

Strategic discussions at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park

SL4 2HP

27-28 February 2019



Background

IIED is convening a day-and-a-half strategic workshop for a select group of partners and critical thinkers on 27 and 28 February 2019. You are invited to join us at [Cumberland Lodge](#) in Windsor Great Park.

The group of around 25 people will be meeting immediately after a larger event held over two days in Central Hall, Westminster. That event will highlight some of the issues arising from the ambition for the growing blue economy to be inclusive; our Cumberland Lodge meeting will take these issues and consider in more detail how we can all act to address them in the near and longer-term future.

Why now?

Ocean ecosystems are under threat from pollution, habitat destruction, overfishing and climate change. One billion people worldwide rely on fish as their main or only source of animal protein, and more than 300 million people are directly or indirectly employed by the fisheries sector. The desire of countries to create a dynamic marine economy is coming at the cost of a healthy ocean.

There are many examples of government fiscal policies and public and private sector investment decisions rewarding unsustainable practices — looking for short-term profits rather than long-term viability.

And those investment decisions are often made on incomplete evidence – underestimating the contribution small-scale fisheries and their associated value chains make to national economies.

In ocean areas beyond the jurisdiction of nations there is little or no system of governance, making the high seas a free-for-all for whoever has the capacity to extract their precious genetic resources or use the waters as a dumping ground for toxic waste.

There are many other issues – the knock-on effects of dramatic ocean warming, for instance - that must be considered and acted upon, because the consequences of continued inaction could now be catastrophic. Millions of livelihoods could be lost and thousands of communities will have reduced access to a staple food that they rely on for their survival. Even more parts of the ocean could become dead zones. With the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development now at the centre of development policy, it is timelier than ever to discuss these issues and bring them to the forefront of the debate.

The agenda

We want to check in on the opportunities for 2020 and look ahead to 2030, discussing how our respective agendas on the ocean and blue economy can connect. How we can work together to create a greater shared ambition for achieving an inclusive and sustainable blue economy, fit for the future.

We're convening this meeting because we'd like to see the group of organisations and individuals invited taking a lead on an ambitious programme of activities up to the *Our Ocean* event in 2020 and throughout the UN Decade for the Ocean to 2030. Through ongoing collaboration we want to challenge the status quo at critical moments, supported by research evidence, stories of lived experience and shared knowledge. We'd like us all to commit to keeping up the momentum over the next 11 years. We've all got different areas of expertise and together we can make change happen.

Working with a facilitator to achieve the best results, we'll take an interactive workshop approach to work through an agenda that includes:

- **What's on the horizon in the near and longer-term future**
- **Hearing from some of the participants about what their organisations are doing in three-minute presentations** (presenters will be notified shortly)
- **Coming up with four to five possible collective ambitions in which we can all join**
- **Working out how these ambitions together can add up to create impact**
- **Committing to taking these ambitions forward in our own organisations with some well thought through next steps.**

Practicalities

We are aiming for a mix of partners, funders and critical thinkers from NGOs, funding organisations, research centres, government departments, Central Banks, fishing organisations and more.

There is accommodation for all participants at Cumberland Lodge on Tuesday night if needed, and on Wednesday night. We finish at lunchtime on Thursday. All meals throughout the day are catered for.

We will arrange transport to Cumberland Lodge for everyone attending the first event in central London. Everyone else, please make your way to Cumberland Lodge either by 7pm in time for dinner on Tuesday evening or for a 9am start on Wednesday, unless agreed otherwise.

If you have any questions about the practicalities of the event, please contact Julie Hill julie.hill@iied.org who will be happy to help. Julie will be in touch with attendees in any case before the event to find out any specific dietary requirements or transport arrangements at the end of the meeting.

What is IIED doing?

IIED's ocean and fisheries economics programme draws on experience of research in South Asia, Coastal East Africa and from the Mediterranean. It has four main aims:

- To improve understanding of the true economic value of small-scale fisheries both to the national economy and to different social groups, integrating these values into national accounts to contribute to more comprehensive evidence-based policymaking
- At national level, to engage in dialogue with officials from ministries of finance and policymakers in fisheries agencies to promote fiscal and expenditure reforms. These conversations would be backed up by research on the possibilities for revenue collection, those options that have the best economic and social impacts and leave no one behind once they are applied
- To support negotiators from least developed countries at the UN negotiations for an internationally legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. We will also conduct scientific research to demonstrate ecological and socioeconomic connectivity between territorial waters and the high seas
- To build understanding of the most effective methods for monitoring and evaluating progress towards achieving SDG14 – Life below water — and understanding of how the resulting data will also contribute to managing the trade-offs between this goal and achieving other Sustainable Development Goals.

This work will be taken forward in our new 2019-2024 institutional strategy, focusing on helping communities whose livelihoods are under threat from over-exploitation of marine resources to become more resilient. This is in a global context of declining overseas development assistance, increasing threats from the impacts of climate change, and reluctance in some parts of the private sector to take an inclusive, sustainable approach to investment.