



**OCEAN20 SOUTH AFRICA 2025**

# **Inception Meeting - 28 May 2025**

## **Introduction**



**science, technology  
& innovation**

Department:  
Science, Technology and Innovation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



**SAEON**

South African Environmental  
Observation Network



## OCEANS20 COMMUNIQUÉ A Call to G20 Leadership

Driving Economic Prosperity, Climate Action,  
and Security through Ocean Stewardship.



### **The seven key recommendations of Brazil's Oceans20\* to the G20 leaders were:**

1. Ensure a Clean, Healthy, and Productive Ocean
2. Expand Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems
3. Scale Up Offshore Wind Energy
4. Enhance Maritime Governance for Sustainable Shipping
5. Incentivize Ocean Finance
6. Improve Maritime Security
7. Strengthen Global Coordination

### **The ten priority themes identified in the Oceans20\* Communiqué are:**

1. Promoting a sustainable and equitable ocean economy
2. Advancing an ambitious, inclusive climate and just energy transition
3. Fostering food security and sustainable fisheries practices
4. Conserving and restoring marine resources and ecosystems
5. Strengthening inclusive and adaptive ocean governance
6. Social inclusion and just transition
7. Enhancing ocean policy coherence and integration
8. Fostering cooperative science and innovation
9. Stimulating public-private-philanthropic partnerships
10. Accelerating ocean finance



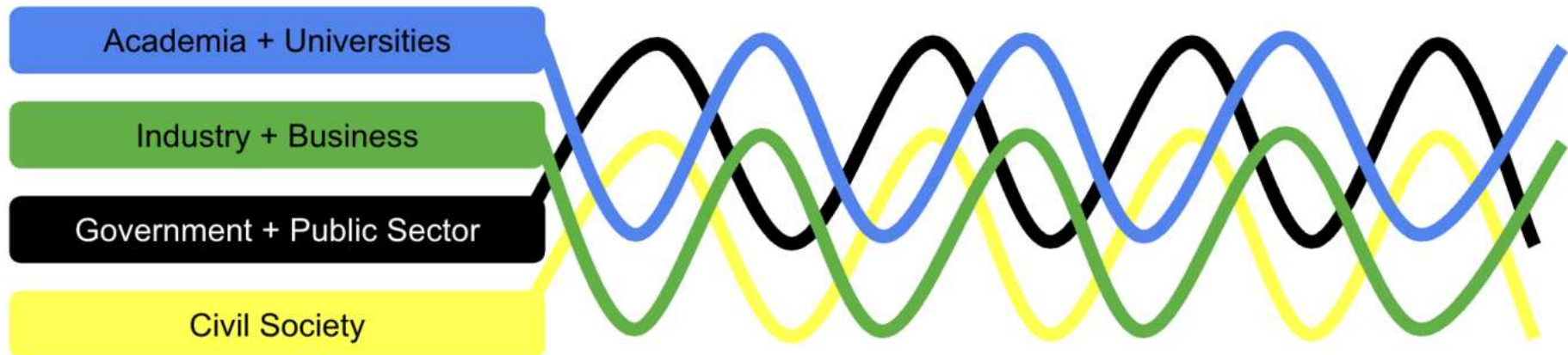
**Uniting for Inclusive and Sustainable Ocean Development:**

*Advancing Cooperative Innovation and Partnerships*

Ocean20SA theme:

**Uniting for Inclusive and Sustainable Development:  
Advancing Cooperative Innovation and Partnerships for Action.**

Using the concept of the **quadruple helix**, which will bring together **academia**, **industry**, **government** and **civil society** to address complex challenges





Ocean Actions are **targeted, solution-oriented interventions** designed to **tackle critical ocean challenges in practical, measurable, and inclusive ways.**

### **Purpose and Objectives:**

- 1. Action** high-level recommendations from the Brazilian Oceans20 Communique into tangible, on-the-ground interventions.
- 2. Foster partnerships** and networks across sectors and regions for shared, co-designed solutions.
- 3. Equip** least and less developed regions and countries with the tools and knowledge capacity needed to address ocean challenges, from environmental and resource-use management to disaster risk reduction.
- 4. Align** local, national and regional efforts with global imperatives  
*[such as the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Kunming – Montreal 30x30, the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) High Seas Treaty, the Ocean Panel's Ocean Action 2030 Agenda and South Africa's G20 Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability agenda].*
- 5. Advance** the position of the Global South in ocean imperatives towards 2030 and beyond.

# The guiding principles of the Ocean Actions are:

- 1. Inclusivity:** Engaging stakeholders across the Quadruple Helix to ensure diverse transdisciplinary perspectives, partnerships and equitable solutions to ocean challenges.
- 2. Practicality:** Implementable actions that deliver measurable outcomes.
- 3. Sustainability:** Promoting long-term solutions that balance environmental, economic, and social priorities.
- 4. Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships & shared responsibility among stakeholders.
- 5. Creating legacies:** Through Ocean20 Actions, we want to ensure longevity beyond 2025 of SA's G20 Presidency, towards and beyond the UN's Agenda 2030 and the UN Ocean Science Decade 2021-2030.



## Expected outcomes:

1. **Strengthened partnerships** for blue financing and implementation of ocean initiatives.
2. **Increased capacity** of African scientists and policymakers to address ocean challenges.
3. **Practical frameworks** and tools for sustainable ocean governance and management.
4. **Amplified regional and global cooperation** on ocean sustainability.



# Activities thus far - Ocean20 Launch, 2 May 2025

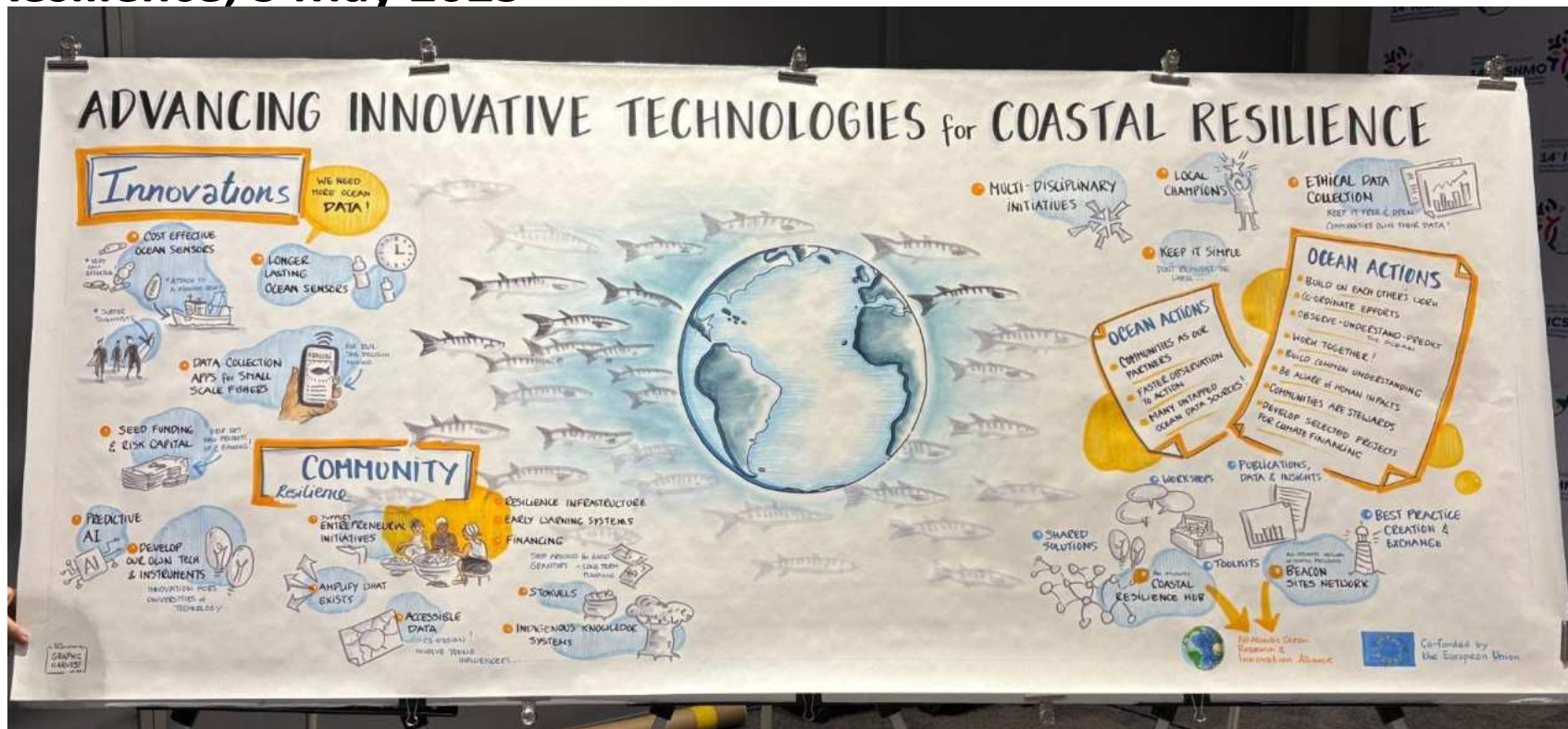
Introduction of the  
Ocean20 South Africa

Panel discussion around  
sustainable, fundable  
ocean actions to ocean  
challenges!





# Activities thus far - Innovative Technologies Workshop for Coastal Resilience, 3 May 2025



# Activities thus far - Why do oceans matter to inland communities?

26 + 27 May 2025



Why do oceans matter to inland communities?		
26 May 2025		
Venue: SANBI Lowveld Botanical Gardens		
Programme Director: Ms Gugulethu Zwane (Acting DG: DSTI)		
08:00 - 09:00	Registration	
09:00 - 09:10	Arrival of the Political Principals	
09:10 - 09:25	Political Briefing	Led by Dr. Mary-Jane Bopape, NRF-SAEON supported by the Chief of Staff
09:30 - 09:33	National Anthem	
09:33 - 09:38	Welcome Remarks	Clt. Sibongile Makushe, Executive Mayor
09:38 - 09:50	Purpose of the Day	Dr Mary-Jane Bopape MD-NRF-SAEON
9:50 - 10:00	Message of Support	Mr Mandla Ndlovu Premier of Mpumalanga Province
10:00 - 10:20	Keynote Address	Prof. Blade Nzimande Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation
10:20-10:50	Ocean video and photo ice-breaker	Mr Joe Sibisi & Ms Nomvelo Maginda
10:50-11:50	Exploring the Crocodile River and your influence on the ocean	Ms Phumudzo Ragimama & Ma Caitlin Ransom
11:50-12:30	Local Skies, Local Stories	Dr Moagabo Ragoasha
12:30-13:15	Lunch	
13:15-13:50	The ocean's influence on rainfall and temperature	Dr Ramontsheng Rapolaki
13:50-14:10	Opportunities in the Blue Economy	Mr Malcolm Alexander, TETA, & Ms Thando Mazomba, Ocean Hub Africa
14:10 - 14:20	Q & A	Led by the Deputy Minister Dr. Nomalungelo Gina
14:10-14:20	Vote of Thanks	House of Traditional Leaders (TBC)

# Going forwards - UNOC-3 Side Event, 9 June 2025

**UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE  
SIDE EVENT**

## **Save The Date**

**G20 Ocean20**  
Progressing from Dialogue  
to Action beyond 2030

**One Ocean, Many Voices**  
**ROOM 4 | NICE, FRANCE**  
**9 JUNE | 15:45 - 17:00**

**Learn more about Ocean20:**

- Scan the QR code or visit:  
[egagasini.saeon.ac.za/ocean20sa](https://egagasini.saeon.ac.za/ocean20sa)
- Contact us: [ocean20sa@saeon.nrf.ac.za](mailto:ocean20sa@saeon.nrf.ac.za)



**UNITED NATIONS  
OCEAN CONFERENCE  
NICE, FRANCE 2025**



## Going forwards -

- Report back to the next Sherpa meeting - June 2025
- Report back to DSTI Minister - July 2025
- Mid-way Ocean20 meeting - August 2025
  - Associated workshops (TBC)
- SAMSS Conference and workshops - September 2025
- WIOMSA Symposium and workshops - October 2025
- Social Summit Engagements - November 2025



## Potential Ocean Action topics:



- **Blue Finance** - engaging the public, and private sectors including philanthropic organisations to invest in ocean solutions including, but not limited to, innovative technologies, products and services aimed at benefiting the Blue Economy (e.g. ship routing) and monitoring and protection of the coastal and offshore ocean system. **UNGC Launch of “[Ocean Investment Protocol: Aligning financial flows with the transition to a Sustainable Ocean Economy](#)” - 28 May 2025**
- **Adaptive and informed ocean governance** - understanding the human-ocean nexus, gaining insight through traditional and evidence-based approaches to develop governance systems that benefit the ocean as well as the people who rely on a healthy ocean.
- **Capacity enhancement** - building awareness of the ocean through ocean literacy, and its impacts on our daily lives, our resources, our well-being and climate. **ECON-SA**

## Potential Ocean Action topics:

- **Food security and Blue Foods** - looking to the future of sustainable fisheries and harvesting of resources from the ocean, along with the importance of aquaculture to supplement wild-caught fisheries. **Let's talk more today!**
- **Understanding, conserving and restoring marine ecosystems** - especially due to habitat modifications and pollution.
- **Understanding the dynamics resulting in and impacts of the translocation of species** including through range extensions driven by climate change.
- **Renewable energies** and the Just Energy Transition.



# Please stay in touch:

For further details around Ocean20, please connect with us:

<https://egagasini.saeon.ac.za/ocean20sa/>



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Ocean20 South Africa



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Slides to leave out

Activities thus far:



**ECON-SA**

**Early Career Ocean  
Networks of South Africa**

towards **ipos**



**OKEANO**

Supporting the  
All-Atlantic Ocean Research  
and Innovation Alliance

**Advancing Innovative  
Technologies for Coastal  
Resilience**



**Singapore Maritime Week 2025 (24-28 Feb 2025)**

Two sessions:

- Maritime Just Transition
- Maritime Security

Attended and well received by Her Excellency Charlotte Lobe, High Commissioner for South Africa in Singapore