

# Engaging the Private Sector in Regional Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean Region

Nairobi Convention 2021 Science to Policy Platform Meeting

23-25 March 2021



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# Partnership

“...with a growing blue economy and increasing use of ocean space for human activities, maintaining a productive and healthy ocean becomes more difficult.... In practice, enduring sustainability can be achieved only if best practices are applied in both the public and private sectors and where productive partnerships between the two are encouraged and advanced.”

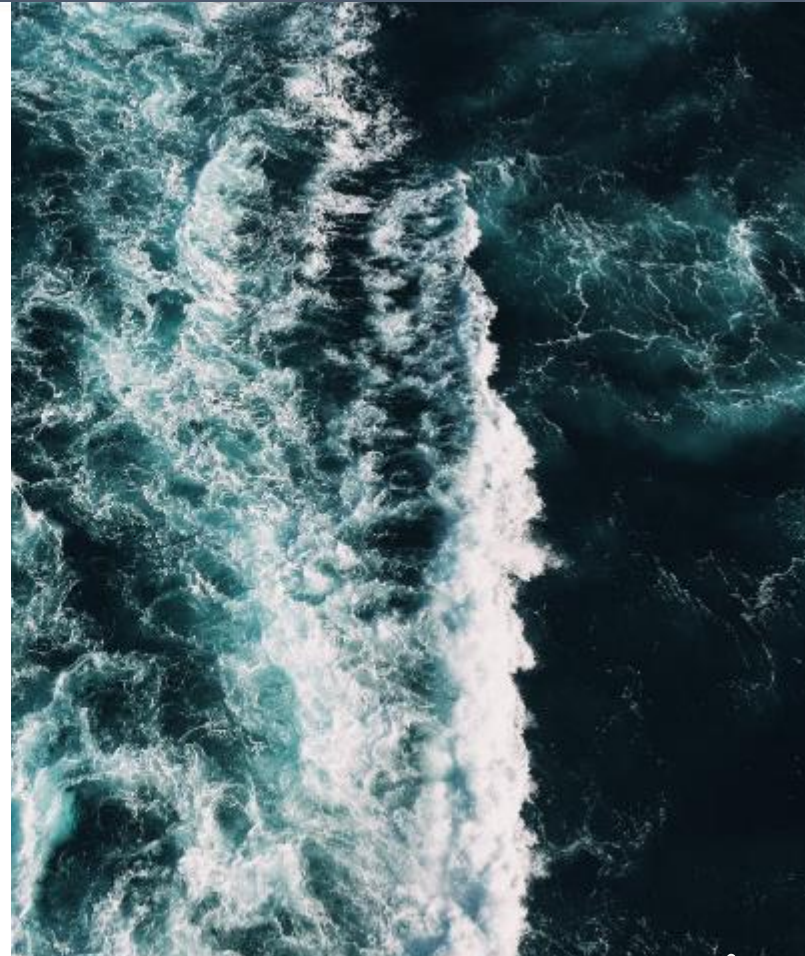
- High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy



Efforts to involve the private sector in ocean governance within the WIO region have been piecemeal and have often failed to deliver on expectations.

In part, this can be ascribed to a lack of focus on **mutual benefit** for all partners.

Note, the private sector is **highly diverse**, and can equally play a number of **potential roles** in partnerships (should not be considered only a source of funding).



## Proposed partnerships emerging from the Strategic Framework:

- A WIO Blue Economy Platform
- Research and monitoring
- Sectoral partnerships
  - *Ocean Accounting*
  - *Sustainable Octopus Utilization*
  - *ICT for Fisheries*
  - *Regional Sustainable Tourism Council*
  - *Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre*



## Recommendations:

- Adopt the Strategic Framework for Engagement of the Private Sector in the Western Indian Ocean and the recommendations therein, including:
  - *An implementation plan and framework for reporting on progress for the Strategic Framework*
  - *Assessing the feasibility of the WIO Blue Economy Platform*
  - *Establish focus groups to assess and drive forward the partnerships proposed through the Strategic Framework.*
- Endorse a strategic regional multistakeholder advocacy initiative to support private sector engagement and partnership.



**Thank You**