



## 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

*Marine Africa: the role in excellence in capacity building to increase globally ocean health and quality of life*

2022 30<sup>th</sup> June, 10 am- 4 pm , Virtually

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### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

The University of Algarve coordinated the UN Ocean Conference 2022 official virtual side-event “Marine Africa: the role in excellence in capacity building to increase globally ocean health and quality of life” (June 30), which several communications were presented from different projects promoted by UAlg on African coasts, namely in Angola (LuandaWaterFront, coordinated by Centre of Marine Sciences – CCMAR, in cooperation with the Angolan National Institute for Fisheries and Marine Research; and the PhD in Marine and Environmental Sciences – CMARA, in cooperation with Agostinho Neto University and University of Namibe), Mozambique (Biofish-QoL coordinated by CCMAR, in cooperation with University Eduardo Mondlane), São Tomé and Príncipe (LittleFish-STP coordinated by CCMAR in cooperation with University of São Tomé and Príncipe), and the MarAfrica (coordinated by CCMAR) projects (FCT-AKN), Blue Route (EEA Grant), Sustainable Horizons (Europe Horizons), in cooperation with the aforementioned institutions, among others, including the collaborative laboratory S2AQUA and the company OLSPS International. The online event was attended by 51 participants (16 speakers), spread over the morning and afternoon sessions, from eight countries – Portugal, Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Spain and Tanzania; and from 18 institutions: University of Algarve, Centre of Marine Sciences, Sustainable and Smart Aquaculture Collaborative Laboratory (S2AQUAcoLAB), Angolan National Institute for Fisheries and Marine Research, University of Namibe, Agostinho Neto University, Eduardo Mondlane University, University of São Tomé and Príncipe, Associação Programa Tatô, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO), SEA-EU ALLIANCE, University of Cadiz, University of Huelva, OLSPS International, Fundação Fam, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of Tanzania, NOVA University, University of Azores.

### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

The University of Algarve and its partners advocate that Science and Education are the pathways for achieving both Ecosystem Marine Protection and Blue Growth.

Our partnership aims to inspire global thinking and transform daily actions into new creative ways to protect the global ocean through sustainable practices (SDG14). The strategies for the Health Ocean Future need to be shared and understood by all. This will allow the sustainable use of marine food resources, and their protection will also transform our collective relationship with the ocean through Knowledge and Love.

Stopping the decline of Ocean Health in the next decade is crucial to heal the Earth; the interaction of the Ocean with Climate made this action a pivotal ally to recover our blue planet.

We will contribute to the capacity development in Higher Education and Research, with Distance Learning Courses, Master's and Ph.D. joint programs with African HEIs targeting the solution for in situ applied questions, involving protection and sustainable use of the marine ecosystems and species (SDG 14a).

The team will partner with European HEI to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4), through an effective Global Partnership (SDG17), mainly to increase the quality of life in African coastal areas.

### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

Collaborative actions in Marine Conservation and Blue growth – Science and Education – University of Algarve (Portugal), African and European Partners to a commitment – Ocean Future Sustainability at Global Scale

### **Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)**

A voluntary commitment was also drawn up for the future sustainability of the Ocean, in particular the coastal areas of the South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean, with in situ training supported by knowledge and dedication and based on postgraduate education programs and ongoing research. The declaration was submitted to the United Nations on 1st July

(available at <https://blueroute2030.com/un-ocean-conference/>).