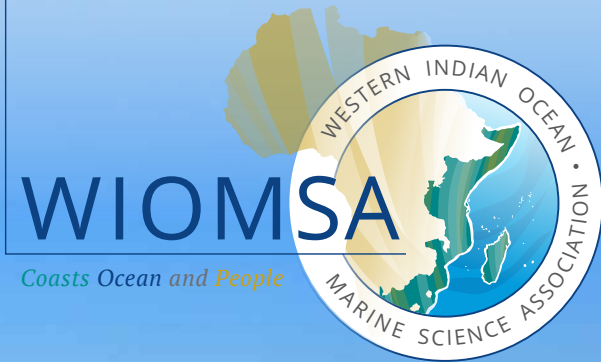


NEWS BRIEF



The Blue Leadership participants during a field trip to Chumbe Island

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■ REGIONAL NEWS

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- 7 Our Blue Future: Collaboration for a Sustainable Blue Economy.
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- 9 Making Coastal Water Quality Assessment Accessible.
- 10 Lively Debate At Africa's Blue Economy Week.
- 11 Genetic studies focus on grouper ecology.
- 12 Seeking ways to revitalize and sustainably develop the Somali Fisheries Sector.
- 13 Fishing Buoys at the service of science.
- 14 Guidebook To Help Solve Africa's Unique Plastic Waste Crisis.

■ HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENTLY PUBLISHED PAPERS

- 15 New Insights into Marine Transboundary Conservation Areas.
- 16 How environmental variability influences the distribution of Elasmobranchs.
- 17 Exploring the Ecosystem Structure of the Zanzibar Archipelago.
- 18 Remote Sensing and Machine Learning in Seagrass Mapping.
- 19 Barau's petrel as a bioindicator of plastic pollution.

■ NETWORKS: WIMS, WIO-ECSN, WIOMPAN

- 20 WIO-ECSN News:
 - A new chapter of global ECOPS action.
 - Virtual ECOPS days 2024.
 - Ride the Wave: A tidal wave of fellowship for Black voices in marine science.
 - Young Ocean leaders and early career scientists engage with global ecopreneurs and ocean experts.
 - Japan to Palau: Early Career Professionals Take Part In Ocean Race.
 - WIO-ECSN members appointed to Youth Sounding Board.

■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

- 21 A new volume of the Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science is here.
- 22 Maritime Transport Profile.

■ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 23 A new volume of the Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science is here
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BLUE LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND CREATING BLUE DEVICES



Fourteen participants from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia and Tunisia underwent Blue Leadership training in Zanzibar from 16 to 21 September 2024.

Described by many participants as “magical” and “life-changing”, the training provided an opportunity for the trainees to pause and listen to themselves, interact with each other and think about their organizations, work teams and the local communities that they serve. The trainees were also given opportunities to reflect on how best to lead and engage with stakeholders and the partners they work with. Topics covered included attributes of transformational leadership, collaboration and resilience as well as how to lead change. Participants were exposed to a wide range of tools such as journaling, scenario building and dream circles. The training also included a movie night and a guided excursion. It elicited rich discussions around compassion and control as well as innovation, influence and positive thinking as leaders.

The participants spent time thinking individually and in groups and co-creating what they would like the future to be for them. After many discussions and visualization opportunities, participants developed a definition of what a Blue Leader embodies, describing them as dynamic, empathetic, visionary, having integrity, collaborative and having expertise (DEVICE).

Participants developed strategies with specific actions and committed to engaging their teams in new ways. The last day was characterized by expressions of appreciation.

The trainees agreed to continue to work together to create a multiplier effect while remaining active within the community of Blue DEVICES. The integration of participants from Namibia and Tunisia was as a result of WIOMSA’s membership of the African Ocean Decade Taskforce and its interest in developing capacity across the continent.



Blue DEVICES relaxing during training. Photo: A. Cedras

Look out for the Blue Leader in your area and explore ways you can collaborate to address the challenges faced by coastal communities. Ask them to share the insights they gained from the training.