

Oceans and Coasts Newsletter



Exchange of information, knowledge and expertise on oceans and coasts
A service by the Task Team Oceans and Coasts

Dear Friends of the Oceans and Coasts,

Welcome to our 16th Ocean and Coasts Newsletter!

Mecki & Volker

AFRICA

- » Aquaculture Round Table coordinates fight against Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome
- » Namibia and South Africa submit new/updated EBSAs to the CBD

ASIA AND PACIFIC

- » Announcement: Request for GIZ Coastal Marine Projects Asia Pacific to participate SNRD study for Upscaling
- » ProCoast project completes webinar series about mangrove rehabilitation and conservation
- » Sector Network on Rural Development Asia Pacific – Hills to Ocean Working Group
- » MeerWissen Initiative: Six newly launched partnership projects

GLOBAL

- » Our response to COVID-19
- » New BMU Marine Litter project

PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- » News related to ocean and coast conservation
- » Global Platforms and Conferences to come

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- » Integrated Management for Coastal Marine Zone in Peru
- » Support to fishermen of the Arenillas Ecological Reserve affected by the COVID19

Africa

Aquaculture Round Table coordinates fight against Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome



EUS surveillance team sampling fish to assess infestation in one of the affected areas in the central region of Malawi.
Copyright: Department of Fisheries

COVID-19 is not the only threat the aquaculture sub-sector is facing in Malawi. Recently, an outbreak of the fish disease Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) has threatened the sub-sector and calls for a quick response from all actors. With support from the SEWOH Aquaculture Value Chain Project Malawi, the AquaRT played an important role of coordinating efforts between stakeholders in the private and public sectors.

The round table supported the efforts of various stakeholders, the Government of Malawi and implementing

agencies including GIZ, WorldFish, DFID, USAID and FAO to develop a draft strategy to prevent a further outbreak.

Contact: [Ladislao Di Domenica](#)



Namibia and South Africa submit new/updated EBSAs to the CBD

Charting new waters on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs): Namibia and South Africa are the first countries worldwide to have submitted new and updated EBSA descriptions to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Angola will follow lead in due course.

The countries sharing the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) are using these spatial marine biodiversity priorities to inform their Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes. This supports the implementation of the ecosystem approach and will lead to their enhanced protection through spatial management measures agreed as part of the marine plans. In addition, the EBSAs provide priorities for future expansion of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks.

The EBSA and MSP processes are supported by the [MARISMA](#) project.



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MeerWissen Initiative: Six newly launched partnership projects



Copyright: Agostino Merico

The BMZ initiative MeerWissen - African-German Partners for Ocean Knowledge is supporting six new partnership projects between African and German marine research institutions with a thematic focus on "Strengthening biodiversity conservation in sustainable blue economy approaches in Africa". Over the next two years, the projects will carry out activities in Senegal, Tanzania, South Africa and Namibia. They address a wide range of issues, from the protection of African penguins and related economic aspects, to studies on the potential of marine algae habitats

in "blue growth" strategies, to improving the data basis and data management for the protection and use of marine coastal ecosystems. The MeerWissen initiative responds to the need for a strong knowledge basis and the newly launched six partnership projects play an important role in shaping a sustainable blue economy in their countries of implementation.

[More information here.](#)

Contact: [Sven Stöbener](#)



Asia and Pacific

Announcement: Request for GIZ Coastal Marine Projects Asia Pacific to participate SNRD study for Upscaling

The SNRD- Hills to Oceans (H2O) working group has commissioned Dr. Aaron Lobo to conduct scoping and desks studies on the potential for upscaling of innovations from GIZ supported coastal and marine resources management project. The study which commence this November 2020 – April 2021 aims to compile innovations and best management practices from selected GIZ programs in Asia and the Pacific islands. One of the target results is a feasibility of upscaling and funding e.g. IKI, Green Climate Fund, NAMA, etc. In line with this, we are requesting GIZ programs who are interested to be part of this endeavor, kindly contact:

[Dr. Uwe Scholz](#)



ProCoast project completes webinar series about mangrove rehabilitation and conservation

Between April and October 2020, the project team from GIZ and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) conducted the monthly Mangroves 101 Webinar Series. Dr. Jurgenne Primavera, ZSL Chief

Mangrove Scientific Advisor and main resource person of the series, was joined by experts in the specific sessions on Mangrove Biology, Taxonomy and Utilization (<https://youtu.be/ITSTYbZSzmw>), Mangrove Rehabilitation (<https://youtu.be/ExfgfHLeIrU>), Green-Gray Engineering (<https://youtu.be/7S34YkAeblQ>), Abandoned Pond to Mangrove Reversion and Blue Carbon (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNjKa70s5c0&t=116s>), Mangrove Eco-Parks (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsvJ-T2GgD8&t=29s>) and Mangrove Associates and Beach Forests (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=PEURL-3bXmc&feature=youtu.be>). On average, 518 people attended the episodes and in total, participants from 37 different countries tuned in.

Contact: [Franca Sprong](#)



Suyac Island Mngrove Eco-Park. Copyright: R. Capio/GIZ



Sector Network on Rural Development Asia Pacific – Hills to Ocean Working Group

Successful Hills to Oceans (H2O) Working Group sessions during the Sector Network on Rural Development Virtual Conference last Oct 27-28, 2020. The H2O WG sessions tackled on the following: Future Fit of the Sector Network and developing “Better Normal” for GIZ programs. The sessions also featured 2 SNRD innovation and learning fund projects on scoping of coastal fisheries innovations and best practices and the pandemic impacts in the green and blue sectors. Both studies will commence on November 2020 until April 2021. The WG is looking for interested GIZ programs across Asia and the Pacific to participate.

Other session topics included “Making the Better Normal Gender Responsive”, FMB, funding mechanisms, and GIZ knowledge platforms such as TOPICS, IDA, PANORAMA.

Contact: [Terence Paul Dacles](#)

Global

Our response to COVID-19

In the early months of 2020, we excitedly planned activities



Copyright: Erick Ross Salazar

with our partner countries and sketched out contributions to the upcoming key political events in the super year of biodiversity.

Enter COVID-19. Immediately we realized the significant impact this was going to have on the course of the project implementation. It felt like we were standing on the bridge of a ship, heading on a collision course but unable to initiate an evasive maneuver. And so, we began to reflect on our cooperation and management model, and we started

developing answers to the question: How do we organize ourselves and collaborate to be an impactful initiative in uncertain times?

Read more here: <https://bluesolutions.info/response-to-covid-19/>

Contact: **Jan Kleine Büning**



New BMU Marine Litter project

Since July 2020 we have been implementing the global sector project to support the BMU in the implementation of the "Marine Debris Framework - regional hubs around the globe" funding program by providing advisory support. Further interventions include facilitation of international exchange in marine litter and related fields, e.g. waste management, circular economy and the implementation of small pilot measures (e.g. workshops, consulting service and recycling) to develop capacity and as starting point for further stakeholder dialogues or large scale projects. If you have ideas on such small-scale measures (budget up to 30,000 EUR, in individual cases even higher) please contact us.



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Contact: **Kerstin Deji**



Latin America and the Caribbean

Integrated Management for Coastal Marine Zone in Peru



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The Ministry of Environment, through the Office of Environmental Territorial Planning, promotes the development of plans for the integrated management of coastal marine zones with an ecosystem approach. The implementation of these plans seeks to recover and conserve marine ecosystems, as well as their hydrobiological resources, promoting responsible fishing, reduction of the use of plastic and an adequate management of solid waste, as well as the promotion of sustainable tourism, and strengthen capacities to mitigate

the effects of climate change to benefit local population. The advances were presented at the end of September during a national meeting with all the regions of the Peruvian coast.

Further information: <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minam/noticias/305065-el-25-de-las-zonas-marino-costeras-del-pais-cuenta-con-planes-para-su-conservacion-y-uso-sostenible>

Contact: Philine Oft



Support to fishermen of the Arenillas Ecological Reserve affected by the COVID19

More than 4000 hectares of mangrove in the Arenillas Ecological Reserve are managed under a participatory custody scheme between artisanal fishermen and the Ministry of Environment and Water of Ecuador. The COVID-19 measures such as the confinement, curfews and reduced demand for seashells, crabs and white fish, left fishermen without income. GIZ Ecuador through the project Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, donated 400 food kits and protective equipment against COVID-19 to fishermen and their families. Together we traced measures to increase the response capacity of fishermen to face the crisis caused by the pandemic such as economic reactivation, training on good practices on biosecurity and food hygiene.

Contact: Irma Jurrius



Delivery of kits to fishermen and families in mangroves on the coast of Ecuador
Copyright: GIZ Ecuador



Publications and Events

News related to ocean and coast conservation

For all who are interested in scientific and technical news related to ocean and coast conservation, sustainable use and management issues, here are some reads you may pursue:

Marine biodiversity reshuffles under warmer and sea ice-free Pacific Arctic; September 29, 2020
Source:Hokkaido University , Summary: Climate warming will alter marine community compositions as species are expected to shift poleward, significantly impacting the Arctic marine ecosystem.
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/09/200929123500.htm>

Ocean heatwaves dramatically shift habitats, August 5, 2020;:NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region,
Summary:Marine heatwaves across the world's oceans can displace habitat for sea turtles, whales, and other marine life by 10s to thousands of kilometers. They dramatically shift these animals' preferred temperatures in a fraction of the time that climate change is expected to do the same, new research shows.
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200805124046.htm>

Leaving more big fish in the sea reduces carbon dioxide emissions;:October 29, 2020;:ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Summary:Leaving more big fish -- like tuna, sharks, mackerel and swordfish -- in the sea reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released into the Earth's atmosphere. This is because when a fish dies in the ocean it sinks to the depths and sequesters all the carbon it contains with it. This is a form of 'blue carbon'. Big fish are about 10 to 15 percent carbon.
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201028143124.htm>

Future lake food webs in Subarctic have more biomass and contain more omega-3 fatty acids;:October 30, 2020, University of Jyväskylä - Jyväskylän yliopisto; Summary:Subarctic regions are facing rapid changes in climate and land-use intensity. An international research team recently completed an investigation to see how these changes are affecting the food webs and fish communities of lakes in northern Finland. Biomasses and omega-3 fatty acids, EPA and DHA, were determined from the algal producers at the base of food web to large carnivorous fish from 20 lakes along a pronounced climatic and productivity gradient.
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201030122543.htm>

FAO: IUU fishing is a great threat to sustainable fisheries – 07 June 2020, Rome - FAO on Friday led celebrations of the 3rd International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, a scourge accounting for as much as one-seventh of the fish traded in the world. "It's evident that the pandemic restrictions has accelerated the use of electronic tools for surveillance of illegal fishing, which is promising," said Audun Lem, Deputy Director of FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1279305/icode/>

Vietnam seeks stern measures to tackle IUU fishing
Thursday, September 10, 2020, 15:02 GMT+7
<https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/business/20200910/vietnam-seeks-stern-measures-to-tackle-iuu-fishing/56671.html>

European Commission -Food, farming, fisheries -Fisheries-Press
https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_en

MarineBio – Marine Conservation -Sustainable Fisheries – Youtube links to Smithsonian Channel and Ending Overfishing
<https://marinebio.org/conservation/sustainable-fisheries/>



Global Platforms and Conferences to come

Our Ocean Conference – Palau – postponed until 2021 due to the Corona pandemic

<https://www.ourocean2020.pw/>

UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue to consider how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action – 2-3. December 2020

<https://unfccc.int/event/ocean-and-climate-change-dialogue-to-consider-how-to-strengthen-adaptation-and-mitigation-action>

8th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo, March 2nd–4th 2021, Lisbon Congress Centre; The Economist Group

<https://events.economist.com/world-ocean-summit/>

BIT's 9th Annual World Congress of Ocean-2021 - BIT Congress WCO-2021), 27.-19-09-2021, Dalian, China

<https://www.bitcongress.com/wco2021/>

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