



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland



Title of the side event	Harnessing Full Potential of Blue Economy through Research and Innovation
Thematic area	Management and Sustaining Marine Life Conservation and sustainable economic activities
Event organizers	Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute <i>With support from WIOMSA, WWF-Germany, Wetlands International, IUCN, and Irish Embassy (Nairobi)</i>
Event contacts	Name: Dr James Kairo Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute Email : gkairo@yahoo.com Name: Dr Jacqueline Uku Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute Email: jacquiuku@gmail.com Name: Julie Mulonga Wetlands International – Kenya Email: jmulonga@wetlands-africa.org
Date of the side event	27 th November 2018, 5:00-7:00pm
Venue	University of Nairobi, Main Campus Room: MSc 001
Room Capacity	100-150
Speakers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WIOMSA 2. KMFRI 3. Marine Institute-IRELAND 4. Private sector 5. IUCN 6. Wetlands International <p>Speakers will be invited to the panel of experts. Organizers will ensure gender balance and geographical representation.</p>

Background information

Oceans and other aquatic environments are included in international development and climate change agenda due to their importance in biodiversity conservation, carbon capture and storage, and goods and services they provide for community livelihood. World oceans are major sinks for greenhouse gases (GHG), storing in excess of 55% of the atmospheric carbon. They also provide habitats for fish and other biodiversity that generates revenue from tourism and capture fisheries. Healthy aquatic ecosystems provide food and medicines, and host a rich source of precious minerals, oil and gas. Offshore deep water oil drilling accounts for around 32% of global crude oil production, and this is expected to rise to over 34% by 2025.



Fish and seafood are a source of nutrition globally, especially in developing countries where this is a primary source of protein for an estimated 1.0 billion people. Aquaculture can sustainably supply this demand for seafood whilst supporting other ecosystem services. Conservative estimates of the total value of the ocean economy, including ocean-based industries and natural ecosystem services are presented in the region of USD 1.5 trillion, approximately 2.5% of the world gross value added. Under a business-as-usual scenario, the economy provided by the oceans could more than double by 2030 with strong growth predicted for marine aquaculture, offshore oil and gas, and fish processing. Effective regulation and governance of this huge ‘blue economy’ potential are necessary, and clear policy objectives must be identified.

In Kenya, marine water covers 142,400 km² while the inland water occupies 18,029 km² of landmass. This is in addition to wetlands that occupy significant landmasses that support human and wildlife. With significant tourism input and export of aquatic resources amongst other reasons, Kenya has the fastest growing economy in Africa, and has been ranked the third fastest growing economy in the world. Blue economy contributes significantly to this success, with 65% of all tourists to Kenya visiting the coast. In 2015, tourism generated USD 6.7 billion; while fisheries contributed USD 520.0 million (or 0.8%) of the gross domestic product (GDP). This is lower than the actual potential of the oceans in terms of fishing, aquaculture and minerals, where for example marine capture fisheries potential is estimated at 150,000 – 300,000 ton per year. Kenya’s blue economy is predicted to rise, and it is necessary to identify and realize the potential of its value for national development and community livelihood.

Description of the side event

The event will spotlight a range of aquatic resources in Kenya, the processes that have led to a greater understanding of these resources, and how they could be harnessed for national development and community livelihood. The session will consist of distinguished speakers, followed by a panel discussion that will provide the framework for session proceedings. The objectives of the session are to (a) review the state of aquatic research and its contribution to the Kenyan development agenda; (b) identify opportunities for blue economy investment in Kenya; especially those related to fisheries and aquaculture; (c) enhance public understanding on the role of blue economy in the achievements of sustainable development goals and (d) bridge existing gaps in knowledge; and enhance private sector investment in the blue growth in Kenya. Discussion topics will include: fisheries and aquaculture, deep-sea research, critical marine habitats; and the use of marine spatial planning as a tool for sustainable coastal development. The session will run for 120 minutes with at 50% of the time dedicated to discussions.

Alignment of side event with aims and mission of the Blue Economy Conference

This side event aligns with aims and objectives of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in several ways. Firstly, it focuses on inventorying aquatic resources in Kenya and how they could be sustainably utilized for national development and community livelihood, which is a major theme of the Conference. Secondly, it identifies un-tapped investment opportunities on blue economy in Kenya and the role of private sector. The side event will provide information on how blue economy could be integrated into the development and climate change agenda of the country. Besides, the side event will provide a space for stakeholders to be heard directly and contribute to debate and discussions. This way, measures to ensure priority actions on blue economy will be discussed, debated and agreed.



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland



Participants

Participants for this side event will be drawn from the representatives of the National Government Ministries, County Governments, private sector, and development partners, among others. There will be an opportunity for a **general discussion** with interested partners from the county and with development partners

Output

The main output from the session would be an understanding of the status and conditions of aquatic resources in Kenya and trends. Lessons from the session will be used to develop a policy paper on strategic action on prioritized investment opportunities on blue economy in Kenya. Finally, the findings from the session will be used to design a research and action study that will dig deeper into the investment opportunities on blue economy in Kenya; focusing more on innovations in fisheries and aquaculture.

Program

Time	Topic	Speaker
Tea service ongoing throughout the session		
Facilitator: Dr. James Kairo & Dr. Jacqueline Uku Rapporteurs: Nina Wambiji & Amina Juma		
	Opening Remarks: John Mumba Chairman of KMFRI Board	
5.00 – 5.10	Setting Scene: Status of aquatic research in Kenya with insights into the next frontier of research using deep sea research tools	Prof. James Njiru <i>Director/KMFRI</i>
5.10 - 5.20	The role of healthy oceans and lakes in sustainable blue economy	Peter Manyara IUCN
5.20 – 5.35	Emerging innovations in the aquatic sector and opportunities for private sector investment	Dr. Paul Connolly, <i>Director, Marine Institute-Ireland</i>
5.35 – 5.50	Sustainable and profitable small scale fishery in a changing environment	Marc Léopold IRD Seychelles
5.50 – 6.05	Private sector investment in cage culture – Opportunities and challenges	Dr. Dave Okech
6.05 – 6.15	Good science supports good policy: The journey towards strengthening the science to policy dialogue	Dr. Julius Francis, Executive Director, WIOMSA
6.15 – 6.30	The role of wetland regulations and policies on blue growth	Julie Mulonga Wetland International
6:30 – 7:00	Discussions on key aspects of development Led by Dr. Kazungu & Dr. Uku	Development partners to give contributions on R & D
	Closing remarks – PS Fisheries Prof. Ntiba	
7:00 at the same venue	Networking Cocktail to be hosted by KMFRI, WIOMSA & IRD at the end of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Mtafiti Book • Launch of the KMFRI Journal 	