



Leveraging Africa's leadership on Ocean Governance, Blue Economy, and Natural-based solutions

9:00 to 10:30 (UTC+4), 9 December 2023

African Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP28

Organisers:

The event will be jointly organised by the **Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF)** and the **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**, in partnership with the **FSD-Africa**, with support from the **African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD)**.

Background and Context:

Africa has demonstrated unique leadership on ocean and the blue economy recently. It is fundamental to acknowledge the June 2023 [Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa](#) as well as September 2023 [Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action](#), an outcome of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS). Such leadership must be understood and matched by the international community to elevate and strengthen cooperation and realise African's aspirations, as enshrined in the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES).

The nature-based blue economy in Africa, emphasizing sustainable practices and ecosystem management, offers a lucrative opportunity. The blue economy, focusing on sustainable practices, research, innovation, and ecosystem management, has the potential to create 127 million jobs and generate 576 billion USD annually by 2063. An adequate national nature strategy aligned with international commitments could help address regional and increase funding and enhance climate outcomes where nature intersects with climate action.

The high-level side event will contribute to advancing a mutually beneficial vision and set of common priorities for Africa and Europe on ocean policy and action, including on the international stage at COP28, and in preparation of 2024, a key year for International Treaties, and revised AU programming. The event will pave the way for a collective sustainable future as Africa move towards the second decade of Agenda 2063 and the Europe enters a new policy cycle.

The shared ocean seascapes between and around Africa and Europe provide a strong basis for the development of a coordinated strategy across the two continents. It is time to elevate the ocean and the blue economy politically and financially. The sector represents a strategic domain of cooperation which is not yet central to the AU-EU dialogue – but one with immense potential.

On this occasion, the event will also launch the '**The Framework for National Nature Strategies**', which aims to provide a structured and comprehensive guide for any country to develop their national nature strategy that can effectively assess the state of their natural environment, set clear goals and targets for conservation and restoration efforts, identify and prioritize initiatives, establish relevant policies and financing instruments, and create appropriate governance structures for successful implementation.

<p>Session 2</p> <p>9:50 – 10:25</p>	<p>Session 2: Official launch of the <i>Framework</i> and Panel discussion on nature-based solutions and opportunities</p> <p>Moderator: Deka Moussa Ragueh, Senior Program Management Officer, UNECA</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <p>Nana Osei-Safo Wiafe, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and Innovation, Ghana (C)</p> <p>Emelyne Hanson-Wright, Principal Development Planning Officer, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and Innovation, Ghana (C)</p> <p>Rep. World Bank (C)</p> <p>Rachael Antwi, Head of Sustainability, EcoBank Group (C)</p> <p>Estherine Lisinge Fotabong, Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination, AUDA-NEPAD (TBC)</p>
<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>10:25 – 10:30</p>	<p>Wrap up and closing remarks by UNECA</p> <p>Nassim Oulmane, Director Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division at UN Economic Commission for Africa</p>

Links to background documentation:

- *AEF Scoping Report: [Ocean Governance and Blue Economy: An Emerging Agenda for The Africa-Europe Partnership](#)* o AEF high-level special dialogue with Amb. Josefa Sacko: [An Emerging Africa-Europe Agenda for Ocean Governance and Blue Economy](#)
- *Press release: [AEF announces at COP27 a first cross-continental platform of its kind on Ocean Governance and Blue Economy](#)* o AEF Expert Q&A with Amb. Nancy Karigithu: [What's Africa's blue economy potential?](#)
- [AEF New Partners Initiative on Blue Economy and Ocean](#)
- *The Framework for National Nature Strategies: forthcoming.*

Contact event organisers:

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