COVID-19 and the future of Ocean Sustainability – supporting adaptation to post-COVID changes in the Western Indian Ocean

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David Obura, Ravenna Nuaimy-Barker, Sydney Hayes, Aboud Jumbe, Dresy Lovaosoa, Jenny Oates, Mercy Amai + participants

https://sustainableoceanslab.org/?page_id=79
https://cordioea.net/covid-19-and-the-future-of-ocean-sustainability

ReosPartners

CORDIO
East Africa

https://sustainableoceanslab.org/

September

Process Objectives

Understanding of how COVID-19 will impact ocean sustainability in the short-term and long-term

Identification of strategic implications of these impacts for sustainable oceans work

New or strengthened relationships with other actors working to advance sustainable oceans

Approach

2 cohorts (east and west) attending 4 (2-3 hour) online workshops in September-October 2020

Two Global Cohorts of Participants

Ocean Sustainability Areas

How are these affected in the long term by:

- Economic recession
- Digitalization
- Data and research

What influences outcomes?

Exacerbators

- Tendency towards business as usual
- Unsupportive political environments
- Siloed thinking and action
- Climate change impacts
- Reduced focus on climate change and environment
- Degraded quality of international negotiations and other governance dialogues
- Poor capacity in key actors
- Increasing inequality

Alleviators

- Cooperation
- Effective governance
- Empowered and supported local communities
- Strategic use of the disruption
- Funding
- Inspired yout[h]
- Improving eq[uity]

Longer term outcomes - scenarios

Alleviators

Exacerbators

Economic Recession
Lockdowns lead to a widespread economic recession. The consequent hardships ...

Regrow and Adapt

Withdraw and Protect

Increase in Digitalization
Many activities previously held in-person have gone online, massive uptake of digital technologies and ways of doing ...

Connecting Worlds

Digital Divide

Changes to Data and Research
Monitoring and research degraded, disruptions to human activity create unprecedented conditions ...
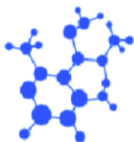
Discovery

Closing Down

Strategic implications/actions -> Building Forward Better

Ensure COVID-19 recovery is inclusive and blue

Build resilience

Embrace interconnectivity and complexity

Leverage digitalization for ocean sustainability

Reduce ecosystem pressures and threats

Support mindset shift

Connecting to the Nairobi Convention and its Work programme

Building capacity and resilience to cope with multiple and diverse threats, including of climate change:

- to support countries in their commitment to attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through Goal 14

- build partnerships by implementing catalytic activities

- convene science-policy dialogues … to provide knowledge and generate approaches to tackling current and emerging threats

Recommendations – next workplan

- Incorporate scenario or 'future thinking' approaches into project development
  - *take advantage of and strengthen alleviators*
  - *avoid and reduce the influence of exacerbators*

- Identify how one or more of the strategic interventions can be mainstreamed into COVID-recovery and other projects and processes

- Support dialogues and consultations at relevant levels (local, national, regional) for WIO participants to explore and define their experience of COVID-19 and its implications for their lives and work

Parting words:

Integrated socio-ecological approaches

SDG framework

Regional, sectoral and multi-actor cooperation essential in long term responses to COVID and other sustainability challenges