

KEYNOTE – Thursday 12th October 2022, 0945 HRS, ROOM B2

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Shaping the Future of Ocean Science and Leadership Capacity in the WIO

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 -2030) declared that ocean sustainability in future requires multi-disciplinary, multi-country collective action and integrates diverse sectors, generations, and communities. Ocean Leadership and Science capacity are fundamental for understanding how our oceans will respond to increasing anthropogenic drivers of global change and conservation actions to identify and address the implications of these changes.

Various entities across the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region have made progress in harnessing partnerships to invest in and develop robust interventions for ocean science and leadership. For example, academia, marine conservation and research NGOs, marine research institutes and intergovernmental authorities. Despite these efforts, ocean leadership and science capacity across the WIO region remains limited, underdeveloped, underutilized, and unsustainable. Shaping the future of science and leadership for the WIO is critical to withstand underlying complexities and broaden opportunity to realize national and regional priorities and address the Ocean Decade challenges which is seen as key to the delivery of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The keynote provides case-studies demonstrating the role of integrated ocean science and leadership in envisioning and transforming a future for the WIO. The keynote will also outline applicable recommendations for shaping the Future of Ocean Science and Leadership Capacity in the WIO.