

Speaker Briefing: Towards COP27: African Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the SDGs

Your session title: The Blue Economy

Session logistics:

- **When:** 3rd August, 2pm-4.00pm (local time, Ethiopia)
- **Where:** virtual and in-person (at United Nations Conference Centre, UNECA complex, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - room to be confirmed on site).
- **Virtual speaker dial-in:** you will be sent a zoom link and be made a panellist.
- **Session format:** presentations of three projects and panel discussion.

Additional information:

- **Full event agenda:** [here](#)
- **Event page:** <https://tinyurl.com/2md5yvfu>
- Useful information for in-person speakers:
<https://www.uneca.org/united-nations-conference-centre-addis-ababa-uncc-aa/information-participants>

Preparation before your session

- **Please register** for the event and you are welcome to listen to other sessions:
 - In-person:
<https://www.uneca.org/content/self-sponsored-participant-registration>
 - Virtual:<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/91234567890?pwd=QkZkd0p3ZWtH9DlGd4X812pFsQuZ5pt6SOj>
- **Pre-reading:** we will provide you with information on the projects that will be presented at the session in advance and request you familiarise yourself with this.
- **Speaker briefing call:** we do not have a speaker briefing call, but please do contact your session contact points with questions.

Purpose of the regional forums:

- Your session is part of a three-day Africa regional forum, which is part of a regional forum series we are running in the lead up to COP27.
- The forums aim to bring together policymakers and the private sector, particularly private finance, and broader stakeholders to work together more closely on scaling-up capital to emerging markets and developing economies.
- The forums have a particular focus on projects rooted in regional priorities and a compendium of projects will be available at COP27.

- The target audience for the forums and your session include public and private financial institutions, asset owners, asset managers, banks, insurers, development banks, governments and policymakers, private enterprises and innovators seeking funding. The audience includes financial institutions in the Race to Zero and the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.

Your session objectives:

- This session aims to inspire the target audience to accelerate financing of suitable projects in Africa, with a focus on the blue economy.
- It will enhance the discourse on the need for financing for these key priorities through sharing examples of potential projects for the continent's urban areas.
- It will also unpack key challenges that new initiatives/projects and financiers face and how these can be overcome.

Session speakers:

- Session chair: Barka Mossae- Blue Economy Lead AUC (in-person)
- Presentation Lead: Thomas Sberna, IUCN, Regional Head - Coastal and Ocean Resilience, IUCN - ESARO (in-person) and Nassim Oulmane, chief of the Green and Blue Economy Section at ECA
- **Response Lead:**
- Dr. Tristan Smith, from University College London (virtual)
- Societe Generale (virtual)
- Alexis Grosskopf, CEO of OceanHub Africa

Session contact points (for questions on the session): oulmane@un.org and sagarikachatterjee@climatechampions.team

Content - background for your session:

- The Blue Economy is considered as Africa's "new renaissance frontier" and can offer many benefits to people and the planet.
- The Great Blue Wall fits into this perspective and is a roadmap led by the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and Africa to achieve a nature-friendly world by 2030. Its objective is to significantly accelerate and scale up ocean conservation actions while improving socio-ecological resilience and developing a regenerative blue economy by catalysing political leadership and financial support.
- The current initiative has set ambitious targets to protect 2 million km² of protected and conserved areas, achieve a net gain of critical blue ecosystems by conserving and restoring more than 2 million hectares of critical ecosystems and sequestering more than 100 million tonnes of carbon as a result, and unlock regenerative livelihood opportunities for 70 million people in the Western Indian Ocean.
- The initiative comprises 14 complementary projects, 5 of which are featured at the forum and can be funded either as a package or on their own.

Session flow (90 minutes in total, with 5 minutes buffer time)

Section and timing	Session chair	Speaker	Suggested content
Welcome and Introduction 10 minutes	Barka Mossae		Introduction to speakers. Session background and purpose.
Project presentations			
Project presentation 10 minutes	The session chair will introduce the presenter, pass to them to present pass to the presenter and may ask a quick follow-up question after the presentation.	Thomas Sberna, IUCN	Fund rationale and key information.
Project presentation 10 minutes	The session chair will introduce the presenter, pass to them to present pass to the presenter and may ask a quick follow-up question after the presentation.	Thomas Sberna, IUCN	Fund rationale and key information.
Project presentation 10 minutes	The session chair will introduce the presenter, pass to them to present pass to the presenter and may ask a quick follow-up question after the presentation.	Nassim Oulmane, UNECA	Fund rationale and key information.
Response leads:			
10 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tristan Smith, from University College 	Brief background on your firm and work in the area; reflections on the projects - theme/suitability;

		London (virtual)	and what you look for in suitable projects and investments.
10 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Societe Generale (virtual) 	Brief background on your firm and work in the area; reflections on the projects - theme/suitability; and what you look for in suitable projects and investments.
10 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexis Grosskopf, CEO of OceanHub Africa 	Brief background on your firm and work in the area; reflections on the projects - theme/suitability; and what you look for in suitable projects and investments.
<p>Questions for all speakers/moderated audience Q&A</p> <p>15 minutes</p>	<p>The session chair could ask each presenter/response lead: <i>What is needed to get these potential projects over the line to financiers? What do you (project presenters) need from financiers? Who needs to take what action towards COP27 and beyond?</i></p>	Barka Mossae	[Not scripted]
<p>Wrap-up and conclusion</p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>The session chair will highlight key takeaways and call to action for next steps. Please highlight that a compendium of projects will be released towards COP27.</p>	5 minutes	