


SIDE EVENT

## Scaling ocean conservation and economic development through regional blue bonds in the framework of the Great Blue Wall

 Monday, 11 July 2022, 07:30 – 09:00 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), UTC -4 Conference Room 8, UN HQ, New York |  Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/5d2ecr47>

The Great Blue Wall initiative is a Western Indian Ocean-led transformational movement that accelerates the development of a regenerative blue economy. The initiative aims to effectively and equitably conserve at least two million square kilometres of WIO Seascapes (SDG14), conserve and restore two million ha of critical blue ecosystems to achieve net biodiversity gain and sequestration of 100 million tons of carbon dioxide (SDG13), and build a regenerative blue economy that benefits more than 70 million people (SDG15).

The power of the blue economy as a driver of positive conservation and socio-economic outcomes is an integral aspect to the success of the WIO. In line with the Kigali declaration of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, calling for support to the “Great Blue Wall” initiative aims to build climate-resilient societies, indigenous people and local communities while exploring new opportunities and tapping the role of women through gender sensitive policies (SDG 5).

The ocean economy holds paramount importance and remarkable unexploited potential to drive economic growth and development in the region. In the meantime, ocean governance is at the heart of climate discussions. Therefore, introducing regional governance frameworks to sustainably manage the related resources, and the specificity of several African member States with smaller economies is identified as essential.

The entrepreneurial aptitude for ocean-related matters is vast. Accordingly, inclusive blue entrepreneurship, innovation, finance, value chains and trade while enhancing the capacity of African countries to attract large-scale investment for blue-based activities are amongst blue economy priorities that are centred on the African vision – Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. While accounting for the strong transboundary dimension of the Blue Economy, securing sustainable finance through the issuance of regional blue bonds could play a pivotal role in improving impact investors’ interest.

This side event builds on the high-level commitments that have been made since the launch of the initiative with global and regional C-Suite executives, political and government policy makers as well as international financial institutions (IFIs) and development agency leaders. Amongst the primary objectives for the session is to propose sustainable financing solutions like regional blue bonds as vehicles to achieve the initiative's goals.

**Organizers:** International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); High Level Climate Champions; African Union; Société Générale; African Governments (TBC).

# Tentative agenda

## Scaling ocean conservation and economic development through regional blue bonds in the framework of the Great Blue Wall

Monday, 11 July 2022, 7:30 – 9:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), UTC -4

Conference Room 8, UNHQ, New York / Virtual link to be shared later

<p>Setting the scene for regional blue bonds' issuance under the Great Blue Wall Initiative to scale up the blue finance for ocean conservation and sustainable development in Africa.</p> <p>Attendees: policymakers, representatives from IOs and NGOs, practitioners from the blue economy sector, executives from the private sector, academia, the public.</p>	
7:30 – 7:35 AM	<p>Introduction of event objectives, speakers, audience and housekeeping rules</p> <p>Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, UNECA</p>
7:35 – 7:50 AM	<p><b>Opening speeches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vera Songwe, Exec. Secretary, UNECA, and UN Under-Secretary-General</li><li>• Bruno Oberle, Director General, IUCN</li><li>• Minister of Finance, Kenya or Seychelles (TBC)</li><li>• Jorge Familiar, Vice President, World Bank (TBC)</li></ul>
7:50 – 8:05 AM	<p><b>Keynote:</b> Putting climate action at scale in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mahmoud Mouhieldin, UNFCCC Climate Champion (TBC)</li></ul>
8:05 – 8:55 AM	<p>Panel discussion on the issuance of thematic bonds in Africa, impact on the development of blue economy, blue-based entrepreneurial activities, opportunities under the Great Blue Wall initiative including the issuance of regional blue bonds</p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, UNECA</p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thomas Sberna, Regional Head, Coastal and Ocean Resilience, IUCN</li><li>• Luca De Lorenzo, Senior Director, Head of Sustainability and Mandate, Nordic Investment Bank (TBC)</li><li>• Adnan Awad, Africa Oceans Strategy Director at The Nature Conservancy (TBC)</li><li>• Ignace Beguin Billecocq, Ocean Lead, UNFCCC Climate Champions</li><li>• James Seward, Senior Financial Officer World Bank Treasury.</li><li>• Representative from the Ministry of Finance, Kenya or Seychelles, (TBC)</li></ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A segment</b></p>
8:55 – 9:00 AM	<p>Wrap-up</p>

Interpretation available in English and French.