Session title
Supporting coastal communities to engage in fisheries management and science

Brief background
The key to successful community-based management of marine resources is ensuring effective engagement of local people from the beginning of the project; and ensuring that the initiatives are sustainable when NGO partners start phasing out and reducing their support.

Capacity building for local communities is a priority for all NGOs working on the frontlines of marine resources and fisheries management and conservation. It requires long-term funding to ensure effectiveness of training over time. There is also a need to show evidence of the impact of capacity building and organisational strengthening conducted by NGOs.

Blue Ventures works with coastal communities to rebuild their fisheries across the tropics, including Madagascar, Belize, Indonesia and East Africa. Some of the challenges we have seen across these countries and regions include complexity of conservation science and fisheries management techniques; level of education of many coastal communities; and change in leadership and members of the management structures which requires an effective handover of capacities.

Session objectives:

- How do you conduct effective and sustainable capacity building for community based organisations? Learning from examples.
- What are the challenges?
- How can we measure success and ensure replicability of the approach?

Expected output: Summary report including best practices on delivery of capacity building, monitoring and evaluation.

Targeted audience: Practitioners; community-based organisations; NGOs; Blue Ventures partners; academics/researchers/scientists

Session programme

Presentations and Q&A

1. Velondriake LMMA in Madagascar- Capacity building for local communities to engage in monitoring and informing fisheries management decisions.
2. Tanzania - How can we best support local community based organisations? (from the perspective of a BMU leader)
3. Kenya Beach Management Units (BMU)- Assessing the organisational capacities of BMUs

Breakout sessions: (divided into French and English)
The organisers

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