



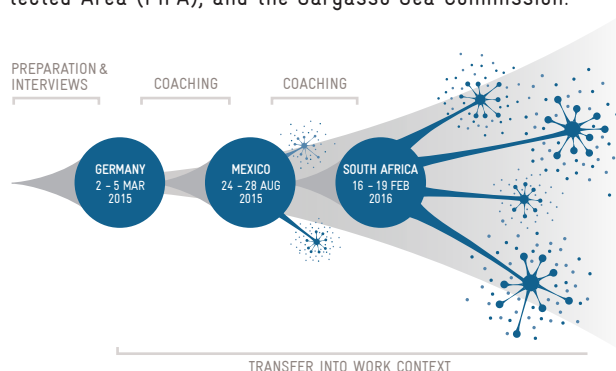
# The Sustainable Oceans Lab

## How can we work together to enhance the sustainable management of our marine ecosystems globally?

Oceans cover 71% of our planet's surface. They are critical for global food security, for sustaining economic prosperity, and for the well-being of humankind. Oceans are our natural life-support system; and our development opportunities and those of future generations depend on the sustained wealth of the world's natural ocean capital. The present degradation of the marine environment and loss of ocean biodiversity is however jeopardizing the services and products that oceans provide.

Our current technical and policy approaches have reached their limits, and we have failed to institutionalize effective and sustainable governance mechanisms for our oceans. One of the biggest challenges in this regard is the diverse and often opposing interests of the various stakeholders from government, the private sector, local communities, and the civil society.

(F-LMMA), the Kanan Kay Alliance, the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA), and the Sargasso Sea Commission.



The Sustainable Oceans Lab represents a new approach to the challenge of ensuring our marine ecosystems are sustainable. The Lab is built on the idea that just as scientific and technical labs address our scientific and technical challenges; social labs are needed to address our socio-economic and political challenges. This year-long leadership and innovation lab provided a space for exploring new perspectives and co-creating new approaches to multi-stakeholder engagement in the governance of ocean spaces. To learn from local contexts, the lab conducted meetings on marine biodiversity on Vilm Island (Germany), fishing cooperatives in Punta Allen (Mexico), and marine protected areas on Robben Island (South Africa).

The Lab offered an approach of disciplined experimentation to innovate across stakeholder groups. Working in teams, participants steadily shaped change interventions that they committed to pursue during the Lab. Each participant and initiative decided what the most pressing issues are for them, and worked towards a respective outcome. Coaching between the Lab meetings supported the transfer of new insights into the home context of participants, and the implementation of change interventions.

31  
PARTICIPANTS

15  
COUNTRIES

### The Process

The Sustainable Oceans Lab gathered 31 leaders and change agents from government, business, and civil society from five continents and 15 countries (43% women, 57% men). The Lab Team consisted of representatives from individual organizations (e.g. World Ocean Council, Shell, UNEP, Future of Fish) as well as teams from initiatives who have successfully catalyzed cross sectoral strategies in their own geographies like the Benguela Current Commission, the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Protected Area Network



of the Federal Republic of Germany

implemented by

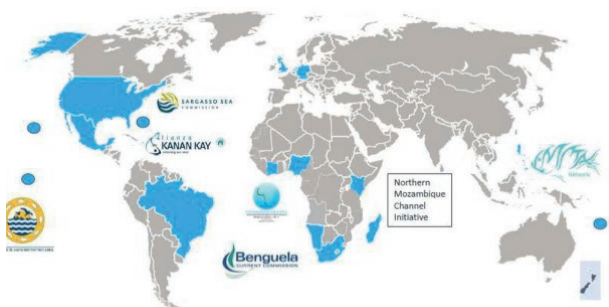


implemented by



Through this process the Lab delivered on three objectives: Firstly, to develop capacity to effectively lead complex change initiatives and bring diverse interests of the oceans system into dialogue; secondly, to critically examine existing strategies and initiatives, seeking to build on and improve them; and thirdly, to develop new solutions to collaboratively address oceans management.

Many insights from the Lab culminated in a public event on Integrated Oceans Management (IOM) in Cape Town, bringing together around 100 people from Southern Africa.



Multi-stakeholder initiatives represented in the Sustainable Oceans Lab



**Further information:**

See a short video introducing the SOL:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWWYJFKYxx4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWWYJFKYxx4)

[www.we-do-change.org/what-we-do/sustainable-oceans-lab](http://www.we-do-change.org/what-we-do/sustainable-oceans-lab)

[www.sustainableoceanslab.org](http://www.sustainableoceanslab.org)

## Impact

*“The Lab has opened my eyes to take a different approach, doing things differently, and I will be thinking about all the diversity that we brought to the table here with the Sustainable Oceans Lab. Without that I would not have my eyes open as much as they are. Right now I feel like I’m a born-again in a way so to speak to where I have new ideas new thoughts.”*

*Billy Causey – Southeast Regional Director of NOAA’s National Office for Marine Sanctuaries, USA*

*“I’m personally really grateful to be part of this initiative. I think the SOL convenes an amazing, extremely diverse group of people from all over the world and it is been an opportunity to really sit back and reflect on your voice and your purpose, the purpose that brings us here, brings me here, but also to learn to listen to others perspectives and take that home as a practice that is the basis for multi-stakeholder engagement.”*

*Mariana Vélez – Alliances Coordinator Yucatan Peninsula, The Natur Conservancy, Mexico*

## Stories of change

Four comprehensive change interventions have been developed during the Lab in subgroups:

**How to increase local resiliency of island communities?  
 The Kadavu prototype**

The group created prototype approaches to community resilience in island communities. In this regard, the prototyping team has focused on Kadavu in Fiji which includes about 70 villages, and narrowed the focus down to two priorities: sustainable livelihoods and renewable energy.

**How to strengthen and model multi-stakeholder initiatives around complex small-scale fisheries management?  
 The Kanan Kay Alliance and Future of Fish Prototype**

Kanan Kay Alliance and Future of Fish are working together to address the challenge of how to strengthen and model multi-stakeholder initiatives around complex small-scale fisheries management. The prototype is looking at whether the Kanan Kay Alliance could be a model for other multi-stakeholder alliances looking at community based oceans management and how lessons learnt might apply to other initiatives.

**EBSAs and how to mitigate impacts from industry?  
 The Sargasso Sea and Fiji Prototype**

The prototype of this group was to develop a process to involve industries in the assessment of industry impacts in ecologically sensitive marine areas, and in respective mitigation measures to limit the negative impact.

**How to support the development and implementation of national Integrated Oceans Management in international and regional contexts?**

### The Integrated Oceans Management (IOM) practitioners group

The focus of this prototype was to set up an IOM Practitioner group with the aim to support the development and implementation of national IOM in international and regional contexts. A first output of this practitioners group was a discussion paper on the challenges of multi-stakeholder engagement in IOM.

For more voices watch our video on the SOL's results:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UdrNCTWgxU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UdrNCTWgxU)



70%

improvement of innovation and leadership skills



60%

received significant impulses for tackling current challenges in their home systems



50%

were able to initiate innovation and change in their institutions and organisations

March 2017

#### Further information:

The public event on Integrated Oceans Management (IOM) in Cape Town, bringing together around 100 people from Southern Africa:

[bluesolutions.info/integrated-oceans-management-iom](http://bluesolutions.info/integrated-oceans-management-iom)

Report:

[www.openchannels.org/blog/christian/integrated-oceans-management-iom-bringing-together-sectors-and-stakeholders-healthy](http://www.openchannels.org/blog/christian/integrated-oceans-management-iom-bringing-together-sectors-and-stakeholders-healthy)

Further information about our impact:

[www.we-do-change.org/our-impact](http://www.we-do-change.org/our-impact)

## The convening organisations

### Blue Solutions initiative

Blue Solutions provides a global knowledge network and capacity development platform to collate, share and generate solutions for effective management and equitable governance of our planet's marine and coastal living spaces. The Blue Solutions Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through its International Climate Initiative (ICI) is being implemented by four leading environment, conservation and development institutions: the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in direct partnership with GRID-Arendal, IUCN and UNEP. Marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has been identified as one of the priorities for action under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Blue Solutions Initiative supports the transfer and advancement of knowledge, as well as capacity development to enable state parties to the CBD in achieving the Aichi Targets of the CBD Strategic Plan. Technical know-how, improved capacities and the application of (cost-) effective and promising methods and tools can help to safeguard marine and coastal biodiversity.

[www.bluesolutions.info](http://www.bluesolutions.info)

### The Global Leadership Academy

The Global Leadership Academy offers interdisciplinary and practice-oriented programmes aimed at improving the innovation capacity and leadership skills of decision-makers from the fields of policy-making, business, higher education and research, and civil society. In the Lab they come together to look at global issues from a completely different angle. Gaining fresh perspectives allows them to implement the necessary change processes in their spheres of influence.

The Global Leadership Academy, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is a central component in GIZ's range of services for international human capacity development.

[www.we-do-change.org](http://www.we-do-change.org)

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