



Original: English

Distr.: General

07 May 2019

Western Indian Ocean Regional Science to Policy Workshop

27-29 May 2019

Port Louis, Mauritius

Experience of the Indian Ocean Commission in oceanographic data and scientific research (28 May 2019)

The success of ocean sustainable development in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) over the long term requires constructive collaboration and action by those undertaking ocean economic activities, i.e. the ocean business and investment community. The ocean is increasingly crowded - with more users and a greater range, intensity and duration of use. This creates complex challenges for ocean businesses, including: conflicts among users, cumulative environmental impacts, competition between economic activities, and conflicts with other values, e.g. marine protection.

Many companies are making significant efforts and progress in understanding, developing and implementing responsible ocean economic operations. However, because many of the critical issues affecting the ocean use, access and social license are cross-cutting and multi-sectoral. Because of this, the best efforts by a single company, or an entire industry sector, or one country are not enough.

Ocean industry leadership and collaboration in addressing shared responsibilities, stewardship and science in support of ocean sustainable development can bring benefits such as synergies and economies of scale and promote the development of public-private partnerships. Leadership companies are increasingly working on international, multi-sectoral ocean sustainability leadership through the World Ocean Council (WOC), the only global, multi-sectoral business leadership alliance for “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”.

The WOC is creating international, cross-sectoral ocean industry leadership through creating the “Ocean Investment Platform”, addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launching a global Young Ocean Professionals initiative, developing the “Smart Ocean-Smart Industries” (SO-SI) program, creating the WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit. WOC is tackling ocean sustainability issues critical to business, e.g. ocean governance/policy; marine spatial planning; marine sound; pollution; the Arctic; biofouling/marine invasive species; marine mammal impacts; port reception facilities, marine debris, and plastics; adaptation of ports and coastal infrastructure to sea level rise/extreme weather events.

Bio Details

Paul Holthus is the founding President/CEO of the World Ocean Council (WOC), the Global Blue Economy Business Organization. WOC brings together shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, offshore renewables, ports, seabed mining, submarine cable and other ocean industries – and investors to create leadership, collaboration and action on “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”.

Holthus initiated the WOC “SMART Ocean-SMART Industries” program to foster and scale up ocean data collection from ships/platforms of opportunity, and established formal WOC

relationship with key intergovernmental organizations, e.g. UNESCO IOC, WMO, International Hydrographic Organization.

Holthus has worked in over 30 countries with companies, communities, industry associations, UN agencies, international NGOs and foundations. He has held senior positions with UNEP and international environmental organisations, including as Deputy Director of IUCN's Global Marine Programme and was the originator the "Coral Triangle". Since 1998, he has worked with the private sector to develop practical solutions to ocean sustainability and responsible use.

He is a graduate of the Universities of California and Hawaii, was a Fulbright scholar in Australia and is an East-West Center alum.