

PRESS KIT



Coastal and Marine Forum

“Health of the oceans, a challenge for the sustainable development of West African coastal countries”

Saly, Senegal, from March 29th to April 1st 2022



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Context and stakes of the 10th edition of the Regional Forum

The Regional Marine and Coastal Forum is an initiative of the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa (PRCM). The Regional Forum epitomizes PRCM's collaborative and partnership approach which aims to work **"Together for a healthy and productive West African coastline"**.

The Regional Forum is an exceptional gathering of sharing among high level stakeholders working in the field of conservation. It is a credible platform that gathers actors of the West African marine and coastal zone and federates their actions around the challenges of conservation and sustainable development of this coastline. It brings together national and intergovernmental institutions, scientific institutions, national and international NGOs, socio-professional organizations, the private sector (fishing, tourism, hydrocarbons) and technical and financial partners.

Launched in 2004 in Conakry, PRCM has hitherto organized nine editions of the **Regional Coastal and Marine Forum. The 10th edition of the Regional Forum will be held from March 29th to April 1st, 2022 in Saly, Senegal.** The official opening ceremony will be chaired by the Minister of Environment and Development of Senegal, Mr. Abdou Karim Sall. The meeting, whose theme is **"Health of the oceans, a challenge for sustainable development of West African coastal countries"**, will bring together leading experts in marine conservation.

❖ Why a regional coastal and marine forum?

This is a unique opportunity for the coalition of PRCM members, organizations and partners engaged in issues of marine and coastal conservation to share their experiences from their projects in the field. It is also an opportunity to strengthen their links with other partners and to access a high-profile network of donors and decision makers.

❖ Why a theme on oceans?

Representing about 70% of the planet's surface, oceans are essential sources of life on Earth. In addition to being the habitat of a rich marine biodiversity that is still largely unknown, oceans significantly contribute to human development and also play an essential role in regulating the natural balance of the Planet.

❖ Why focus on the sustainable development of West African coastal countries?

In West Africa, marine and coastal resources are the foundation of the countries' economic and social development. Actually, **the coastal areas account for nearly 56% of the region's GDP.** The annual volume of legal fishing in West African waters exceeds 1.6 million tons, in addition to the significant revenues generated by the operation of ports, agro-industries, the tourism industry, and offshore oil platforms.

❖ Why the health of oceans?

Despite the many benefits, **40% of the oceans are "severely affected" by human activities.** This situation is particularly worrisome in West Africa. Overexploitation of fishery resources, plastic waste discharge, chemical pollution, introduction of invasive species, habitat destruction and ocean

acidification are all threats that affect the health of the oceans and degrade the services they provide to populations.

In addition, the effects of climate change such as coastal erosion and flooding are compounded by unplanned urbanization.

In the face of these challenges, the international community has undertaken the mission, through the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 on oceans, to "*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources*". At the regional level, the Policy for Integrated Ocean Management in the Abidjan Convention, currently under development, sets out a vision aiming for "*A clean and healthy ocean for the benefit of present and future generations of the region*".

The issue of "ocean health" being vast, previous editions of the Regional Forum have already cleared some issues related to it. As an example, the 9th edition held in Conakry, Guinea, on October 23-27th, 2017 focused on the theme: '**Investing in coastal resilience for a prosperous future in West Africa**'. The 8th edition in Praia, Cape Verde, from November 2nd to 5th, 2015 focused on the theme "**Coastal stakeholders: let's mobilize in the face of climate change**", while the 7th edition, in Senegal, from November 26th to 29th, 2013 was dedicated to the theme "**Investing in marine and coastal conservation for the well-being of the populations**".

❖ **What characterizes the 10th edition of the Regional Forum?**

- This 10th edition stands out from all the others held previously by the fact that it **is the very first edition organized by PRCM under its new status as a foreign Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Dakar (Senegal)**;
- This is the **first edition** of the Regional Forum co-organized with several partners: World Bank, DOB Ecology Foundation, WACA, OAK Foundation, Blue Action Fund, and French Fund for Global Environment. The consequential support for PRCM in this edition facilitates to strengthen the interactive dialogue on the current challenges in the field of marine and coastal area conservation.
- It is also the edition of the Regional Forum coinciding with the closure of MAVA, the main sponsor of PRCM;
- It is also an edition organized in a format that suits the theme of the Regional Forum "*Health of the oceans, a challenge for sustainable development of West African coastal countries.*" A panel of renowned participants rich in experience is ready to exchange, share, and lead discussions on issues affecting the management and conservation of the coastal and marine area. In particular, the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity in a context of offshore oil exploitation in West Africa and the readjustments for a post-coronavirus pandemic resilience will occupy a central place in the exchanges



A word from MAVA

By Charlotte Karibuhoye, Head of Strategic Alliances & Director, West Africa program, MAVA Foundation

Together, let's preserve the health of our oceans, for a better future!

Conservation stakeholders from across West Africa and the rest of the world will assemble in Saly, Senegal from March 29th to April 1st, 2022 to take part in the 10th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum. After several postponements due to the coronavirus pandemic, the event will finally be held at the Palm Beach Hotel in Saly under the theme: "**Health of the oceans, a sustainable development issue for West African countries.**" A rather evocative theme that will allow for reflections on the future of our oceans.

Immense and generous sources of life, oceans are on the verge of exhaustion in the face of ever-increasing threats: global warming, overfishing, plastic pollution, acidification, etc. Human activities are adversely impacting the seas and their resources, which are common resources, and the risks and consequences of their degradation are therefore mutualized, hence the need for common solutions.

By bringing together expertise from all sides, the 10th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum will raise the debate in a forward-looking approach. MAVA is delighted to be able to take part in these exchanges that are expected to be fruitful, especially since our intervention, for more than 25 years now, has consisted of bringing together stakeholders so that they can work and reflect together on common and emerging challenges related to the coastal and marine area, and implement appropriate solutions in a coordinated manner.

As a private philanthropic foundation, we are committed to supporting conservation initiatives and programs for the benefit of humans and nature in West Africa and elsewhere in the world. **In West Africa, actions supported by MAVA are very much in line with the theme and sub-themes of this Forum.**

As this 10th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum in West Africa is being organized, we are approaching the final stretch of the MAVA Foundation's interventions in the region and beyond. We hope that we have contributed to building a spirit of collaboration and strong and sustainable multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Our hope is that these partnerships will continue and extend to other actors and donors that can take over the work we have begun with our partners to build a better future. A future where, as the MAVA Foundation's vision illustrates, biodiversity flourishes, economy supports human prosperity and a healthy planet, and the conservation community prospers.

The Forum will be a key moment of exchange and mutual learning, as well as an excellent opportunity to build and/or strengthen links and alliances between the different actors, to continue the commitment to healthy coastal and marine ecosystems in West Africa.

My belief and my hope is that many lessons will be learned and new perspectives will be built during this Regional Forum.

Themes and sub-themes of the 10th edition

For this 10th edition, the main theme is: "**Health of the oceans, a challenge for sustainable development of West African coastal countries**". The importance of the issue of ocean health deserves special attention for West African countries, where people's lives depend in large part on access to marine and coastal resources. It is therefore important that all stakeholders in the region become aware of the need for sustainable management of marine and coastal resources.

The main theme of the Forum is broken down into seven sub-themes, namely:

1. Strengthening coastal resilience through sustainable initiatives;
2. Good governance of coastal and marine resources;
3. MPAs (Marine Protected Areas): laboratories for sustainable development of coastal areas;
4. Protection of biodiversity against habitat degradation and unsustainable practices;
5. Activities and infrastructure projects in coastal areas - impacts on ecosystems;
6. Sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation in West Africa;
7. Opportunities for biodiversity conservation in the post-COVID recovery.

Format of the Forum

- **Leaders' Conference:**

These are keynote sessions that will delve into emerging and current issues related to sustainable ocean management. Keynote presenters will include conservation luminaries, renowned specialists, and young leaders from various fields related to the theme of the forum.

- **Coffee debates:**

Roundtable discussions will be among the main activities of the Forum. These events will give a space to conservation actors and participants to gather around a table to discuss and exchange their knowledge, experiences and initiatives around the sub-themes.

- **Side events:** a series of activities organized as side events;

- **Conservation Cinema:** screening of conservation films;

- **Outings:** visits to sites of ecological importance.

Agenda of the Forum

Monday, March 28th, 2022

9h00-10h30	Pre-forum events
11h00-12h30	Pre-forum events
12h30-14h15	Pause
14h00-15h45	Participants' arrival and registration
18h00- 19h30	Welcome cocktail

Tuesday, March 29th, 2022

08h45-10h30	Official opening ceremony
11h00- 12h45	Plenary session: Leaders' Conference 1
14h00-15h45	Side events
16h15- 18h00	Side events and technical workshops

Wednesday, March 30th, 2022

06h30- 07h30	Bird watching activity: birds as indicators of environment quality
08h45-10h30	Side events
11h00- 12h45	Side events and technical workshops
14h00-15h45	Side events
16h15- 18h00	Side events and technical workshops
18h00-19h30	Conservation cinema

Thursday, March 31st, 2022

06h30- 07h30	Bird watching activity: birds as indicators of environment quality
08h45-10h30	Side events
11h00- 12h45	Plenary session: Leaders' Conference 2
14h00-15h45	Talking projects: Winners of innovative initiatives
16h15- 18h00	Closing ceremony
19h30-22h00	Dinner and cultural performance

Friday, April 1st, 2022

08h45-10h30	Post-forum events
11h00-12h30	Outings

Please view the full agenda by clicking the following link: <https://bit.ly/3JEDerY>



Partners

The Coastal and Marine Forum has proven to be a key regional meeting for consultation and exchange that brings together representative categories of institutional and non-governmental actors, development partners, and partners in the conservation of the coastal and marine zone in West Africa. Below are the organizations that have provided support to PRCM for this 10th edition:

- MAVA Foundation
- OCEAN 5 Foundation
- World Bank
- DOB Ecology Foundation
- WACA Program
- OAK Foundation
- Blue Action Fund
- French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)

Leaders' Conference – presentation of a few speakers

- **Charlotte Karibuhoye Saïd, MAVA Foundation Director for West Africa**

Prior to joining the MAVA Foundation, Ms. Charlotte Karibuhoye Said worked for 10 years at FIBA as the MPA program coordinator. She oversaw the creation of the first regional MPA program in West Africa (RAMPAO - Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa). Ms. Karibuhoye Said is also a member of several international conservation expert groups, such as the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), where she is the Deputy Regional Chair and Marine Coordinator for West and Central Africa. She holds a Master's degree and a PhD in conservation biology from the University of Goettingen, Germany.

- **Dr Ahmed SENHOURY, PRCM Executive Director**

Ahmed Senhoury holds a PhD from the University of Dakar (Senegal) in Earth Sciences (2014), a PhD from the University of Caen (France) in Coastal Engineering (2000) and an MBA in Leadership and Strategic Management. Ahmed Senhoury began his professional career in 1992 as a research professor at the University of Nouakchott. Between 2002 and 2004, he held several positions in the Mauritanian administration in addition to his position at the University. As part of his international career, Ahmed Senhoury held the position of coordinator of a regional research program on the coastal environment in West Africa, part of the International Foundation of the Banc d'Arguin (FIBA), between 2004 and 2006. He was then recruited in October 2006 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as Deputy Coordinator of the Regional Program for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone in West Africa – PRCM, before his appointment in 2007 as Director of the Coordination Unit of this program. Since January 2019, Ahmed Senhoury has served as Executive Director of the PRCM coalition.

- **Miguel De Barros, Sociologist & Researcher**

Miguel de Barros is a sociologist and researcher. Executive director of the Bissau Guinean NGO Tiniguena, Miguel de Barros has been the chairman of the national committee of IUCN members since 2012. He has developed initiatives for the development of public policies and structural transformation strategies in Guinea-Bissau and CPLP countries in the areas of food security and sovereignty, community rights, traditional knowledge and indigenous heritage management, environmental education, communication for social mobilization, and development cooperation. He is a member of CODESRIA and in 2018 received the Pan-African Humanitarian Award "Leadership in Research & Social Impact".

- **Jimmy Adegoke, Professor at the University of Missouri, Kansas (USA)**

Professor Jimmy Adegoke is currently a Senior Advisor in the Climate Change and Green Growth Department of the African Development Bank Group. He is a tenured faculty member at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), where he served as Chair of the Department of Geosciences (now Earth and Environmental Sciences) from 2008 to 2010. Professor Adegoke is an award-winning climate scientist whose research focuses on understanding the relationships between changing land surface processes and various indicators of environmental change. His recent work focuses on the societal impacts of environmental change, including studies of air pollution in rapidly changing mid-latitude urban areas, water cycle processes in sub-Saharan Africa,

and climate impacts on coastal ecosystems in many locations in Africa. His research has been funded by agencies such as NASA, the US National Science Foundation and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He recently led a major multi-country project funded by the African Development Bank, with specific case studies in Lagos (Nigeria), Cape Town (South Africa) and Port Said (Egypt). The project highlighted the actual and anticipated impacts of climate change on coastal cities and communities on the African continent.

- **Tourad Abdel Baghi, Managing Director of Mauritania's Hydrocarbons and Mining Heritage Company**

Mr. Abdel Baghi graduated in 1991 from ENIG, Tunisia, where he majored in chemical engineering. In 1992, he joined Société Mauritanienne de Gaz (SO MA GAZ), where he became the Operations Manager. In 2004, Mr. Abdel Baghi joined the Groupe Project Chinguetti (GPC), created by the Mauritanian government on the eve of the exploitation of the Chinguetti oil field. In 2005, he began studying at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, where he earned a master's degree in Petroleum Engineering in 2006.

He was part of the first group of executives at *Société Mauritanienne des Hydrocarbures*, where he became successively head of the Reservoir Department, deputy general manager, director of studies and development, and director of activities, before being appointed in November 2019 as general manager. Thus, Mr. Abdel Baghi has been at the forefront of petroleum activity in Mauritania and the MSGBC basin throughout its recent history.

- **J. Charles Fox, Executive Director of Oceans 5 Foundation**

Mr. Charles Chuck coordinates the Oceans 5 Foundation on behalf of its partners and members. Prior to joining Oceans 5, he held senior positions in federal and state governments, as well as non-profit and philanthropic organizations. Mr. Fox has also headed international ocean conservation programs for the Pew Charitable Trusts, and worked for several conservation organizations, including American Rivers, Friends of the Earth, and the Environmental Policy Institute. With over 30 years of experience, Mr. Fox is considered to be an influential manager with a results-oriented approach.

- **Peter Kristensen, Senior Environment Specialist at the World Bank**

Peter Kristensen is a Senior Environmental Specialist at the World Bank with more than 25 years of professional experience in coastal and marine environmental management, climate change and biodiversity. He joined the World Bank in 2003. Peter's professional work has focused on advancing coastal and ocean resource management and action on the ground through policy investments and operations, frontier analysis, and knowledge development. He has led operational work on protected area management, extractive industries and the environment, locust control, and pesticide management. He currently leads the West African Coastal Area Management (WACA) program, which is a transformative response to the urgent need to address coastal erosion, flooding, and pollution. Through this program, West African countries and regional institutions are coming together to provide cross-border solutions to the resilience of West Africa's coastal communities, economy and natural capital.

The Forum in figures

- 350 participants expected ;
- 7 countries of the sub-region and the world represented ;
- 20 national and international organizations involved ;
- 20 national and international media outlets ;
- 4 plenary sessions scheduled.



Presentation of PRCM

The Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone in West Africa (PRCM) is a coalition that currently brings together 77 partners, actors involved in the preservation of the sea and the coast. These partners include civil society organizations, government institutions and sub-regional commissions, elected officials, professional organizations, researchers and teachers, and international NGOs. The Partnership is active in seven countries: Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. Ahmed Senhoury is the Executive Director.

Missions

PRCM operates through an extended and permanent platform. Its missions are to:

- Mobilize and develop the capacities and skills of the various stakeholders;
- Support, through its network of partners, the consistency and coordination of the different interventions active at regional, national, and local levels;
- Play an important political advocacy role ;
- Promote coalition work and the strengthening of partnerships between institutions;
- Support the consistency and harmonization of policies and agreements ;
- Mobilize resources in a sustainable manner ;
- Act as a mediator and contribute to the mobilization of capacities and dialogue among the different actors;
- Mobilize and capitalize on the results of research, local knowledge, and experience, as well as successful practices of Partnership members and other organizations within and outside the region.



Expected results

Production of a Forum Declaration to show the commitments of the various signatories to work for the preservation of the environment in the PRCM area.



Contacts

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