

A REPORT OF ECOP AFRICA ON THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2023 SIDE EVENT, AFRICA YOUTH CLIMATE ASSEMBLY SIDE EVENT AND THE OCEAN-CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NETWORKING RECEPTION HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA.

INTRODUCTION

ECOP Africa had an opportunity to host,

- A side event during the Africa Youth Climate Assembly
- A side event on 5th September 2023 from 11am to 12 pm and
- A networking event on the same day from 7pm to 9.30 pm.

This report aims to provide an overview of the events, highlighting key discussions, outcomes, and the funding.

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS.

Presentations and Panel discussions

Distinguished speakers and experts from various organizations delivered presentations highlighting innovative projects, research findings, and best practices in ocean conservations and climate change mitigation.

Panel discussions provided a platform for in-depth conversations on topics such as ecosystem-based adaptation strategies, sustainable fisheries management, and blue carbon initiatives.

Participants actively engaged in interactive question-and-answer sessions, fostering knowledge exchange and networking opportunities.

Networking Reception Event

The event was attended by high level participants who would participate in the ACS. This makes it a fantastic opportunity for networking. This event was co-hosted by the UN Decade Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) Africa Network, Ocean Visions, Mission Inclusion and IUCN.

Find below, the outline of the events as held by ECOP AFRICA.

ECOP AYCA SIDE EVENT

TITLE: THE ROLE OF EARLY CAREER OCEAN PROFESSIONALS IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Date and time: 1st September 2023 14:00 - 15:00, EAT.

Venue: KICC Nairobi (Room 2)

DESCRIPTION:

This was a gathering of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) to discuss the role of young professions in the ocean field in helping reduce climate change by utilizing the ocean as a resource. The discussions will center around the efforts of the youth in ocean science in mitigating the negative effects of Climate Change since the call out for action to reduce GHG emissions from our oceans.

OVERALL GOAL/OBJECTIVE: To push for more action from the stakeholders in ocean science and the blue economy to involve youth and other young professionals in climate change mitigation.

Outcome: A robust ECOP led agenda for ocean climate action.

Moderator:

1. Michael Mugambi, ECOP Kenya node, Assistant Coordinator

Speakers:

1. Josphat Mokaya, ECOP East Africa Coordinator
2. Pauline Mwangi. ECOP Kenya Node Coordinator

Panel:

1. Dr. Mariam Maku Swaleh - ECOP Kenya node communication director
2. Felix Abdalla - ECOP Kenya node member

3. Christine Habela Majeni – ECOP Kenya node member and Founder Wi-blue (Women in Blue Economy)
4. Neville Agesa – ECOP Kenya node member and CEO Africa Climate and Environment Foundation (ACEF)

Questions that guided the conversation.

- i. How can the blue economy be guided and explained while minimizing negative impacts on marine ecosystems and biodiversity in the face of increasing climate change challenges?
- **Christine Habela**
- ii. What innovative approaches can be taken to actively involve young people in shaping and driving the development of the blue economy, considering a lot of youth in the country with unique set of skills given that youth have energy talent and time? - **Neville Agesa**
- iii. The role of ocean climate change mitigation? – **Mariam Swaleh**
- iv. How can youths be engaged in policy making and decision making that revolve around climate change since climate change affects each and every one and youth have many ideas that are un-tap and could be the necessary solution that the world is looking for? How can the government involve youth and other members of the community in climate change talks meetings and policy making to increase community engagement as youth are the voice of the community? - **Felix Abdalla**

Find below, some photos from the side event.



SIDE EVENT AT THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT

TITLE: CLIMATE ACTION FOR OCEANS: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN AFRICA

DATE & TIME: 5th SEPTEMBER 2023 11 am to 12 pm

LOCATION: KICC- ACS 2 RIVER NILE TENT

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 200 people

DESCRIPTION

This was a gathering of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) and other key stakeholders in the blue economy and ocean sciences sector, to discuss their present contributions to effective climate action from Africa and the potential to scale up and accelerate these efforts going forwards.

Overall Goal

To push for more ocean-climate action among African ECOP and actors across multiple sectors, including science, government, and business. Accelerating ocean-based climate solutions and ocean literacy as key components of a sustainable blue economy.

Specific Objectives:

- a) Develop a robust and more inclusive ECOP forum of young professionals who will be protagonists of climate action in the African ocean sector and beyond.
- b) Contribute to refining the ACS2023 statement for multi sector climate action leadership based on the potential contributions of the ocean.
- c) Contribute to climate action policy development in the African and international ocean sector.
- d) Networking and exchange of innovations on climate action currently under development in Africa.



ECOP

The ECOP Programme is an endorsed action under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, established to empower ECOPs, who self-identify as being early in their career in any field related to the ocean.

SIDE EVENT



ACS23
AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT

Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP)



Lisa Graumlich
America Geophysical Union (AGU) President.



Dr. Marlam Maku Swaleh
communication director of ECOP Kenya node.



Mr. Arthur R.M. Becker
Project Officer
Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia.



Miss. Shamim Nyanda
Environmental Activist and Social Scientist. Tanzania.



H.E Mr. Jose Maria Costa,
Secretary of State for the Sea, Portugal.



Mr. Nikhil Neelakantan
Senior Program Officer,
Ocean Visions Launchpad.



Rehema Kibugi
14-year-old, gold award-winning Child Author in the UN Voices of Future Generations Children's Initiative.

VENUE:  **ACS 2 - River Nile at KICC,**

DATE: Tue 5th Sept 2023.
TIME: 11:00AM - 12:00PM.





Moderator

Loise Lenser- Communication Coordinator ECOP Africa

Speakers

Keynote speakers

- i. Lisa Graumlich, America Geophysical Union (AGU) president
- ii. H.E Mr. Jose Maria Costa, Secretary of state for the sea Portugal

Panelists and Questions asked.

1. Ms. Shamim Nyanda- ECOP Tanzania Coordinator and Environmental Activist and social scientist Tanzania

Question: What innovative approaches can be taken to Equitably involve all segments of society including youth, women and marginalized and vulnerable communities in the development of the blue economy.

2. Mr. Nikhil Neelakantan - Senior Programs Officer Ocean Visions Launch Pad

Question: What is the role of Startups in advancing ocean climate solutions.

3. Dr. Mariam Swaleh - ECOP Kenya Communication Director

Question: How can educational institutions, TVETs and skill development programs can be tailored so that to equip young people with the knowledge and skills required to participate in and lead sustainable blue economy initiatives.

4. Rehema Kibugi - 14-year-old award winning child author (The children who saved the mangroves)

Question: How does your work contribute to Climate Change Mitigation in the Marine Ecosystem?

5. Mr. Arthur R. M. Becker - Project Officer Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia

Question: What policy and regulatory frameworks are needed to guide the growth of the blue economy in a way that is aligned with climate goals while also safeguarding marine ecosystems.

Outcomes:

- a. A robust ECOP led agenda for ocean climate action.
- b. Readiness for the COP28 stock-taking meeting.
- c. Proliferation of ocean-based climate solutions innovation led by African young.
- d. scientists and entrepreneurs.

Find below, a few photos from the side event:



THE OCEAN CLIMATE INNOVATION NETWORKING EVENT

Date/Time: 5th Sep 2023, 19:30 hrs EAT.

Venue: Fifteen Rooftop

Organizers: UN Decade Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) Africa Network, Ocean Visions, Mission Inclusion and IUCN

Introduction

The Ocean-Climate Innovation Networking Event aimed to bring together emerging ocean-climate innovators, entrepreneurs, governmental bodies, NGOs and possible funding organizations in the blue economy over a cocktail reception in Kenya's capital city, Nairobi.

It was an informal event designed to ensure a relaxed and serene atmosphere, there was light refreshments during discussions and presentations. The event commenced with opening remarks by different speakers from various organizations. Emphasizing the significance of ocean conservation and sustainability in addressing climate change. Also highlighted the need for continued collaboration among ocean professionals.

Aims

The event aims to convene a range of voices to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by the innovators and entrepreneurs in the ocean-climate innovation space, promote such activities, give a voice to the innovators to pitch their ideas, and foster collaborations and networking between innovators, financiers, and regulatory bodies.

Objective and outcome

The discussions will explore gaps and opportunities to advance the development of the Blue Economy and will also explore the approaches entrepreneurs are using to implement their solutions, the gaps that need to be addressed and consequently identify ways of fully operationalizing their innovative solutions.

BUDGET ESTIMATE AND FUNDING

ECOP extends its gratitude to the Global Ecosystem Ocean Vision and the International Union for Conservation of the Ocean and Land for their generous financial support. The funding from these organizations played a crucial role in the successful execution of the side events, enabling us to cover logistical cost, event materials and promotional activities.

ITEM	BUDGET (USD)
1. Venue and service	500
0. Refreshments	1860
0. Banner and Poster	200
0. Photographer/Videographer	150
0. Miscellaneous	200
TOTAL	2910

BUDGET FUNDING

PARTNERS	COMMITMENT SUPPORT (USD)
Ocean Visions	727.5
Mission Inclusion	727.5
IUCN	727.5
AGU	727.5
TOTAL	2910

Find the poster and photos below for the networking reception.



RECEPTION

ACS 2023 Ocean Climate Innovation Networking

Ocean
Professionals

Ocean Climate
Innovators and
Entrepreneurs

Ocean
Institutions
and Partners

ECOP Africa, in partnership with
Ocean Visions, AGU, IUCN and Mission Inclusion, is delighted to invite you to a networking
reception to foster collaborations and knowledge-sharing among ocean-climate innovators,
entrepreneurs, state and non-state actors.



Tue, Sept 5, 2023



7.00pm - 9.30pm EAT



15 Rooftop
The Curve By The Park
Off Mombasa Road
Southern Bypass







General Outcomes and Way forward

Increased awareness

The side event succeeded in raising awareness about the critical role of oceans in climate change resilience and the importance of youth-driven initiatives.

Participants gained a deeper understanding of the potential solutions and approaches for addressing ocean-related challenges.

Collaboration and Networking

The event fostered collaboration among ocean professionals, researchers, policymakers, innovators and funding organizations.

Several potential partnerships and collaborative projects were initiated during networking sessions.

Follow up and Knowledge Dissemination

ECOP AFRICA encourages more collaborations going forward. There is no doubt that more needs to be done in the ocean science space. There will be more activities that will be organized by ECOPs across Africa and as such we call out for collaborations from interested parties.

CONCLUSION

The side event at the AYCA AND ACS provided a platform for Early Career Ocean Professionals from Africa to engage with stakeholders, share knowledge, and showcase their work. The generous funding extended by GEOS and IUCN played a pivotal role in making this event a success.

ECOPs remains committed to furthering its mission of ocean conservation and encourage ongoing collaboration among global ocean communities.

Sincerely

Early Career Ocean Professionals

Africa Node.

Photo Links

AYCA

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMEtsbSeGawbqL56Z90ZeLSRriRWwS0Q89aZPRmIqFdtFeNb5dsbNNZFc0teZGzfg?key=cTV1SVI0TFNvUEVZdEhCcVJFT0NRRVBOMGJkamxR>

Networking Reception:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XB_t2PrIEgG3SwCKCuUc178-6WAspz4n