



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



2024 OCEAN DECADE CONFERENCE

Satellite Event

Bridging Ocean Research and Policy Agenda for Sustainable and Resilient Blue Tourism

Tuesday 9th of April, 2024, 3 - 4.30 PM CEST



Location: [Marine Science Institute \(ICM/CSIC\)](#)

Pg. Marítim de la Barceloneta n° 37, 08003 Barcelona, Spain

Room P31

Registration [link](#)

Co-hosted by:



Introduction

Inadequately managed and unplanned blue tourism poses a significant threat to marine and coastal ecosystems worldwide. Moreover, destinations tend to focus on large-scale developments through foreign-owned, limiting opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and other locally-led initiatives. Also, coastal tourist areas count on high seasonality patterns that place significant pressure on the already fragile ecosystems. Alternatively, more sustainable and inclusive tourism models can offer substantial opportunities for enhancing local livelihoods, preserving vulnerable ecosystems, and supporting environmental conservation while fostering a more resilient socio-economic development. This event is designed to be an open forum for sharing ongoing blue tourism research, policy, and governance initiatives, experiences, and knowledge. The event aims to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue on enhancing the sustainability of coastal and marine tourism and contribute to bridging the gaps between Science, Policy, and Practices.

At the heart of the reflection will be the intersection between blue tourism innovation, science and policy actions, and the main gaps and opportunities the sector faces. Specific attention will be given to the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and the Western Indian Ocean through the presentation and discussion of **regional diagnosis of the current state, impacts, challenges, and opportunities of blue tourism**.

Importantly, at the center of discussion will be the perspectives and recommendations of researchers and practitioners to explore scenarios, strategies, and pathways toward the transformation of blue tourism into a more resilient, sustainable, inclusive and responsible industry. The session is formed by **interactive presentations and panel discussions** with geographically, gender, and sectoral-balanced stakeholders from Research, Policy, and Civil Society Organizations. By doing so, the session aims to stimulate a fruitful conversation on research and policy actions that are seamlessly aligned to **Ocean Decade Challenge 4** 'Sustainable Blue Economy'.

This satellite event aims to:

1. **Foster networking opportunities** and lead to new partnerships and initiatives across blue tourism stakeholder groups. These opportunities would enhance the bridge between scientific research, policy formulation, and regional contexts for sustainable blue tourism development in marine regions.
2. **Allow interactions and the exchange of experience among marine regions**. Stakeholders will share their unique challenges, successes, trends, and innovations in the context of a sustainable blue tourism economy in different marine regions. This interregional dialogue will allow the identification of commonalities, best practices, and cross-regional solutions to a global effort to promote sustainable, inclusive, and resilient blue tourism.
3. **Allow participants, including policy-makers, to reflect on policy actions** to advance the integration of science and policy in the blue tourism sector. The debate will be translated into a policy brief informing relevant stakeholders and blue tourism initiatives.

About the Blue Tourism Initiative

The [Blue Tourism Initiative](#) is a global multi-stakeholder innovation program focused on the environmental management, governance, and planning of coastal and marine tourism in three marine regions: the Mediterranean, the Western Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean. The project supports the participatory development of sustainable blue tourism initiatives through policy actions and a multi-stakeholder approach to inform the scalability of sustainable blue tourism in other regions. It is co-led by the **Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)** and the Spanish Think and Do Tank **Eco-Union**. It is co-funded by the **French Facility for Global Environmental (FFEM)**, and implemented with three partners responsible for the activities in each region: The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** in the Mediterranean; **Coastal Oceans Research and Development Indian Ocean (CORDIO)** and the **Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)**.

AGENDA

Time	Contents	Speaker
15h00 - 15h05	Welcome	Julien Rochette, IDDRI
Presentations: <i>Moving from research to policy agenda in marine regions - Insights from regional actors</i> Moderation: Giulia Balestracci, eco-union		
15h05 15h45	Sustainable Blue Tourism in the Mediterranean: Market Trends and Ecosystem Vulnerability	Arnau Teixidor , IUCN-Med
	Sustainable Blue Tourism in the Western Indian Ocean: Trends, Challenges and Policy Pathways	Samson Obiene , CORDIO East Africa
	Community-based tourism as a catalyst for sustainable blue tourism models in the Caribbean	Dylis McDonald , CANARI
	Q&A	
Roundtable - <i>How can research and intergovernmental cooperation support changes in policies and practices for sustainable blue tourism?</i> Moderation: Angelo Sciacca, IDDRI		
15h45 16h25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erika Harms, Coastal Health Strategy Director, Iberostar • Eduardo Martinez Dominguez, Project Manager – CEO, HIDRIA Ciencia ambiente y desarrollo; member of IUCN Tourism and Protected Areas Group (TAPAS) • Anne-France Didier, French Secrétariat of the Sea • Adriana Salazar Olivan, Blue Economy Expert, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) • Paloma Zapata, Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Travel International 	
	Q&A	
16h25 16h30	Closing and acknowledgment	Jeremie Fosse , director, eco-union
Coffee break and aperitif on the patio of the ICM		

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More info: www.bluetourisminitiative.org