



OCEAN20 SUMMIT

4-5 November 2025
The Avenue, Cape Town

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



science, technology
& innovation

Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



United Nations
Global Compact



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



NRF
National Research
Foundation

SAEON

South African Environmental
Observation Network



WELCOME FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Ocean20 Summit, held in Cape Town under South Africa's G20 Presidency. This year has marked a historic moment — the first time the G20 Presidency has been hosted on African shores, and with it, an opportunity to showcase the Ocean's central role in building a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient global economy.

Since its conception under the Indonesian G20 Presidency, Ocean20 has sought to advance a shared vision of a healthy, productive, and equitable Ocean. In 2025, under South Africa's leadership, we have worked to deepen that vision — positioning the ocean as a living system that connects economies, sustains communities, and underpins climate stability. Guided by the theme “Uniting for Inclusive and Sustainable Ocean Development,” this year's programme has brought together policy makers, international organisations, business, academia, and civil society to co-design solutions that link ocean health with human prosperity.

Throughout the year, Ocean20 partners have engaged across multiple fronts — from discussing sustainable finance mechanisms and marine governance, to opportunities for empowering small-scale operators, women, and youth as leaders in the Blue Economy. We have also sought to highlight the vital role of science and innovation in shaping fair and effective Ocean policy, drawing on lessons from Africa's expanding ocean observation and modelling capabilities, and from the remarkable collaboration taking place across the Global South.

The Ocean20 Summit is more than a gathering; it is a call to action. As we close this G20 cycle, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to transforming ambition into tangible impact — fostering partnerships that bridge sectors, economies, and generations. Together, we can ensure that our Ocean remains not only a source of life and livelihood, but also a foundation for a just and sustainable global future.

Welcome to Cape Town, welcome to Ocean20, and welcome to the next chapter of shared Ocean stewardship.

Dr. Tammy Morris and Ms. Nicole du Plessis
Co-Chairs, Ocean20 South Africa Social Engagement Group



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Programme Director - Ms Yanga Malotana

Yanga Malotana is a versatile energy policy and climate change analyst with a passion for addressing global challenges through innovation, collaboration, and strategic problem-solving. Currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Pretoria, Yanga is supported by the prestigious Andrew Mellon Foundation Scholarship and is an Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Fellow, reflecting her entrepreneurial approach to driving meaningful change within organizations. Yanga is the Project Manager and Communications Lead for Emerging Scholars Initiative (ESI); and Early Career Professionals (ECP) External Stakeholders Coordinator for the Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group South Africa (IORAG SA). She focuses on blue economies, climate change, energy, and trade, leveraging her skills in stakeholder engagement, fundraising, and innovation to bridge academic insights with real-world applications.



Day 1 - 4 November 2025

Time	Agenda Item	Moderator/Facilitator
09:00 - 10:00	Registration with Tea on Arrival	
10:00 - 11:00	Opening Plenary	Programme Director - Ms Yanga Malotana
	House keeping, H&S	Two Oceans
	Cultural performance	Ms Mpume Mthombeni
	Opening Remarks and Framing the Summit: O20 Co-Chair	Dr Tammy Morris
11:00 - 11:30	G20 Project Updates and Highlights	
	CORDAP	Prof Carlos M. Duarte, CEO, G20 Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform
11:30 - 12:30	WITS Future Thinking Workshop & Introduction to 'Seeds'	Prof Laura Pereira
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:30	WITS Future Thinking Workshop	
15:30 - 16:00	Afternoon tea	
16:00 - 17:00	WITS Future Thinking Workshop	
18:00-20:00	Summit Networking Cocktail @ The Avenue	

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Day 2 - 5 November 2025

Time	Agenda Item	Moderator/Facilitator
08:00-09:00	Registration with Tea on Arrival	
09:00-10:00	Opening Plenary	Programme Director - Ms Yanga Malotana
	Opening Reflections	Prof Laura Pereira
	Group outputs/performances	Group Rapporteurs
	Way forward to G20 Social Summit	Prof Laura Pereira
10:00 - 11:15	Panel 1: Women Steering the Blue Economy: Empowering Roles in Fisheries and Aquaculture	Moderator: Ms Mathema Makola, SANWFA Panellists: Ms Mashebane Thosago, AWFISHNET Ms Nadia Scheffer, SASA Ms Dimakatjo Setati Ms Mapule Mthimkhulu Ms Bernice Mclean, AUDA-NEPAD Mr. Poiho Ramotlatsi, Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development, North West Province
11:15 - 11:30	Tea Break	
11:30 - 12:45	Panel 2: Regenerative Tourism: Engaging the Private Sector with Ocean Stewardship	Moderator: Ms Safiyya Sedick, NRF-SAEON Panellists: Prof. Ameer A. Eweida, AEON Collective Dr. Maryam Ficociello, Red Sea Global Ms. Estelle van der Merwe, OCEAN Action Network
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:15	Panel 3: Enhancing the Capacity of Global Ocean Governance through Marine Spatial Planning and other Tools	Moderator: Ms Safiyya Sedick, NRF-SAEON Panellists: Ms Yan Li, CODF Dr Shannon Hampton, Independent Consultant Dr Samantha Petersen, WWF Dr Diane Foster, WHOI
15:15 - 16:30	Panel 4: Early career ocean professionals on the future of ECOPs: Reflections on the Workshop Visions	Moderators: Dr. Riesna Audh, NRF-SAEON & Dr. Mia Strand, Nelson Mandela University Panellists: Ms. Sina Wallschuss Mr. Khotso Mogotlane Ms. Maggie Poulos Ms. Philile Mvula
16:30-17:00	High-level Closing	
	Presentation of the Communique Handover Ocean20 to USA	Dr Tammy Morris, NRF-SAEON Statement by Dr Diane Foster, WHOI, USA
	Statement of Support	Mr Imraan Patel, Deputy Director-General, DSTI
	ENDS	

OCEAN20 BACKGROUND

Ocean20 (O20) is a social engagement group of the G20. Co-convened by the National Research Foundation-South African Environmental Observation Network (NRF-SAEON) and the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), with numerous partners, this initiative underscores South Africa's leadership as the first African nation to assume the G20 Presidency, marking a significant milestone in advancing ocean sustainability and inclusive economic growth. Ocean20 South Africa has been endorsed as an official activity by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The ocean is a cornerstone of Africa's economic and social development. It provides essential resources, supports millions of livelihoods, and plays a central role in mitigating climate change. For coastal nations across the continent, the sustainable ocean economy presents a pathway to sustainable growth, encompassing sectors such as fisheries, tourism, renewable energy, and marine biotechnology. The activities undertaken through the Ocean20 initiative underscores South Africa's commitment to advocating for the sustainable use of ocean resources as an integral part of South Africa's and Africa's long-term development goals.

The Ocean20 engagement group brought together stakeholders from across the globe to shape policies and actions that aim to protect and harness the potential of the ocean to support sustainable development. The Ocean20 Summit aims to showcase the outputs from South Africa's leadership of the Ocean20 social engagement group, present the final communiqué and briefing notes developed and hand over to the next country driving the G20 process in 2026, the United States of America (USA).

CORDAP

The Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP) was launched in 2020 by the G20 as the first ocean-focused initiative formally endorsed by the Group of Twenty. Its mission is to fast-track research and development (R&D) to safeguard coral reefs globally—both tropical and cold-water systems—by supporting scalable innovations, open-source solutions, and cross-disciplinary partnerships.

CORDAP operates a flagship funding mechanism, the Coral Accelerator Program (CAP), which invites multinational collaborative teams—one must include a low- or middle-income country partner—to develop proofs of concept for coral-conservation technologies.

With awards up to US \$1.5 million per project, the CAP enables local innovators, research institutions, and private-sector actors to access cutting-edge support and bring solutions from lab to reef.

As a G20-endorsed platform dedicated exclusively to ocean ecosystems (specifically coral reefs), CORDAP stands out for linking high-level political commitment to science-driven action. Its governance model—hosted by the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) and operating under a foundation structure—ensures that 100 % of donations go directly into R&D programmes.

CORDAP's creation recognized the urgency of halting the global decline of coral ecosystems, their essential role for more than one-billion people's livelihoods, and their importance for climate-resilience. By aligning with the UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), the platform provides a blueprint for how G20 leadership can catalyse large-scale, inclusive ocean solutions.

Looking ahead, CORDAP continues to issue open calls, expand its innovation networks, and deepen capacity-building efforts—especially in regions most vulnerable to reef degradation. In doing so, it exemplifies how ocean initiatives within the G20 can deliver science-based, equitable, and resilient governance outcomes for the blue economy.

Further Reading: <https://cordap.org/>



Prof. Carlos Duarte, G20 Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform

Carlos is the CEO of the *Global Coral R&D Accelerator Platform* and *Ibn Sina Distinguished Professor of Marine Science* at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST). Carlos' research addresses the effects of global change on marine ecosystems and the development of ocean-based solutions to global challenges. He developed evidence-based strategies to rebuild the abundance of marine life by 2050, and leads efforts to solve the coral reef crisis. Building on his research showing mangroves, seagrasses and salt-marshes to be globally-relevant carbon sinks, he developed, working with different UN agencies, the concept of Blue Carbon as a nature-based solution to climate change. His research, across all oceans, depths, organisms and ecosystem types, has led to more than 1.100 scientific papers. Carlos is ranked as the top marine biologist and the 12th most influential climate scientist worldwide (Reuters), and has received multiple accolades. On April 16 2025, he was presented by the Emperor of Japan with the Japan Prize 2025 for his "contribution to our understanding of marine ecosystem in a changing earth, especially through pioneering research on Blue Carbon". He serves as Chief Scientist at E1 and is heavily involved with sustainability in sports.

SEEDS/ WITS Future Thinking Workshop



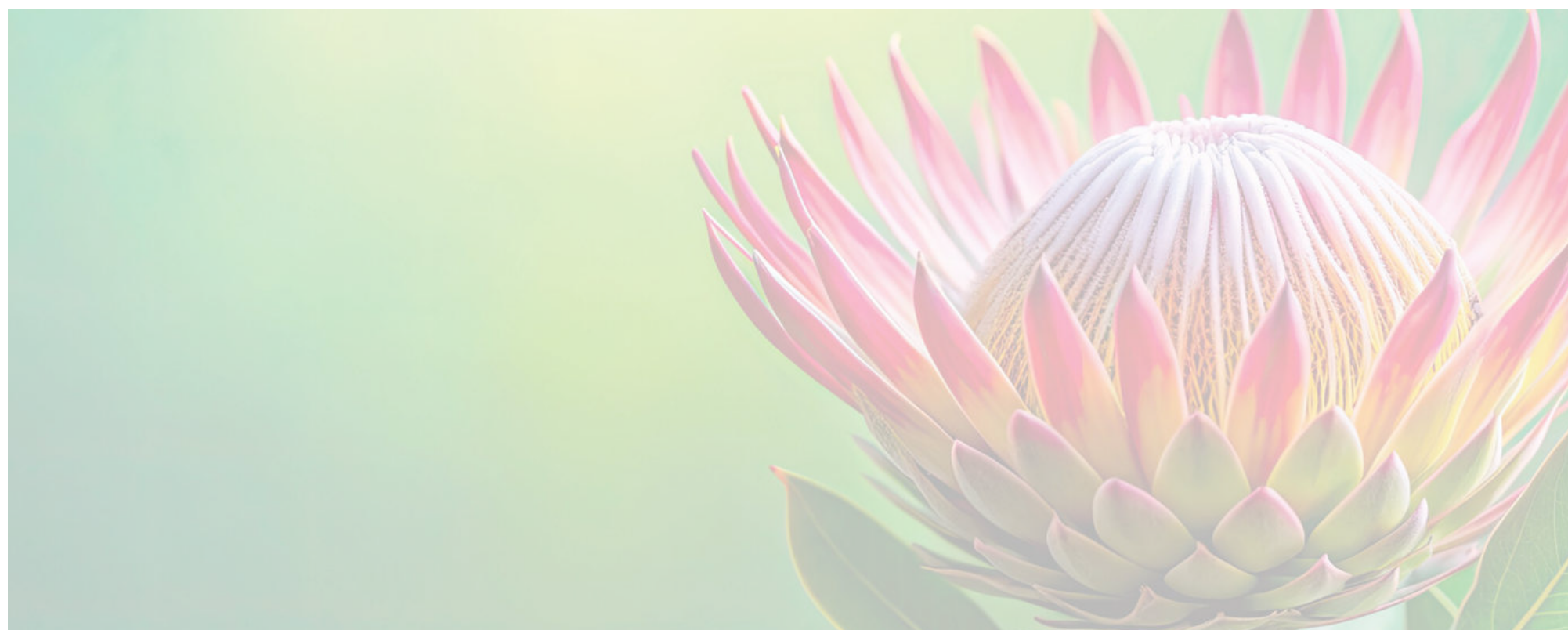
Lead Facilitator: Prof Laura Pereira

Laura Pereira is a Professor in Sustainability Transformations and Futures at the Global Change Institute at Wits University and a researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University. She is an interdisciplinary sustainability scientist, having been trained in ecology, law, zoology and human geography. She is interested in the interface between indigenous and local knowledges and innovation, the role of futures techniques and visioning in enabling transformative change and developing innovative methods for knowledge co-production in Global South contexts.

As part of the Ocean20 Summit, this interactive workshop invites participants to imagine and co-design positive, inclusive ocean futures. Building on the Seeds of Good Anthropocenes global initiative—a collaboration between McGill University, the Stockholm Resilience Centre, and Stellenbosch University—the session will explore real-world ocean “seeds” of change - initiatives already fostering sustainability, equity, and resilience.

Through collaborative mapping and scenario-building, participants will identify and connect promising actions that can be scaled or replicated across regions, focusing on innovation in ocean governance, community stewardship, blue economy entrepreneurship, and ecosystem restoration. The outcomes of this workshop will be synthesised and carried forward to a side-event at the G20 Social Summit, amplifying examples of transformative change and demonstrating how local ocean solutions can shape global pathways toward a sustainable and just blue future.

For further information see: <https://goodanthropocenes.net/>



Day 2: Panel 1 (10:00 - 11:15)

Women Steering the Blue Economy: Empowering Roles in Fisheries and Aquaculture

Hosted by the South African Network for Women in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (SANWFA) in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD, this panel will explore the transformative role of women and youth in driving sustainable growth across fisheries and aquaculture value chains. The discussion will highlight empowerment through leadership development, innovation, technical training, and access to markets, including opportunities in circular economy initiatives such as waste management and seaweed-based enterprises. Through inspiring stories, expert insights, and a focus on policy and partnerships, the session aims to strengthen inclusion, unlock opportunities, and share experiences of resilient blue economy pathways across Africa.



Moderator: Ms. Mathema Makola, SANWFA

Mathema Adelaide Makola is the Deputy President of the South African Network for Women in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (SANWFA) and Managing Director of Dihlaping Aquaculture Projects (Pty) Ltd. She also serves as Secretary of the Limpopo Cooperatives and the Witpoort Farmers Production Support Unit. With over 20 years of experience in training, management, and mentorship, Ms. Makola holds a Fish Farm Management Certificate from Aquaculture Innovations, along with short courses in Business Management, Leadership, and Community Development. She is passionate about empowering communities through sustainable aquaculture and capacity building.

Ms. Mashebane Thosago

Ms. Mashebane Thosago holds a B.Sc. in Microbiology and Biochemistry and a B.Sc. Honours in Aquaculture, with additional training in Project Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Fisheries Strategy Design. A former aquaculture researcher, policy maker, and Marine Resources Manager in the Deep-Sea Hake Trawling sector, she is a founding member of the South African Network for Women in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (SANWFA) and currently serves as Vice President 2 of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFishNet). As CEO of MmmA AgriConsult (Pty) Ltd, she provides consultancy and advisory services in fisheries and aquaculture, mentors women across the value chain, and actively promotes sustainable development, inclusive participation, and circular economy innovation in the blue economy.

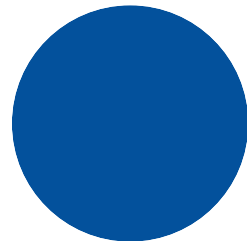


Ms. Nadia Scheffer

Nadia serves as the Innovation Director of Mzansi Seaweeds, bringing her deep conviction in the potential of seaweed to revitalise the South African economy to the forefront of her team's mission. Complementing her corporate role, Nadia is also the owner of SeaTree Emporium, a retail brand she established to offer a diverse range of seaweed-derived products, including food items, sustainable fashion, and unique home décor. Her strategic vision is grounded in her educational background, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media, Culture, and Communication, which informs her ability to effectively champion this sustainable resource and assemble the specialised team driving Mzansi Seaweeds forward.

Ms. Dimakatso Joyce Setati

Dimakatso, a registered SACNASP member in Biological Sciences, holds a B.Sc. in Molecular and Life Sciences and a Honours in Zoology from the University of Limpopo, where her research focused on fish health and parasite diversity. She currently serves as the seaweed expert and trainer at the South African Network for Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture. Ms. Setati is skilled in abalone and sea urchin cultivation, macroalgae production, and Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA). She has expertise in laboratory algal strain isolation, Giant Kelp cultivation from early growth to ocean transfer, and managing Recirculating and Flow-Through Aquaculture Systems, with strong focus on animal welfare, husbandry, SOP development, and technical reporting.



Ms. Mapule Mthimkhulu

Mapule Mthimkhulu is the Manager of the GMM Buy Back Centre for Primary Co-Operatives. She holds a Diploma in Office Administration from Empangeni Commercial College and has earned certificates in Customer Care, Fire Fighting, First Aid, Green Economy, Export and Import Impact, and Business Management. A recognized advocate for women's empowerment, she has spoken on Women in Climate Change and the Green Economy in Washington, D.C., and was nominated for the South African Heroes Awards in 2024 and 2025 in the Women Empowerment category.

Dr. Bernice Mclean

Bernice Mclean is a marine policy specialist with a strong interest in ocean governance and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development and management. She has a Masters Degree in Environmental Science and a PhD in Marine Policy. At the AUDA-NEPAD Bernice currently leads the Blue Economy Unit within the Directorate of Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Sustainability. Her role within the Directorate includes providing support to AU Member States, Regional Bodies and other partners to generate wealth, create income opportunities and show case examples, learning and innovation through Flagship Projects in key development sectors such as the Blue Economy, Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Agri-Foods Industry.



Day 2: Panel 2 (11:15 - 12:30)

Regenerative Tourism: Engaging the Private Sector with Ocean Stewardship

Tourism has immense power to influence the health of our oceans — for better or worse. This session explores how the tourism industry can move beyond sustainability toward regeneration, actively restoring marine environments while supporting local economies. Bringing together panellists from the private sector, and conservation organizations, the discussion will highlight successful partnerships, innovative financing, and practical strategies for integrating ocean stewardship into tourism development. By sharing scalable models and policy insights, the panel aims to inspire collaborative action across sectors to protect and restore marine ecosystems in alignment with the Ocean20 agenda.



Moderator: Ms. Safiyya Sedick, NRF-SAEON

Safiyya is a marine biologist whose work bridges offshore ecology, biodiversity, and ocean governance. Trained as a benthic ecologist and taxonomist, she has contributed to the discovery of new species, biodiversity mapping, and environmental assessments, with a strong grounding in South Africa's offshore ecosystems. She now works in the policy development space, focusing on evidence-based and inclusive approaches to ocean governance, and is particularly committed to ensuring that marine science informs decision-making at both national and international levels. Beyond her professional work, Safiyya is passionate about people and actively engages in humanitarian initiatives that uplift the community.

Dr. Maryam Ali Ficociello, Red Sea Global

Maryam serves as the Chief Governance Officer at Red Sea Global, where she leads the Governance, Risk, and Compliance Division and has developed key frameworks for internal control, enterprise risk, and resilience. A recognized expert in governance and sustainability, she has contributed to national initiatives such as the Saudi Green Initiative, the Saudi Red Sea Authority's mandate, and the Saudi Public Sector Governance Framework. Beyond her corporate role, Maryam is a founding member and Secretary of the Executive Committee for the Oversight of the Sustainability of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and an advisor on ESG and environmental policy. She has represented Saudi Arabia at international forums, including the UN Climate Change and Ocean Conferences, and continues to champion governance excellence and ocean stewardship globally.



Professor Ameer A. Eweida, AEON Collective

Professor Eweida has over 30 years of broad-range and specialist experience in research and conservation, policy development, and field applications with an emphasis on multi-disciplinary and cutting-edge science for planning, decision support, and ecosystem-based management of socio-ecological systems. His career has focused on regenerative blue economy, sustainability, resilience and regeneration science, marine and coastal ecology, conservation, coral reef ecosystem ecology, restoration, climate change, marine spatial planning, systema8c conservation planning, biodiversity offsetting, ecosystem-based management and adaptation, nature-based solutions, marine impact assessment, monitoring, marine protected areas and locally managed marine areas, marine invasive species, and blue carbon assessment and management. His work has geographically focused on the Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic Sea, Indian Ocean, Arabian Gulf, Great and Ningaloo Barrier Reefs in Australia, and the Gulf of Mexico and been published in more than 80 scientific articles, book chapters, and global reports.



Ms. Estelle van der Merwe, OCEAN Action Network

Estelle van der Merwe has extensive experience in marine environmental issues, focusing on oiled wildlife response, IUU fishing, and Antarctic protection. She has consulted for organisations such as WWF International, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, contributing to international forums including the FAO's Port States Measures Agreement, CCAMLR, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, and ACAP. Having worked closely with the South African government and other African countries through the FAO, NEPAD, and SADC, Estelle founded OCEAN Action Network – in 2020 to advance ocean conservation and support coastal communities through skills development, employment initiatives, and awareness projects, including the Fish Net Recycling Project on Collier Jetty with the V&A Waterfront.



Day 2: Panel 3 (13:30 - 14:45)

Enhancing the Capacity of Global Ocean Governance through Marine Spatial Planning and other Tools

This panel will explore Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a critical tool for strengthening global ocean governance. The ocean underpins life, economies, and climate stability, yet faces mounting pressure from overuse, climate change, and biodiversity loss. MSP provides a practical, science-based framework to balance conservation, sustainable use, and equitable access. Under South Africa's G20 Presidency, MSP has been highlighted as a mechanism for international coordination, cooperation, and capacity-building. By integrating ecological, economic, and social data, MSP promotes transparent, inclusive, and evidence-based decision-making aligned with the UN Decade of Ocean Science, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Moderator: Ms. Safiyya Sedick, NRF-SAEON

Safiyya is a marine biologist whose work bridges offshore ecology, biodiversity, and ocean governance. Trained as a benthic ecologist and taxonomist, she has contributed to the discovery of new species, biodiversity mapping, and environmental assessments, with a strong grounding in South Africa's offshore ecosystems. She now works in the policy development space, focusing on evidence-based and inclusive approaches to ocean governance, and is particularly committed to ensuring that marine science informs decision-making at both national and international levels. Beyond her professional work, Safiyya is passionate about people and actively engages in humanitarian initiatives that uplift the community.

Ms. Yan Li, China Oceanic Development Foundation

Ms. Yan Li serves as Vice Director of Ocean Governance at the China Oceanic Development Foundation (CODF), where she leads international cooperation initiatives with a focus on marine spatial planning and global ocean governance. Since 2017, she has coordinated multi-national efforts in marine spatial planning, collaborating with 14 spatial planning organizations across 20 countries. In 2018, 2024, and 2025, she spearheaded the organization of the International Forum for Maritime Silk Road and Island Countries, along with the 2nd and 3rd Marine Spatial Planning Cooperation Workshops for partner countries along the Maritime Silk Road. Since 2022, Ms. Yan has been conducting in-depth research on the influence and operational mechanisms of NGOs in the negotiation of the BBNJ Agreement, resulting in multiple published papers in this field.



Dr. Shannon Hampton, Private Consultant

Shannon Hampton is an ocean governance expert with experience in marine ecology and policy research. Her diverse research interests include marine invasive species management, small scale fisheries, ocean governance, biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, marine spatial management and science to policy interface. After her PhD at UCT, she has worked in the NGO and private sectors and at a research institute. Her work, throughout Africa, has had a focus on capacity enhancement. She's passionate about facilitating transdisciplinary partnerships to look at innovative ways to improve ocean governance and capacity for ocean governance in Africa.

Dr. Samantha Petersen, WWF-SA

Samantha currently holds the position of South West Indian Ocean Regional Seascape Leader for WWF. In this role she leads WWF's oceans related work across five countries – South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Madagascar. She has over 20 years' of experience including managing large teams, developing and implementing highly impactful initiatives and strategies to tackle some of society's most intractable social and ecological challenges. Her work to date has focused on enabling the effective implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, coastal community led conservation, sustainable blue economy and delivery of the global biodiversity framework. She has a special interest in unlocking private sector finance to enable conservation and sustainable development to deliver impact at scale. She is passionate about conservation, cares deeply about humanity and wholeheartedly believes in a future where people and nature prosper.



Dr. Diane Foster, WHOI

As Vice President and Dean of Academic Programs, Dr. Diane Foster leads the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's (WHOI) comprehensive suite of educational initiatives, overseeing programs that span undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, and library services. With a steadfast commitment to academic excellence, she plays a central role in shaping WHOI's education strategy and ensuring its continued reputation as a global leader in oceanographic research and education.

Panel 4 (14:45 - 16:00)

Early career ocean professionals on the future of ECOPs : Reflections on the Workshop Visions

This interactive session brings together Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) to reflect on the visions and themes developed during Day 1 of the Ocean20 Summit and discuss how emerging leaders can shape a sustainable ocean future. Moderated by Dr. Riesna Audh and Dr. Mia Strand, the panel will feature reflections from ECOP representatives on their roles, challenges, and opportunities in advancing inclusive and science-based ocean stewardship. Through open dialogue and audience engagement, the session aims to identify ECOP priorities, actions, and collaborative pathways that can inform the summit's outcomes. Highlighting diverse voices and expertise, the discussion will emphasize the essential role of early-career professionals in driving innovation, equity, and long-term sustainability in ocean governance.

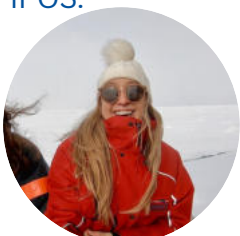


Moderator: Dr. Riesna Audh, NRF-SAEON

Dr. Audh is a the research coordinator for the South African Polar Research Infrastructures Polar Lab Facility. She specialise in polar oceanography, sea ice biogeochemistry, ECR and stakeholder engagement. She is passionate about fostering the development and mentorship of ECOPs and ensuring the transition from student to professional is manageable and sustainable for all ECOPs, regardless of background. She aims to contribute towards creating opportunities for capacity building, skill development, and collaboration, ensuring that early-career voices are amplified in both national and international conversations.

Moderator: Dr. Mia Strand, Coastal and Marine Research-Nelson Mandela University

Mia Strand (she/her) is an Ocean Nexus Postdoctoral Research Fellow based at the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research at Nelson Mandela University, focusing on transdisciplinary knowledge co-production processes to centre equity in ocean governance. Her research focuses on cognitive equity in marine science and ocean governance, specifically looking into opportunities to re-imagine processes that value and recognise a plurality of ocean knowledges. She is a member of the International Science Council expert group for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference and the Acting Knowledge Committee for Towards IPOS.



Ms. Sina Wallschuss

I specialise in biogeochemical oceanography. My aspirations within the UN Ocean Decade are rooted in addressing the pressing challenge of ocean deoxygenation – not only to advance scientific understanding, but to help ensure healthier marine ecosystems and more just, sustainable futures for the communities who depend on them. I am passionate about amplifying African ECOP voices, promoting meaningful inclusion in ocean science, and supporting interdisciplinary collaborations that advance ocean sustainability through the bridging of science, society, policy, and industry.

Ms. Maggie Poulos

Maggie Poulos is a PhD student in Stanford University's E-IPER Program (short for Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources) interested in intersectional equity and blue justice through the lens of marine resource management. Drawing from studies of the commons, diverse economies, and decolonial feminist political ecologies, she explores gendered access, use, and rights to resources through local governance mechanisms and their connections to collective action and well-being. She holds a Master of Public Policy from Duke University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Studies from Macalester College.



Mr. Khotso Mogotlane

Khotso is an environmental and sustainability advocate. As founder of the Hotlane Organization and Country Lead for Esgenetique Corporate Solutions South Africa, he leads circular economy projects and youth-centered climate action. He hosts Africa's Leaders in Sustainability on Vuka Online Radio, amplifying voices in conservation and innovation. Through his work with the UN Ocean Decade, Khotso connects underserved communities with scientists, mobilizing local knowledge and data collection to advance marine conservation, strengthen research, and build resilient ecosystems across Africa's coastal and urban landscapes

Ms. Philile Mvula

Philile Mvula is an Ocean Product Developer for the Sustainable Ocean Modelling Initiative: a South African approach (SOMISANA) team. She is passionate about increasing numerical modelling capacity within South African ECOPs; thus, she is also a PhD Candidate within the Oceanography department at the University of Cape Town, where her research focuses on numerical modelling of submesoscale dynamics that arise from topographic anomalies within the Agulhas Current system.



OCEAN20 TAPESTRY



Ocean20 Summit Celebration, Tapestry, Keiskamma Trust, 2025

KEISKAMMA TRUST



Credit: Grace Coetsee/Keiskamma Trust



Hamburg village, Eastern Cape, South Africa

The Keiskamma Art Project is part of the greater Keiskamma Trust, a South African not-for-profit organization dedicated to the holistic care of the communities that live in the area alongside the Keiskamma River in the Eastern Cape. The Trust began with a healing vision, to restore hope and dignity to people with very few resources, living at the precipice of change. It was founded in 2000 by artist and doctor, Carol Hofmeyr. Today the Keiskamma Art Project, the flagship of the greater Trust, works to maintain its founder's vision, providing vital livelihoods through dignified work, while communicating, through art, the reality of rural lives affected by both poverty and history. The work of the project aims to engage local knowledge of both youth and the elders in our communities, integrating many kinds of research in the archiving and interpretation of the Eastern Cape rural collective memory and oral history.

At Keiskamma Art Project we guide, train and support community members in an organisation that creates meaningful, often monumental, embroidered artworks. We currently employ 60-70 people, the majority being rural women, who support around 6 dependents. The livelihoods we generate are used primarily for food and nutrition, clothing, medicine, transport of children to school, maintenance of homes, and even support of children at tertiary institutions. Increasingly, the artworks we create enable advocacy. In the making of, and their exhibition, our artworks both educate and provide platforms for the growth of our beneficiaries. This helps beneficiaries develop their voices and exposes them to cosmopolitan opportunities in local and international culture. Through our work we build bridges between communities; rural and urban, creative and governmental, engaging active change agents and policy makers on vital issues affecting South Africans.

www.keiskamma.org

To get in touch with Keiskamma Art Project, please email:
michaela@keiskamma.org or cebo@keiskamma.org



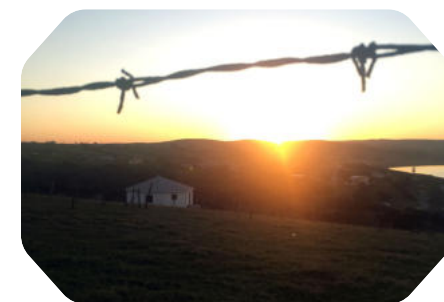
Credit: Keiskamma Trust



Credit: Keiskamma Trust



Credit: Keiskamma Trust



Credit: Keiskamma Trust

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank and acknowledge all the advisory committee organisations, partners, speakers, and participants who were engaged in the Ocean20 meetings, webinars, workshops, and who contributed to and supported the Ocean Actions throughout the year.

Our special thanks and acknowledgement is given to the South African National Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) for funding and support of the Ocean20 activities.

Ocean20 South Africa Advisory Committee

United National Global Compact (Co-Convener)
National Institute for Ocean Research (INPO), Brazil
UNESCO Chair for Ocean Sustainability, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, United States of America
African Union Development Agency-NEPAD

Knowledge Partners

African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET)
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European Commission
Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Africa
Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO)
South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI)
South African National Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture (SANWFA)
Thyssen Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA)-21
Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation

Visit our website





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Social Media:

 [@ocean20sa](https://www.instagram.com/ocean20sa)  [Ocean20SA](https://www.facebook.com/Ocean20SA)

 [@Ocean20_SA](https://twitter.com/Ocean20_SA)  [Ocean20 South Africa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Ocean20%20South%20Africa)