 2050	National development blueprints e.g., Kenya Vision 2030  United Republic of Tanzania country strategic plan  Seychelles Vision 2033  Seychelles Blue Economy Strategy