



# Mombasa Declaration on Ocean Science for Action



Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute

**Scientific & Research Symposium**  
11th Our Ocean Conference 2026  
June 14-15, 2026



# Mombasa Ocean Science Call to Action



## Science and Research Symposium Commitments to Governments and Partners

Participants in the Science and Research Symposium of the 11th Our Ocean Conference call upon governments, development partners, research institutions, and the private sector to commit to the following actions:

### 1. Invest in Ocean Science and National Research Infrastructure

Commit to sustained financing for ocean observation systems, marine research institutions, data platforms, and scientific workforce development as essential infrastructure for the Blue Economy.

### 2. Strengthen Science-to-Policy Pathways

Establish and institutionalize mechanisms that ensure scientific evidence informs policy, planning, investment, and ocean governance decisions at national and regional levels.

### 3. Build Blue Economies that Restore Ocean Health

Adopt policies and investment frameworks that align economic development with biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and social equity.

### 4. Empower Coastal Communities

Recognize and secure the rights of coastal communities and Indigenous Peoples and support community-led management approaches that deliver measurable conservation and fisheries outcomes.

### 5. Scale Blue Carbon Action

Integrate mangrove and seagrass conservation into national climate commitments, coastal development planning, and sustainable finance mechanisms.

## **6. Advance Equity, Gender, and Youth Leadership**

Ensure meaningful participation of women, youth, and underrepresented groups in ocean science, governance, and decision-making processes.

## **7. Deliver Effective Marine Protected and Conserved Areas**

Move beyond area-based targets alone and invest in management effectiveness, ecological connectivity, climate resilience, monitoring, and long-term financing of MPAs and OECMs.

## **8. Harness Technology for Ocean Stewardship**

Expand access to emerging technologies, including satellite monitoring, artificial intelligence, digital data systems, and citizen-science platforms to improve transparency, compliance, and evidence-based management.

## **9. Strengthen Regional Ocean Cooperation**

Support regional institutions and collaborative frameworks that enable countries to jointly manage shared ecosystems, fisheries, migratory species, and areas beyond national jurisdiction.

## **10. Close the Ocean Opportunity Gap**

Commit that by 2030, all major ocean policy and investment decisions are informed by the best available science and local knowledge, ensuring that what we know about the ocean is translated into what we do for the ocean.

## **Our Shared Commitment**

We commit to building a future where science is not an afterthought to ocean governance, but the foundation upon which sustainable development, conservation, and prosperity are built.

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11<sup>th</sup> Our Ocean Conference 2026





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