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OA: A COMPLEX MULTI-SCALE ECOLOGICAL & POLICY PROBLEM

1) WIO marine ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the cumulative impacts of OA and climate change. The risks across the region and Africa are both ecological and developmental.

1) Addressing current and emerging policy challenges caused by OA and climate change requires situating ocean science & monitoring within existing policy priorities across scales.

2) It is critical to help managers/decision-makers understand and harness linkages between OA science & monitoring and policy priorities across the WIO region and the continent.
SITUATING OA MONITORING AND RESEARCH IN RELEVANT MANAGEMENT AND POLICY PRIORITIES
WHY IS THIS USEFUL?

• There are a diverse suite of existing policy arrangements whose implementation would benefit from increasing OA information in the WIO.
  
  • (e.g., Continental, regional and national climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, marine ecosystem management frameworks, and development plans.)

• Existing frameworks and policy priorities can be used to **anchor** OA research and monitoring, which will *ideally* **avail more avenues for understanding, mainstreaming, and supporting ($$) this work; while building local capacity to respond** to current and emerging challenges caused by climate-ocean change.

• OA information need not be limited to serving a single institution, policy or management goal... but can support a suite of policy and management goals that are already being implemented now.
# OA RELEVANT POLICIES

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<tr>
<th>Climate Adaptation Goals &amp; Targets</th>
<th>Global scale</th>
<th>Regional scale</th>
<th>Domestic scale</th>
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<td>SADC Regional Resilience Framework 2020-2030</td>
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<td>Marine Management Goals &amp; Targets</td>
<td>Global Biodiversity Conservation</td>
<td>Nairobi Convention and its constituent protocols and decisions</td>
<td>National MPA programs, fisheries management strategies</td>
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<td>Restoration and sustainable use goals (Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework), SDG Goal 14.</td>
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<td>Sustainable Development Goals &amp; Targets</td>
<td>Global scale</td>
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<td>UN – SDG Goals including goal 1, 2, 7, 13, 14, 17.</td>
<td>Africa Agenda 2063</td>
<td>National development blueprints e.g., Kenya Vision 2030</td>
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<td>Africa Blue Economy Strategy</td>
<td>United Republic of Tanzania country strategic plan (2022–2027)</td>
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<td>Southern African Development Community (SADC) Vision 2050</td>
<td>Seychelles Blue Economy Strategy</td>
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<td>SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030</td>
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OAA-WIOMSA PROJECT

• Build upon the recommendations in the WIOMSA OA report especially in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

• Provide justification and understanding for strengthening OA science and monitoring in the context of current and emerging policy priorities across WIO region (climate adaptation, marine management, development).

• Create materials that support large scale regional funding requests for this work.

• Engage other key stakeholders at continental, regional, and domestic levels to incorporate support for OA research and monitoring in their respective mandates.
**PROJECT DELIVERABLES**

- **Short publication** “Mapping Ocean acidification (OA) Monitoring and Research Recommendations to Policy and Management Portfolios across the WIO region” providing larger narrative and context.

- **Policy map (for managers & decision makers)** highlighting linkages to OA efforts across climate, marine management and development goals.

- Additional communication and outreach materials to highlight the WIOMSA OA project & illuminate OA’s relevance to existing policy priorities.

- Expanding a community of practice comprised of scientists, resource managers, policy makers, and other stakeholders across the WIO region.
PRODUCTS FOR WHOM

• Decision makers, resource managers and policy makers across 6 national governments involved in the WIOMSA OA project and the WIO region broadly.

• Climate adaptation and financing bodies, who are charged with supporting adaptation/ resilience building projects (*e.g.* ocean & coastal, blue economy, reef resilience)

• Implementing partners of relevant regional conventions or agreements (Nairobi Convention; African Union; others).
TIMELINE & BENCHMARKS

• **MAY** – scoping with relevant partners.

• **JUNE** – 1st draft policy/management cross walk representing international; regional and national frameworks; emphasis on countries featured in WIOMSA 2022 report.

• **JULY** – feedback on product from stakeholders.

• **SEPTEMBER** – review second draft policy/management cross walk.

• **OCTOBER** – final edits made to policy/management cross walk; begin developing comms products, key messages, development of infographic, etc.

• **DECEMBER** – promote materials at COP28; including co-hosting a side event featuring this project and the WIOMSA OA report.

• **FEBRUARY 2024** – share and promote products at meeting of Nairobi Convention; host another stakeholder workshop to share ideas and promote materials + envision further alignment with phase 2 of WIOMSA OA monitoring project.
CONCLUDING REMARKS

1) WIO marine ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the cumulative impacts of OA and climate change. The risks across the region and Africa are both ecological and developmental amid transformational change.

2) The *increasing strategic imperative* – Addressing current and emerging policy challenges caused by OA and climate change requires situating ocean science and monitoring within existing policy priorities across scales.

3) Mapping existing climate, marine, and development, policy frameworks will help illuminate linkages between OA science and monitoring; and policy priorities across both the WIO region and the continent.
THANK YOU