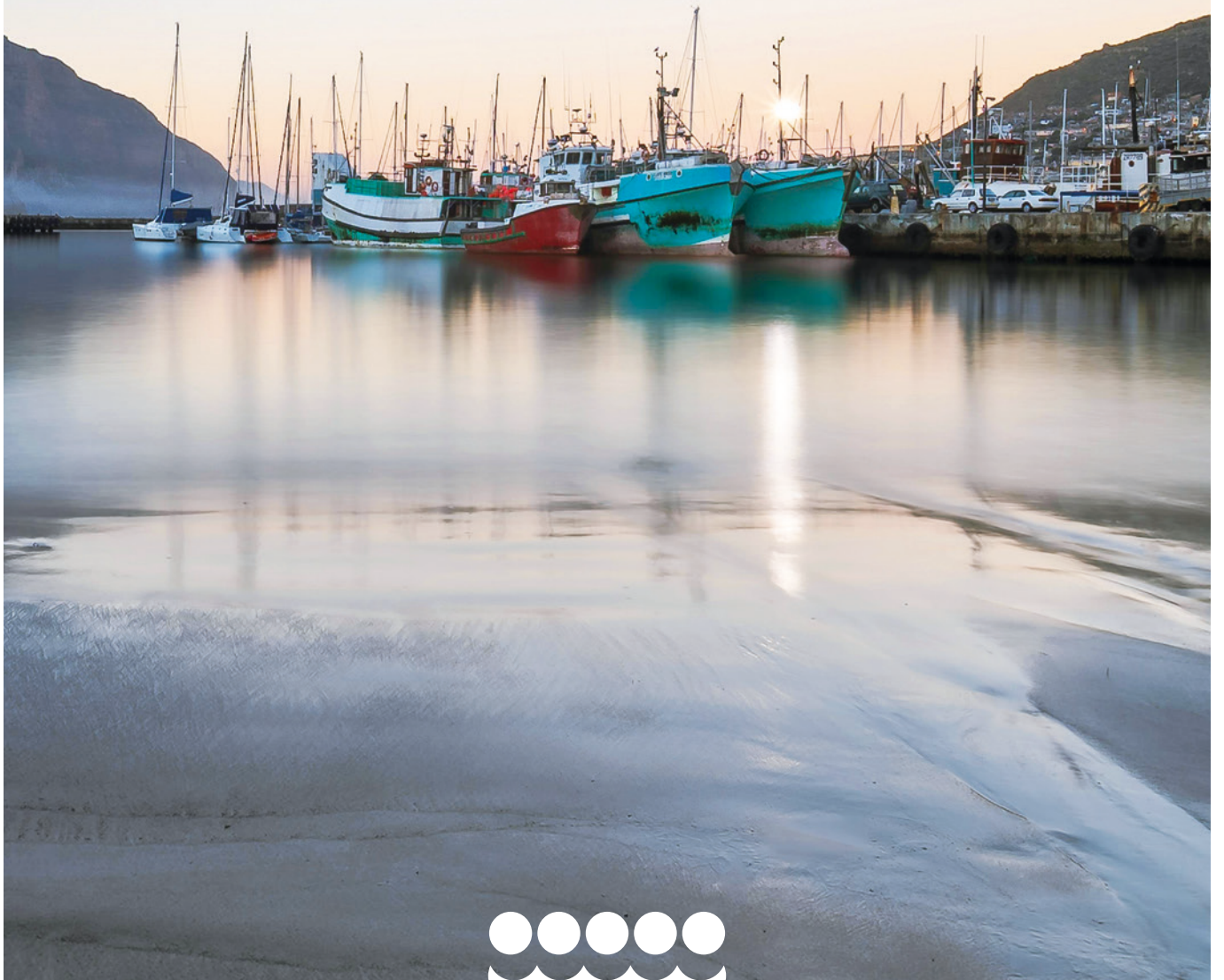


Reflections

2023–2025



Pacem in Maribus



International Ocean Institute
Southern Africa (IOI-SA)

“ IOI-SA focuses on building ocean governance capacity and strengthening ocean literacy at regional and national level. ”

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Pacem in Maribus

About IOI-SA

Ocean governance is high on the global agenda, with increasing recognition of the vital role of the ocean in life, including climate regulation, biodiversity, food security, and economic development. The International Ocean Institute—Southern Africa (IOI-SA) is one of the operational centres within the global International Ocean Institute (IOI) network, dedicated to ocean governance and sustainability. IOI-SA focuses on building ocean governance capacity and strengthening ocean literacy at regional and national level. This work seeks to build bridges between ocean based sectors, and contribute to the collective effort towards ocean sustainability. In addition, IOI-SA produces research, policy and strategy-related outputs to address key challenges of sustainable ocean governance in support of communities, and other stakeholders at national and regional level, concerned with securing a sustainable, healthy and peaceful future for all.



Mission Statement

The International Ocean Institute—Southern Africa (IOI-SA) is committed to advancing sustainable ocean governance by building capacity, strengthening ocean literacy, and fostering collaboration across ocean-based sectors. We work to support informed decision-making, empower communities, and generate research, policy, and strategic insights that address pressing ocean challenges. Through our efforts, IOI-SA contributes to securing a sustainable, healthy, and peaceful ocean future for all.

Our Team

As an associate-based organization, IOI-SA collaborates with professionals who bring expertise and experience to advance our mission. IOI-SA Associates become part of a dynamic global ocean governance network, fostering knowledge exchange and best practice, with the opportunity to:

- ◆ Shape and implement meaningful ocean governance projects and capacity-building programs, as well as ocean literacy initiatives.
- ◆ Contribute to strengthening ocean governance leadership and capacity.
- ◆ Engage with policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to drive sustainable ocean governance solutions.

IOI-SA has a small core team of 2 people, namely:



JUDY BEAUMONT
Director of the organisation

Judy Beaumont has worked in the environmental sector for 30 years, focusing on environmental sustainability, ocean and coastal management and climate change response. For much of that time, she worked for the South African Government in the department responsible for environmental management. Judy has a Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) degree in Environmental Science and an Honours degree in African Studies from the University of Cape Town.



KIRSHIA GOVENDER
IOI-SA Programme Manager

Kirshia spent 14 years at the Two Oceans Aquarium, initially as a volunteer aquarist and penguin keeper, and 9 years at the Environmental Education Centre where she taught Marine Science and Conservation and gained experience in programme development and coordination. She has designed and facilitated a variety of educational programmes for learners and tertiary-level students, as well as workshops for both formal and informal educators, locally and internationally. Kirshia holds an honours degree in Science Education and Marine Biology from the University of Cape Town.



Our Management Committee

IOI-SA is a non-profit organization registered with, and reporting to the South African Department of Social Development, in accordance with the Nonprofit Organisations Act. IOI-SA also reports to the International Ocean Institute Headquarters (IOI-HQ) in Malta on operational and financial activities.

Governance of the organisation is undertaken by a Management Committee, and in accordance with the IOI-SA Constitution. The Management Committee plays a key role in:

- ♦ **Strategy Development:** Contributing to the development of IOI-SA's strategic goals, objectives and plan.
- ♦ **Fundraising and Partnerships:** Advising on and supporting efforts to secure financial resources and build partnerships with other supportive organizations.
- ♦ **Program Review and Evaluation:** Reviewing and providing feedback on IOI-SA's programs and initiatives and their impact.
- ♦ **Networking and Outreach:** Promoting the IOI-SA vision, and building relationships with key stakeholders in the ocean governance and sustainability sector.
- ♦ **Financial management:** Managing the financial affairs of IOI-SA, including ensuring that proper records and books of account are kept, that the Annual Financial Statement is prepared for each financial year by a practicing chartered accountant.

Our Management Committee is chaired by Judy Beaumont. Management Committee members are:



Kashiefa Parker, IOI-SA Associate Kashiefa's strong interest in social development has been her motivation for promoting holistic and integrated conservation and management approaches, and bridging the communication gap between different sectors and stakeholders. Kashiefa completed her Masters of Social Sciences degree (M.SocSc) with the Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department at the University of Cape Town, focussing on the human dimensions of marine and fisheries management in South Africa. She has worked extensively in a consulting capacity.



Leticia Greyling joined the Rhodes Business School in 2010, coordinating their sustainability cluster for their "Leadership in Sustainability" MBA programme, certificate courses and assisting businesses and government in mainstreaming environmental and sustainability management initiatives. Leticia holds two MSc degrees, (UJ [previously RAU] and UCT) and completed her MBA (Rhodes). Her professional experience has been moulded in the corporate environment, including responsibility for sustainability strategy and policy development at Transnet National Ports Authority's head office for almost a decade until early 2010.



Buhle Francis is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Integrated Post-School Education and Training (CIPSET) at Nelson Mandela University and an Associate Researcher at the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR). Her work focuses on ocean governance, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity, gender, and climate change adaptation in marine and coastal systems, with a strong emphasis on collaborative action research with coastal communities. Buhle holds a PhD in Environmental Science from Rhodes University and an MPhil in Environmental Management from Stellenbosch University.



Lynn Jackson, treasurer, has a PhD in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina, as well as a Graduate Diploma in Marine Law from the University of Cape Town. She spent 24 years in the Marine Pollution Division of the national Department of Environment Affairs, before becoming the Director of the Global Invasive Species Programme between 2003–2007. She subsequently established herself as an independent consultant, also working as an associate of both IOI-SA and EnAct International. During the course of her career, Lynn has gained a wide range of experience in marine and coastal management and marine law and has worked with local, national and international governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations and industry.

Our Partners

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is our primary institutional partner. Collaboration is based on a memorandum of understanding, and focuses on the role of ocean governance in the context of conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Over the years, IOI-SA has partnered with a range of organisations on various current and completed projects that contributed to advancing capacity and knowledge on ocean governance. These include:

- ♦ The Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation: partner in delivering the online Ocean Academy (current).
- ♦ AfriSeas Solutions: partner on short courses in ocean accounting (current).
- ♦ IUCN: partner on a project on capacity building for BBNJ implementation in Africa (current).
- ♦ WIOMSA, SANBI and the University of Cape Town: short course on co-designing solutions for ocean sustainability (completed).
- ♦ Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE): partner in the finalization of management plans for marine protected areas on the West Coast (completed).
- ♦ The South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI): partner on various ocean governance related short courses (completed).
- ♦ Abidjan Convention: partner on a small-scale funding agreement to strengthen ocean governance in selected Abidjan Convention Parties (completed).
- ♦ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO): partner on Small Scale Fisheries Governance Training Programmes (completed).
- ♦ Institute for Security Studies (ISS): partner on delivering a report on Africa's Blue Economy and Climate Change (completed)



Funding

Financial sustainability

Funding is from three major sources namely:

- funds from IOI Head Quarters for the annual 1-month in-house Ocean Governance Training Programme, and two online Ocean Academy courses;
- donor funding;
- income from the provision of consultancy services. Details can be found in the Annual Financial Statement



Our programmes and projects

Ocean Governance Training Programme

The **annual, in-person 1 month Ocean Governance Training programme** has, since 2013 achieved 198 Alumni from 25 African countries. This course is designed to strengthen capacity to engage with and address complex ocean governance challenges in the African region, particularly among early and mid career professionals working in diverse ocean-related sectors. A key objective is to foster a network of practitioners who will actively work towards and advocate for responsible, knowledge-based ocean governance across Africa. While the course highlights the importance of the global ocean governance framework, it has a regional focus, emphasizing the benefits of harmonizing ocean policies that promote a shared, integrated, and common approach to ocean management in Africa. We encourage peer-to-peer learning and group exercises throughout the training. Field trips form an integral part of the technical course schedule.

OGTP 2025 highlights

The 13th Ocean Governance Training Programme took place from the 1st to the 26th of September 2025 at Kirstenbosch Gardens in Cape Town. Of the 23 participants, 12 were from South Africa and 11 from countries across Africa, including Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Seychelles, Mozambique, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Egypt and Cameroon.



OGTP 2025: The photos above show groupwork on the Marine Spatial Planning game (donated to IOI-SA by IOC UNESCO), and a gathering at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens.

OGTP 2024 Highlights

The 12th Ocean Governance Training Programme took place from the 4th to the 29th of November 2024, at Kirstenbosch Gardens, in Cape Town, South Africa. We welcomed 22 participants from Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Seychelles and South Africa.



The International Ocean Institute Alumni Network is a dedicated platform for all Alumni of IOI courses globally. Alumni register and join an Alumni Directory that is searchable by year/class/group, by name or by occupation, providing the opportunity to connect with peers around the world, learn and share experiences, and discuss challenges.

“ Since 2013: **198 Alumni**
from **25 Countries** in Africa ”

Online Ocean Academy Literacy Course

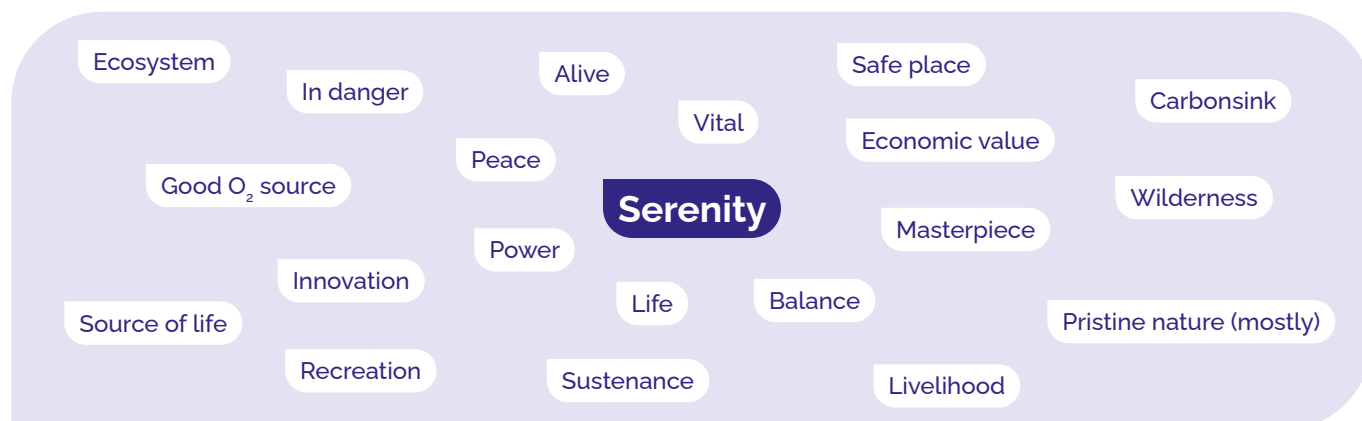
Since 2022 IOI-SA has delivered 8 online courses of 20 hours each, with a total of 193 participants successfully completed their training. The Ocean Academy provides locally relevant, entry-level online education programmes, enabling participants to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to understand the complexities of the ocean and its local and global effects and opportunities, now and in a changing future. The course seeks to lay foundations for more informed understanding of the complexity of our ocean, and support personal daily decision-making and action. Thematic areas include:

- 💧 What the ocean means for life on earth, and to each of us
- 💧 Marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services
- 💧 A solutions-based focus on challenges facing our oceans and coasts
- 💧 An introduction to climate change and what it means for our oceans and coasts
- 💧 An introduction to the blue economy
- 💧 Opportunities for contributing to healthier oceans, citizen science and
- 💧 An introduction to science communication

“ Since 2022 IOI-SA has delivered **8 online courses**
of **20 hours each**, with a total of **193 participants**
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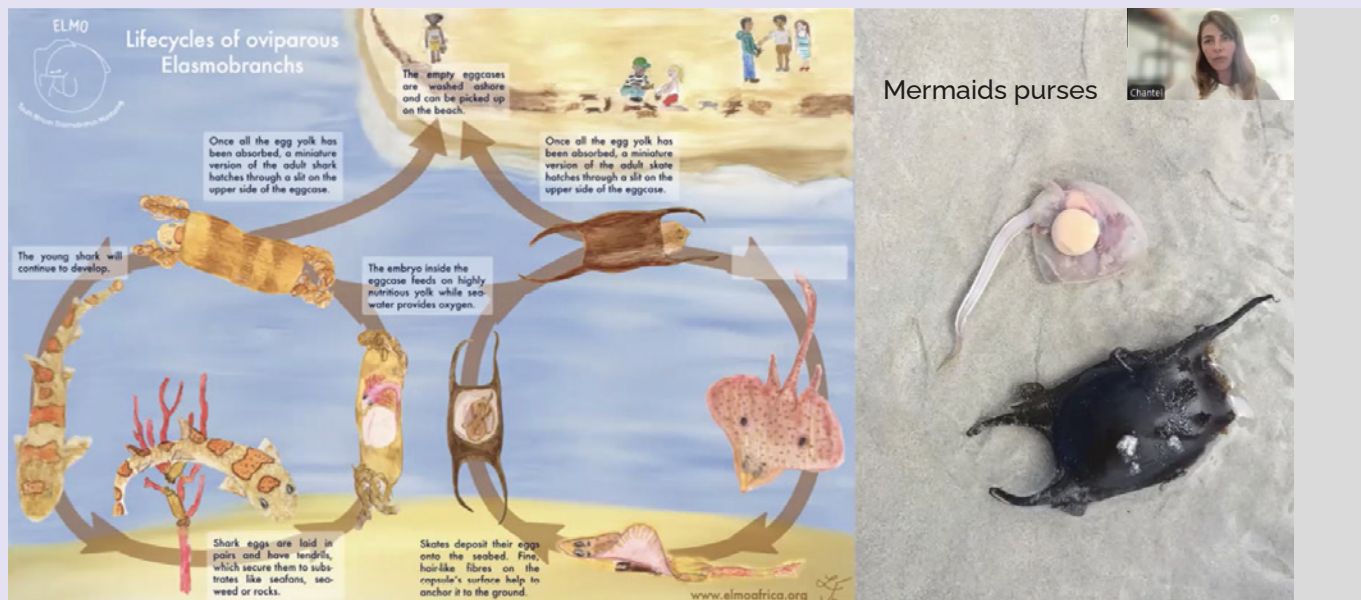
The partnership with the Two Oceans Aquarium is enriching, offering Ocean Academy participants unique, experience-based learning opportunities guided by expert presenters. The sessions combined practical, real-world insights with interactive exploration, including:

- 💧 An introduction to South Africa's network of marine protected areas and their role in conservation.
- 💧 An exploration of marine and coastal biodiversity in South Africa, including a virtual tour of the Two Oceans Aquarium exhibits.
- 💧 A virtual tour of the turtle rehabilitation facility, featuring interactive discussions on practical considerations associated with the rehabilitation of marine wildlife.
- 💧 A focus on marine wildlife management in environments where urban and wildlife areas intersect intensively.

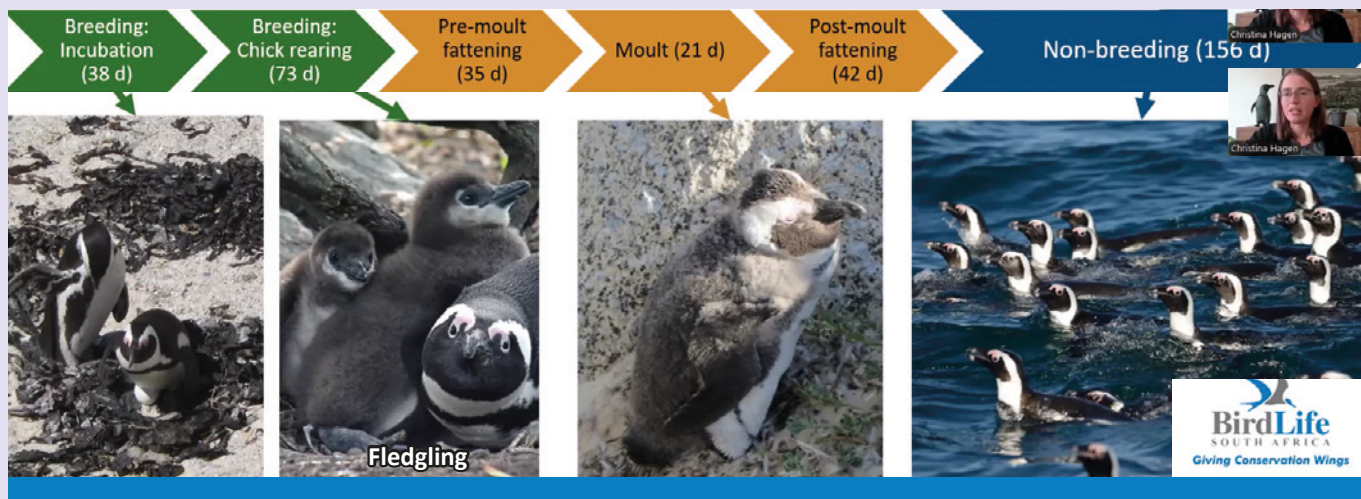


Participants were asked to provide one word of what the ocean means to them, this structured approach provided a deeper, more engaging experience for all participants.



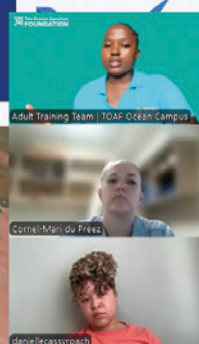


ELMO a [South African Elasmobranch Monitoring](#) project, shared a presentation on a citizen science initiative that uses public input to monitor shark, ray, and skate populations.



Christina Hagen, Birdlife SA, shared a crucial presentation on the alarming decline of African penguin colonies in South Africa.

Reduce conflict between wildlife and the users of the V&A Waterfront including minimising injuries to wildlife and training.



Phindile Gazu, Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation, shared the incredible projects in conservation, research and education.

Other programmes and projects: 2025

Interpretation and application of Ocean Accounting in Marine Spatial Planning: 1-day in-person short course in January 2026

IOI-SA and AfriSeas Solutions hosted a one-day participatory roundtable and role-play workshop on the 21st of January 2026, to explore the interpretation and application of ocean accounting in strengthening decision-making for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes.

The workshop brought together diverse perspectives of 25 participants from various sectors. At the outset, participants were introduced to the principles and application of ocean accounting, with a focus on how it can support valuations for trade-off analysis across environmental, economic and social domains, and transparent, evidence-based decisions in Marine Spatial Planning. To encourage understanding, the key component of the day was an active participatory role-play simulation, with participants taking on roles of different ocean sectors and stakeholders for a hypothetical country scenario.



“ The workshop brought together
diverse perspectives of 25 participants
from various sectors. ”





Report and policy brief on Africa's Blue Economy and Climate Change – Current Realities ...

In partnership with the Institute of Security Studies, the IOI-SA prepared a report and policy brief on the impact of climate change on Africa's Blue Economy. This report examines the state of Africa's blue economy, highlighting its vast potential alongside the growing pressures affecting the continent's marine and freshwater resources in a changing climate. Authored by specialists with deep experience in African ocean governance and climate resilience, Shannon Hampton, a marine biologist with extensive expertise in governance frameworks across Africa; Judy Beaumont, Director of IOI-SA, and David Willima, a maritime researcher with the Climate Risk and Human Security Project at the Institute for Security Studies—the report brings a multidisciplinary perspective to this complex landscape. The report outlines strategic pathways for strengthening regional cooperation, advancing ecosystem-based management, improving climate-resilient infrastructure, and promoting inclusive, transparent governance in Africa's blue economy. The final report can be found at: <https://issafrica.org/research/monographs/africas-blue-economy-and-climate-change-status-and-emerging-pathways>

Co-designing Solutions for Ocean Sustainability in the Western Indian Ocean: 5-day in-person short course for Western Indian Ocean participants in August 2025

In August 2025, twenty-three ocean and environmental professionals from across the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) gathered at the SANBI Research Centre in Cape Town for a unique five-day journey of discovery, collaboration, and creativity. The course, "Building Bridges between Science, Policy and Society: Co-designing Solutions for Ocean Sustainability" was an immersion into collaborating for sustainable solutions. The Western Indian Ocean is celebrated for its spectacular marine biodiversity and vibrant coastal communities. Yet, it faces mounting challenges: overfishing, coastal development, pollution, and the escalating impacts of climate change. Conventional approaches to addressing these issues have often leaned heavily on science, producing knowledge but not always solutions that resonate locally. This workshop was different. Funded by WIOMSA-SCALABLE and hosted by SANBI in partnership with Nelson Mandela University, the University of Cape Town, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) of Southern Africa and Germany, the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, and IOC-UNESCO, the training aimed to equip participants with the mindset, tools, and practical experience needed for co-design.



Development of Management Plans for the Benguela Mud and Cape Canyon Marine Protected Areas

IOI-SA was contract by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to assist the Department with a process of engaging stakeholders and finalising management plans for two marine protected areas (MPAs) off the west coast of South Africa: the Benguela Mud MPA and the Cape Canyon MPA. This process was undertaken in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (57 of 2003, as amended). The project involved workshops and consultations with a wide array of stakeholders to raise awareness of the MPAs, to discuss and receive feedback on the draft management plans, and to explain the process of finalising the management plans. This project was undertaken in partnership with Eco-Africa.

New Protected Areas on the West Coast

In 2019 South Africa proclaimed 20 new Marine Protected Areas including 2 off Cape Columbine: the Benguela Muds and Cape Canyon Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This initiative is part of South Africa's efforts to meet its international obligations on protected areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The next step in this process is to develop Management Plans for these MPAs in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Benguela Muds & Cape Canyon Marine Protected Areas

Proposed Vision

To manage the Cape Canyon and Benguela Muds MPAs and their associated ecosystems in a way that maintains their ecological integrity, conservation value and contribution to the sustainable management of key fisheries.

Management authority

The management of the marine environment and its living resources is a national responsibility undertaken by the Minister of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). The Branch: Oceans and Coasts of DFFE is responsible for the management of offshore MPAs. The management authority is required to consult regularly with stakeholders through a local Stakeholder Forum to maintain an effective consultative management programme.

Benefits of the MPAs

- To protect threatened habitats and sensitive ecosystems
- To protect threatened canyon habitats from trawling and mining
- To protect and conserve marine resources which can lead to more sustainable and diverse livelihood options
- To provide potential opportunities for tourism in the Cape Canyon area, although the Benguela Muds MPA is regarded as being too far offshore
- To protect feeding areas of whales and seabirds



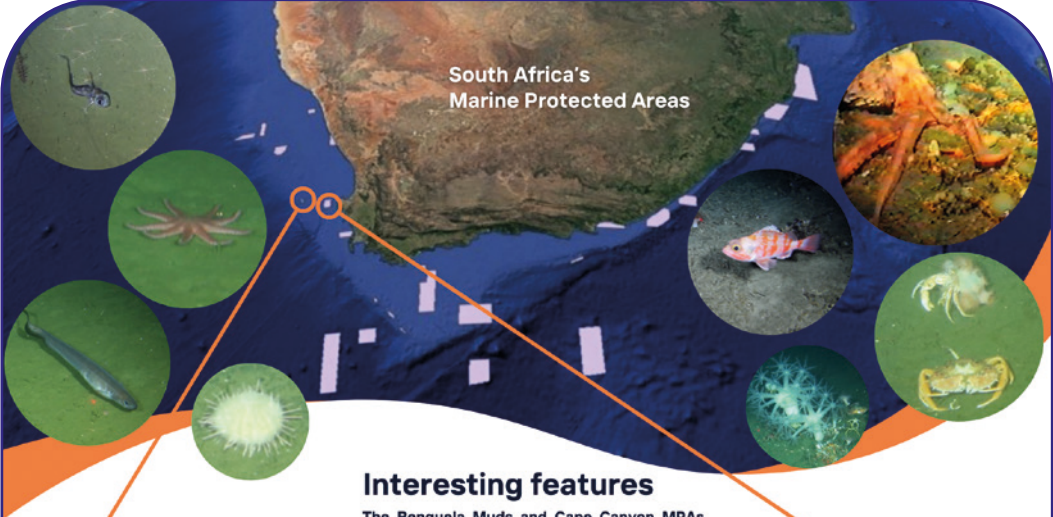
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Stakeholder Workshop
in Saldanha Bay:
1st October 2024



South Africa's
Marine Protected Areas

Benguela Muds MPA

The Benguela Muds MPA lies almost due west of Cape Columbine about 97 km offshore, at a depth of 350–400m. It consists of a single block of about 6 x 17 km and includes the seabed and water column. The total area of the MPA is approximately 92 km² making it one of the smallest MPAs in the country.

Cape Canyon MPA

The Cape Canyon MPA lies west of Cape Columbine, about 19 km offshore, at a depth of 200–400m. It consists of a single rectangular block about 20 x 29 km and includes the seabed and water column. It is moderate in size, being 583 km².

Interesting features

The Benguela Muds and Cape Canyon MPAs are amongst the 42 MPAs established by South Africa to date. Both are located within an internationally recognised Ecologically or Biologically Sensitive Area (EBSA) which includes unique/rare ecosystems. It is important as a feeding area for whales and seabirds and as a spawning and nursery area for hake. Additionally, it is home to a number of fragile species such as seafans, falling within the Benguela Current Ecosystem which is characterised by upwelling of nutrient rich water. This makes it very productive, particularly near Cape Columbine.

SAEON & DFFE Benthic camera team, SANBI

Other programmes and projects: 2024

Small Scale Fisheries Mentors Training: 2024

In 2024, IOI-SA partnered with the South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI) in the delivery of a short course for SSF Mentors in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Western Cape. The training programme sought to equip the SSF mentors, appointed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, to support the SSF co-operatives. The 3-day short course focussed on the policy and legal framework for the SSF sector in South Africa, the rights allocation process, as well as management of these rights within a collective, co-operative structure. The course was also aimed at building skills that would assist the Mentors to support co-operatives to address day-to-day challenges and identify possible solutions to enable the effective use and management of SSF rights.



LUSIKSIKI TRAINING: 11–13 September 2024

“ ... aimed at building skills that would assist the Mentors to support co-operatives to address day-to-day challenges and identify possible solutions ... ”



CAPE TOWN TRAINING: 17–19 September 2024

Our programmes and projects: 2023–2025

Abidjan Convention ocean governance capacity building programme

The Abidjan Convention, is a pivotal regional agreement adopted in 1981 under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). From Mauritania in the north to South Africa in the south, the Convention provides a framework for cooperation among member states to address critical challenges such as marine pollution, habitat degradation, and the impacts of climate change. Funded by UNEP, the IOI-SA was appointed as implementor of a project to strengthen capacity to implement ocean governance tools, working at regional (Abidjan Convention region) and national level with Sierra Leone and São Tomé and Príncipe as pilot countries for the project. This project was undertaken in partnership with the Abidjan Convention Secretariate.

“ ... address critical challenges
such as marine pollution, habitat degradation,
and the impacts of climate change ... ”



Short course with municipal officials and traditional leaders on the blue economy

In 2023, IOI-SA partnered with SAIMI in the delivery of 3 short courses in the Eastern Cape to enable municipal officials and traditional leaders to engage effectively with Blue Economy projects and programmes in their area. The training intervention provided practical skills to enable participation in planning, decision-making and implementation of Blue Economy projects within the local jurisdiction.



Our programmes and projects: 2021–2025

Training on Small Scale Fisheries

IOI-SA partnered with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to develop and deliver a number of training courses to promote the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines, 2015).

Regional training courses were delivered in the Africa and Asia regions in 2021, aimed at government actors with the objective of building capacity for the uptake of the SSF Guidelines through policy and action.

In 2022, a training programme was delivered in Malawi, to support the development of the National Plan of Action for small-scale fisheries in the country, and in the Philippines in 2023. The eLearning version of the course was developed and launched by the [FAO e-learning academy](#) in 2023.

“ Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication ”



Community outreach and ocean awareness days

Students in Antarctica Expedition - 9-15 December 2025

"From 9–15 December 2025, five South African Grade 11 learners participated in the Students in Antarctica Programme, led by explorer Riaan Manser, gaining first-hand experience of the Antarctic environment through a combination of scientific learning, physical challenges, and leadership development. Kirshia Govender from the International Ocean Institute – Southern Africa (IOI-SA) joined the expedition as one of the educators, contributing to a programme that linked physical oceanography and marine conservation. Pre-expedition activities in Cape Town, with a visit to Coastal Park landfill site, focused on waste management, and a session on marine conservation awareness. During the expedition, learners engaged in experiential learning across polar landscapes, explored key concepts such as international ocean governance frameworks, and developed resilience through activities including glacier hikes, camping, and a half-marathon in extreme conditions. The programme strengthened environmental awareness, critical thinking, and youth leadership, with participants expected to share their experiences to inspire broader community engagement in environmental stewardship."



World Ocean Day 2025

In celebration of World Ocean Day 2025, on Saturday 7 June, the International Ocean Institute—Southern Africa (IOI-SA) partnered with the Black Mermaid Foundation and Phillippi Village for a special day of connection, courage, and discovery at Millers Point, within the Table Mountain National Park Marine Protected Area (TMNP MPA). The 2025 theme, *"Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us"*, is a powerful reminder that the ocean not only sustains us materially through food, energy, and trade, but also inspires, connects, and nurtures us.

High school learners from Philippi community located on the Cape Flats, braved the cold winter morning to participate in a transformative ocean experience. Despite a close cancellation due to icy winds and rain on the forecast, the water held steady at 14°C, offering a surprisingly welcoming environment.

“Wonder: *Sustaining What Sustains Us*”



Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Day—Live virtual tour within Table Mountain National Park MPA

MPA Day aligns with global goals, including the 30x30 initiative, protecting 30% of land, freshwater, and ocean by 2030, and the UN Ocean Decade Challenges. Although there are more than 5,000 MPAs worldwide, only a little over 3% of the ocean is effectively protected. South Africa contributes 41 MPAs along its mainland coast.

According to the MPA Day Committee, the 2025 highlights include:

800+ km

Covered in the
#Run4MPAs Strava
Challenge

120+

Global
partners
collaborating

104

Events
recorded

31

Countries
participating

22

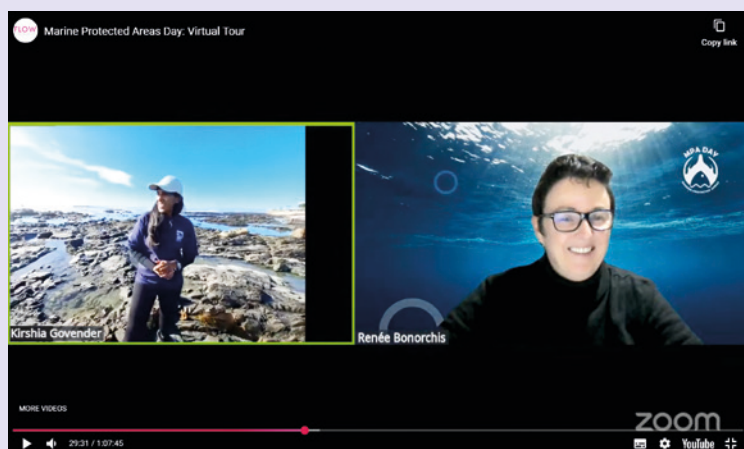
Mission Blue Hope
Spots involved

School groups, rangers, communities, artists, scientists, and athletes, all came together to support MPAs. Activities ranged widely, including shoreline walks, boat trips, clean-ups, shore explorations, classroom sessions, film screenings, storytelling, snorkelling and dives, art and photography competitions, virtual tours, webinars, TV and radio features, new interactive maps, seaweed tasting, mangrove planting, and more.

Nationally, MPA Day was also integrated into the second IOI-SA Ocean Academy training, with a full day dedicated to MPA awareness. IOI-SA also played a key role in the Cape Town public event on Friday, 1 August, contributing to a virtual tour showcasing South Africa's MPAs. Scientists, storytellers, and conservationists presented 10-minute insights from MPAs across the country.

Key takeaways from the virtual tour included:

- 💧 Why MPAs are essential safe havens for marine species
- 💧 How Ocean health influences daily human life
- 💧 Actions everyone can take to help protect these vital blue spaces



Kirshia Govender, IOI-SA Programme Manager, featured the Table Mountain National Park MPA, sharing the unique marine life found along the rocky shores of Sea Point.

Together, these efforts show that when people unite around the ocean, real change becomes possible, reminding us that protecting our blue planet starts with each of us.

2024 Highlights

World Ocean Day 2024

World Ocean Day, Saturday, June 8th, IOI-SA were honoured to support a community event hosted by Shamier Magmoet and the team at Sea the Bigger Picture and Argonaut Science. Open Day Snorkelling was held at Windmill Beach, Cape Town, South Africa, to raise awareness of our Great African Kelp Forest and surrounding rocky shores. The event offered snorkelling lessons to the public, providing many with their first snorkelling experience supported by experienced divers in a safe environment. To ensure everyone could participate in the marine activities, Kirshia Govender, IOI-SA, and team from Aonyx Marine Experiences conducted guided rock pool walks along the shore for both snorkelers and those hesitant to snorkel.

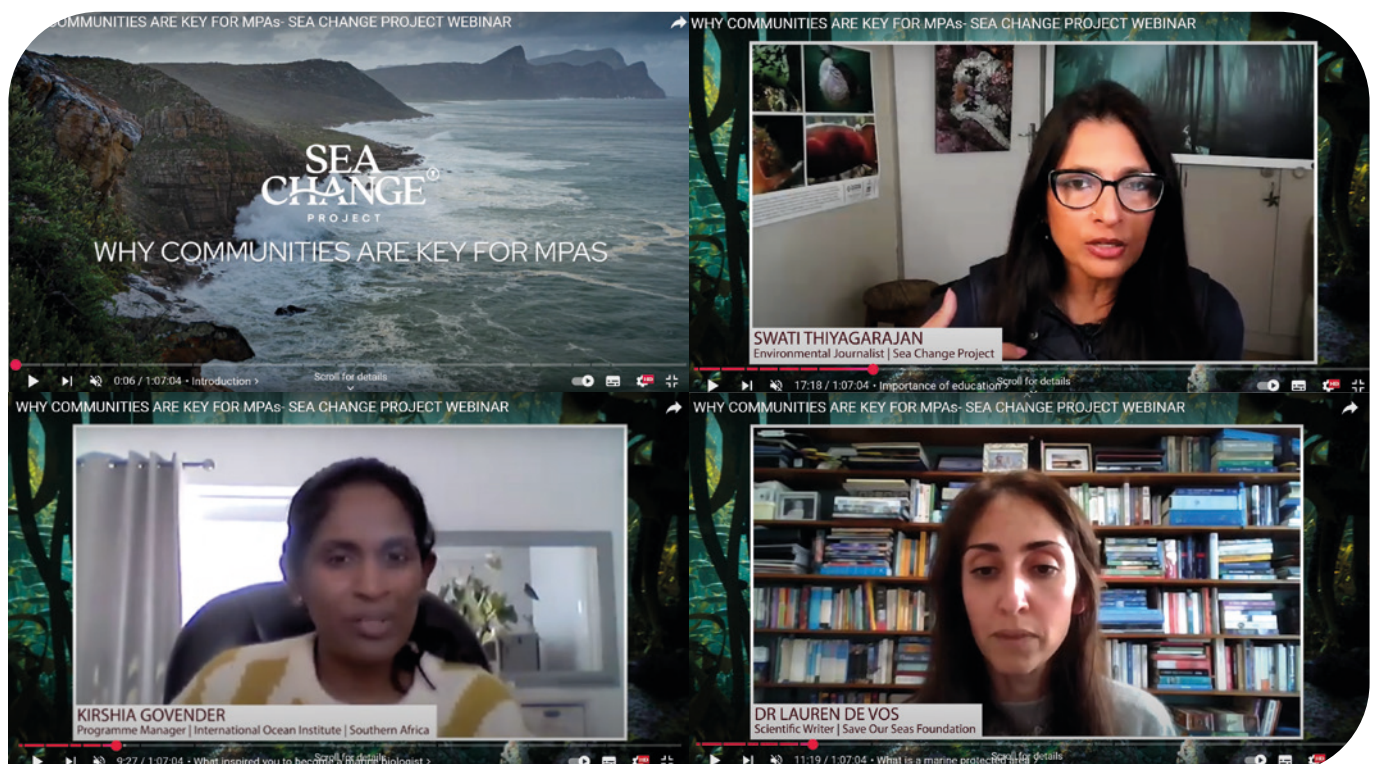
The event was a success, engaged with 105 ocean explorers and provided incredible knowledge about the marine life found underwater and along our rocky shores. It was a beautiful day of communities uniting for the ocean, recognizing the ocean as a safe space for all and highlighted experiential marine education at its finest.



Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Day

Live Webinar with Sea Change Project—1 August 2024

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are vital tools for conservation, with South Africa home to 42 MPAs along its coastline. While these areas safeguard marine life, they are also deeply connected to surrounding communities, some of which were historically displaced, leading to ongoing challenges around access, rights, and inclusion. This raises critical questions about how conservation, community needs, education, policy, and science can work together for shared benefit. To explore these issues, a webinar moderated by Sea Change Project conservation journalist Swati Thiyagarajan brought together a diverse panel of experts, including Kirshia Govender, Programme Manager at IOI-SA. The discussion highlighted the ecological importance of MPAs, unpacked their social complexities, and examined pathways toward more inclusive, equitable ocean conservation that benefits both people and nature.



2023 Highlights

World Ocean Day

Saturday the 10th of June, World Oceans Day, the International Ocean Institute Southern African teamed up with Cape Kayak Adventures for a day of celebration in raising awareness about the importance of our ocean to promote their conservation. The ocean plays a critical role in regulating the Earth's climate, providing resources and livelihoods for people all over the world and with that supports a variety of marine biodiversity. Unfortunately, they are also under threat from a range of human activities, such as overfishing, pollution and climate change.

A step towards a cleaner and healthier ocean we invited the public to celebrate World Oceans Day with us. Winter rain cleans our streets, but along with it, so much plastic trash gets swept into our ocean. Three Anchor Bay beach is known to accumulate a lot of litter directly from the ocean and the objective of the cleanup was to pick up as much of the floating litter at the water surface. This experience was led by Kirshia Govender, IOI-SA and Tracy Rauch, Cape Kayak Adventures, and her team of guides to allow for an informed experience highlighting the marine life in Table Bay including the threats to them. A fun experience to celebrate, appreciate and conserve our marine life by removing as much marine waste as possible.



International Cleanup Day 2023

Saturday 16 September, International Coastal Cleanup Day, Ocean Governance training participants braved the cold and rain, in the early hours of the morning at Milnerton Beach for a beach cleanup. The cleanup initiative was coordinated by various organizations, such as Save a Fishie, Sentinel Ocean alliance, Parley Tv, and Zero Waste SA. The beach was not in a good state after the storm, strewn with shredded plastic, microplastics, cotton bud sticks, lollipop sticks, straws, horrible nurdles and so much more. Everyone pitched in with INCREDIBLE effort, contributing to the conservation of our ocean and volunteering their free time for International Coastal cleanup day.





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