



Strategic workshop: towards an inclusive blue economy - key highlights

27 – 28 February 2019, Cumberland Lodge

The main goal of this 1.5-day workshop was to identify ways of working together to create a greater shared ambition for achieving an inclusive and sustainable blue economy - fit for the future.

We opened the workshop by sharing major messages and themes that came out of the larger IIED meeting earlier in the week, as well as individual thoughts to 'keep in the room'. These included:

- Harnessing the momentum in the blue economy agenda
- Recognising interconnectedness between areas of the ocean; between science and policy; and between global, national policies, and local voices
- Calling the need to ensure that no one is left behind in the transition towards an inclusive and sustainable blue economy

Next, representatives of four main interest groups (ocean science, identifying and filling critical gaps in skills and capacity, financing an inclusive blue economy, and governance and policy) gave short overviews of their work agendas. We used these to kick off discussion within our interest groups, before a plenary exchange of findings and discussion, in which we identified potential synergies and new opportunities across interest areas. These included:

- Building the case for new financial models and products, and engaging the private sector (including small-scale fisheries)
- Identifying and valuing critical natural capital (using inclusive methods) and integrating into national accounts
- The UN Decade of Ocean Science (2012-2030) can be a useful umbrella to bring different initiatives together (existing and new)
- The coming decade is also going to be one full of environmental shocks, so we need to act quickly to make the ocean a more important part of climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Building on lessons from the climate space and engaging youth activism
- Policy-makers, scientists, and fisherfolk representatives all need to be in the room before decisions start being made
- Effective solutions should not only balance ecological and socioeconomic benefits, but also political agendas
- Systems thinking and interdisciplinarity are essential

After lunch, Essam Yassin Mohammed gave us his thoughts on the scope and current narrative of the blue economy (broadly – we have been building the wrong narrative around people who depend on marine resources, and we must shape it to be more inclusive) before suggesting four broad categories of 'new ambitions' for collective impact, based on the above synergies and opportunities.

In parallel scoping groups, we had structured discussions around how these ambitions can be put into practice within the next decade. Later, all but one person in each group changed groups to hear what another group developed, adding additional thoughts and ideas. Here is a brief summary of what we came up with:

Group 1: Future proofing 'inclusive blue economy'

We want to minimise risk by shifting from efficiency to resilience. We will develop a narrative and use it to build momentum and disrupt the status quo of how the ocean features in climate change adaptation and mitigation, through engagement with a range of initiatives and events (e.g. Our Oceans conference 2020, BBNJ negotiations, WTO negotiations, Blue CoP 25, UN Decade of Ocean Science, Commonwealth Blue Charter Champions meeting.) We will support efforts to embed the ocean in the UNFCCC through initiatives such as Because the Ocean and Ocean Pathway. However, the quickest way to move towards climate resilience will be to incorporate blue carbon into MPA benefits for 30%-by-2030 goal, through IUCN's guidance to the CBD.

Group 2: Filling technical and knowledge gaps

We propose a circular and people-centred approach to the collection of meaningful information for an inclusive blue economy. This starts with a toolkit on how to understand and represent vulnerability and marginalisation at a national level. We could test this in five countries, helping them to produce country reports and feeding the data into national accounts in a way that informs local value chains in fisheries and beyond, ultimately demonstrating hidden value. By starting with the 'low-hanging fish' (i.e. countries which are already collecting some good data), and taking a staggered approach over, say, five years, each country will learn from the previous. Immediate next actions are to identify partners and find funding.

Group 3: Science for a sustainable blue economy

We want to create a 'go-to' platform for 'ocean science services' – i.e. one that makes high quality science available to stakeholders and translates it to a form that is useful to support policy, livelihood and investment decisions. This science includes conventional natural and social science, traditional knowledge, and citizen science. The platform should help to bridge the divide between scientists and policymakers in both directions – sometimes policymakers have specific questions that they want answers to, but science can also highlight policy needs. This platform will be demand led, so we need to carefully define our audience/users. It will require a strong coalition of interested parties, mapping of 'competitors' (e.g. IUCN), and definition of mission-critical datasets/information. This ambition must speak to the 'future-proofing' ambition, if information is to be provided at the pace required, and it overlaps with the 'filling gaps' ambition.

Group 4: Finance for a sustainable blue economy

We want to a) support the development of a pipeline of investable projects, b) ensure that impact or private investment projects do not compromise social equity by developing guidance for monitoring impacts, and c) change perceptions by documenting examples that demonstrate proof of concept (as well as the risks of business as usual). In addition to businesses and investors, other relevant stakeholders and initiatives include DFIs (they leverage government funding for private investment), WRI, FAO, Fish 2.0, GIIN's Roadmap for the Future of Impact Investing, Development Impact Bonds, and OECD's Tri Hita Karana Roadmap for Blended Finance. Immediate activities could include sharing information on potential funders, linking projects under development to potential sources of finance, and making the case for blended finance to governments. The G20 commitments (as well as B20 and T20) are critical events. This ambition links to 'future-proofing' (which requires investment in the restoration and rebuilding of natural capital) and 'filling gaps' (we need to get small-scale capital to small-scale businesses including the informal sector).

The next morning, we focused discussion on how to create a momentum for change, and ideas for leveraging the new ambitions. Essam shared IIED's plans for a 'Centre of Excellence for the Blue Economy', and you gave your feedback:

- What is the scope? The blue economy is quite broad, so should we restrict ourselves to where we already have credibility (ie inclusion, environmental justice, and SMEs) or leverage the expertise of others in the group (e.g. WWF) to engage with big business?
- Our current and exploratory areas of work do all fall into at least one of them:

- Ocean science (working with scientific institutions to fill critical gaps in ocean science, and effectively communicating with policy makers)
- Filling knowledge and technical capacity gaps (high seas governance, natural capital accounting)
- Future proofing (plastic pollution, a shift from command-and-control to incentive-based fisheries management)
- Innovative finance (impact investing, fiscal reforms)
- We also identified a few strong cross-cutting themes: gender, informality/power structures in the fisheries sector, and connectivity, which we will try to mainstream in all our work
- We've taken on board that the terminology 'Centre of Excellence' implies a physical hub for research and will give this further thought. We envisage it to be a safe shared virtual platform for IIED and other like-minded organisations and individuals to bridge science, policy, and practice by convening scientists, policymakers, businesses, practitioners, NGOs, and other stakeholders in the blue economy. Our goal is to amplify individual voices and strands of work, influence policy interventions, and enhance policy impact.



We closed the workshop by asking how each of you is willing to engage with this concept, and what will inspire you to do so.

Nick Hardman-Mountford, Commonwealth Secretariat	This group can help SIDS/LCDs deliver on the Commonwealth Blue Charter by joining action groups. Also interested to engage on a personal level e.g. as a fellow.
Gerald Miles, Rare	Willing to invest in bringing local voice and leadership to policy research and negotiations (particularly for small-scale fisheries); hold joint events (e.g. at World Bank Spring Meetings, Our Oceans, FAO technical, UNFCCC SBSTA); and bring local support and MyFish to natural capital accounting work.
Nicolas Pascal, Blue Finance	Inspired to engage with policy research by providing case studies, developing blueprints, and holding workshops.
Mitchell Lay, Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations	Willing to collaborate around data sharing/use and capacity building to promote small-scale fishers' livelihoods.
Thomas Egli, BlueYou Consulting	Able to provide proof of concept that small-scale fisheries and aquaculture can be sustainable when properly funded and incentivised to undergo reform. Interested in a platform connecting potential serious small/medium scale investors who are willing to invest in real projects.

Remi Parmentier, the Varda Group	Willing to engage if there is clear added value developed through a roadmap.
Robert Arthur, MRAG	Inspired by the opportunity to get more support for work on data collection systems, subsidies and capacity building; do more collaborative work; and enhance impact of work.
Monirul Islam, University of Dhaka	Inspired to engage on many levels e.g. bridging gaps with local communities, information sharing, fieldwork, stakeholder engagement.
Editrudith Lukanga, EMEDO Tanzania	Inspired by a mechanism to bridge global and local divide. Can bring experience and voices from the ground.
Melita Samoilys, CORDIO	Inspired to be part of a large coalition that is turning the thinking on the blue economy. This would give us an outlet for heaps of data on small-scale fisheries, reef health, success stories, etc. in the Western Indian Ocean. Flexible and responsive with good links to government, but need some help getting focused research to high-level policy decision-makers.
Callum Roberts, York University	Interested in bringing good science to policy decisions, using science to highlight policy needs, and pursuing new and emerging questions. Can help to develop and synthesis scientific research and translate complex science into terms that are easily understood.
Philip James, Consultant	Can engage via overlapping interests (poverty, livelihoods, fiscal focus) and personal interest in small-scale fisheries economics and the Pacific. Particularly interested in the 'filling gaps' ambition, but as a consultancy would need a little financial support.
Louise Heaps, WWF	Inspired by the prospect of an informal collaborative platform for knowledge sharing and joint idea/initiative creation, from large- to small-scale. Would leverage this platform to build momentum and transformative change in response to urgency of the agenda. Will support development of group narrative and look for ways to develop/support/lead initiatives.
Daniel Crockett, Blue Marine Foundation	Interested in the prospect of convening project developers and funders with interest in clear and strong protection and environmental gains. Helping to implement the UK's first MPA and want to ensure the sustainable blue economy is integrated.
William Cheung, UBC	Inspired by the concept of a credible broker of scientific knowledge to support policy-making, particularly for regions or groups who have less access to information. Happy to collaborate on policy-relevant research around climate change scenarios and models for fisheries.
Ekaterina Popova, NOC	Want to help bridge the divide between scientists and policy. My group is sitting on a huge amount of climate change data, and we need to find people to use it.
Gemma Harper, DEFRA	DEFRA's inspiration would be a forum on ocean conservation as set out in environment plan and ocean strategy. This could be an opportunity for promotion of and influence over the blue economy by the UK on the global stage, and to help influence the UN decade of ocean science. Must be a safe and trusted space (no lobbying) or will not work.
Steve Fletcher, UNEP WCMC	Inspired by relevance to global policy and clear science-policy link.
Mara Ntona, University of Strathclyde	Can provide clarification of legal terms, experience from countries in which One Ocean Hub is active, expertise in equity, human rights, plastics, and climate change. Particularly interested in 'filling gaps' and

	science ambitions. This could be a good opportunity to bring a broader perspective to the One Ocean Hub.
Glen Wright, IDDRI	Collaboration would need to align with existing IDDRI projects and consider funding. If we develop a clear roadmap then can see areas for joint papers/projects/events to broaden perspective and deepen research. Willing to collaborate in a personal capacity (e.g. writing, review, social media, Little Blue Letter).

We would like to reconvene as a group in about six months. In the meantime, building on your comments, immediate next actions for IIED are as follows:

- We will develop a narrative for an inclusive and sustainable blue economy – one with people and livelihoods at its core. We will also put down on paper our theory of change, allowing participants to see more clearly where there is overlap in workstreams. This will in turn guide our ‘branding’ decisions – that is, the values we project, our core messages and principles and our ways of working - which make this collaboration distinct from others. **(By end May)**
- We will begin exploring funding opportunities, whether for a few initial individual projects or for the concept of the centre as a whole. **(some work underway following up contacts)**
- We will map out any other organisations in a similar space (e.g. WRI, UNEP, WEF) and see if collaboration is appropriate/desirable. **(By end April)**
- We will identify options for group communication (e.g. a safe virtual space – email has been vetoed!) **(By early April)**

Annex: list of participants and contact details

First name	Last name	Job title	Organisation	Twitter handle	Email
Melita	Samoilys	Director	Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean		melita.samoilys@gmail.com
Monirul	Islam	Professor	University of Dhaka		monirulislam153@yahoo.com
William	Cheung	Associate Professor	University of British Columbia	@coru_ubc	w.cheung@oceans.ubc.ca
Philip	James	Fisheries Economist	Consultant		pasjames@gmail.com
Glen	Wright	Research fellow	IDDRI	@MarinePolicy	glen.wright@iddri.org
Ekaterina	Popova	Global Ocean Modeller	National oceanography Centre	@NOCnews	e.popova@ngeoc.ac.uk
Editrudith	Lukanga	Executive Director	EMEDO Tanzania	@EditrudithLuka1	elukanga@gmail.com
Remi	Parmentier	Director	The Varda Group	@RemiParmentier	remi@vardagroup.org
Mara	Ntona	PhD Fellow, Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance	University of Strathclyde	@mara_ntona	maria.ntona@strath.ac.uk
Callum	Roberts	Professor, Department of Environment and Geography	York University (from Wednesday morning)	@Prof_CallumYork	callum.roberts@york.ac.uk
Robert	Arthur	Associate	MRAG		r.arthur@mrug.co.uk
Louise	Heaps	Head of Blue Economy	WWF	@LMHeaps	lheaps@wwf.org.uk
Gerald	Miles	VP, Global Development	Rare	@GeraldMilesRare	gmiles@rare.org
Daniel	Crockett	Head of Development	Blue Marine Foundation	@Bluemarinef	dan@bluemarinefoundation.com
Nick	Hardman-Mountford	Head of Ocean and Natural Resources	Commonwealth Secretariat	@nmco2	n.hardman-mountford@commonwealth.int

Mitchell	Lay	Program Coordinator	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations		mitchlay@yahoo.co.uk
Thomas	Egli	Fishery Project Manager	BlueYou Consulting		thomas.egli@blueyou.com
Gemma	Harper	Marine and Fisheries	DEFRA, UK Government	@Queen_of_Marine	natasha.goff@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Nicolas	Pascal	Project Director	Blue Finance		npascal@blue-finance.org
Rashid	Sumaila	Director of the Fisheries Economics Research Unit at UBC's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries	University of British Columbia (to Wednesday lunchtime)	@DrRashidSumaila	r.sumaila@oceans.ubc.ca
Steve	Fletcher	Chief Strategy Officer	UNEP WCMC	@DrSFletcher	Steve.Fletcher@unep-wcmc.org
Andrew	Norton	Director	IIED (to Wednesday lunchtime)	@andynortondey	andrew.norton@iied.org
Laura	Kelly	Director of Shaping Sustainable Markets Group	IIED	@LauraKellyIIED	laura.kelly@iied.org
Essam	Yassin Mohammed	Head of Blue Economy	IIED	@EYMohammed	eymohammed@iied.org
Rosalind	Goodrich	Head of Research Communications	IIED	@RosGoodrich	rosalind.goodrich@iied.org
Annabelle	Bladon	Researcher	IIED	@AJBladon	annabelle.bladon@iied.org
Ina	Porras	Senior researcher	IIED	@Ina_Porras	ina.porras@iied.org
Gillian	Martin Mehers	Facilitator	Bright Green Learning		