

# WIO-ECSN AT THE WIOGEN OCEAN GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

The virtual WIOGEN ocean governance conference brought together leading academics, researchers and policymakers to provide rich knowledge pools in which ideas were exchanged and future collaborations emerged. A number of members of the Western Indian Ocean Early Career Scientists Network (WIO-ECSN) presented papers at the conference and share their experiences here:



Riaan Cedras

### Riaan Cedras: Networking with networks

At the WIOGEN virtual conference, our network sponsored a 30-minute coffee break session that allowed for an exchange of ideas about ocean governance. Early career researchers were able to share their research and experiences in law, sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and deep-sea research. Beyond the conference, dialogue continued, encouraging a variety of professionals to establish governance of our ocean system that includes indigenous knowledge.

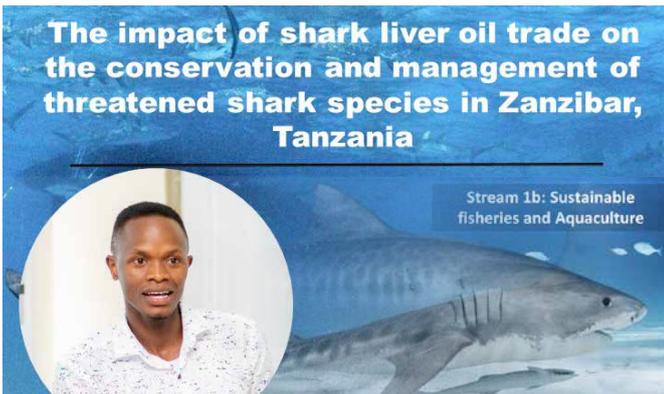
### Damaris Kinyua: Fishers' perceptions of billfish resources use along the Kenyan coast, implications for management and governance

I had the opportunity to present part of my PhD research findings on billfish resource utilization at the WIOGEN conference. My research examines the fishing behavior, views, and attitudes of artisanal billfish fishers toward the institutional

regulation of billfish resource use. Preliminary findings indicate that the institutions have gained acceptance and that the various groups' functions have become more effective over the years. This research highlights the importance of developing synergy among all stakeholders involved in billfish resources, hence improving management success, and addressing potential conflicts between user groups. [Read the abstract.](#)



Damaris Kinyua



Frank Mirobo

### Frank Mirobo: The impact of shark liver oil trade on the conservation and management of threatened shark species in Zanzibar, Tanzania

My study aimed to determine the impact of the shark liver oil trade in the conservation and management of threatened shark species in Zanzibar, Tanzania. A major finding of this study is that it is not only the shark fin trade that has an impact on the overexploitation of shark species, but also other shark products, including shark liver oil trade. Immediate intervention is highly recommended. In this conference my presentation was one of the best and I received a student prize (<https://wiogen.org/student-prize-winners/>).

[Read the abstract.](#)

### Jean Aimé Zafimahatradraibe: Local governance of marine resources in Madagascar: role of the local manager and the responsibility of the co-manager in marine protected area governance

The findings show that the local governance groups have authority, mainly in terms of legal recognition, but they have low capacity to make decisions and to implement their conservation action. My research analysis suggests that the responsibility of the co-

manager should be to build the capacity of local governance groups and develop an exit strategy for the co-manager. The role of the local governance groups is to focus on promoting local initiatives, improving their capacity and encouraging and motivating their staff. [Read the abstract.](#)



Jean Aimé Zafimahatradraibe

### Erica Tovela: DNA barcoding as a tool for species identification of the genus *Lethrinus* in Mozambique



Erica Tovela

The main objective of the study was to barcode all the species and provide an accurate fish differentiation in four study areas in Mozambique: Inhaca and Bazaruto Archipelago in the South of Mozambique, and Ibo Island, Mecufi and Memba in the north. Nine species were identified. Two species are new to the country, namely *Lethrinus borbonicus* and *Lethrinus sp.* It is recommended that more samples be collected and analyzed to ensure greater robustness in the results and better species differentiation.

[Read the abstract.](#)

## Alessia Dinoi, Aina Le Don Nomenisoa and Gildas Todinanahary: WIO Marine Ecosystem Services Valuation: A systematic review of current outputs, gaps, methods, and future directions



Alessia Dinoi Aina le Don

This research highlights the importance to have an appropriate marine ecosystem services valuation for each WIO country. The choice of a clear goal, an appropriate methodology and involvement of numerous stakeholders, can provide transparent and free data for each ecosystem services usable for short- and long-term policy making and monitoring environmental changes. [Read the abstract.](#)

## Fadhili Malesa: Spatio-temporal variation of zooplankton and fish larvae community structure in different seagrass areas of Tanga coastal waters, Tanzania



Fadhili M. Malesa

Results indicated a difference in zooplankton and fish larvae taxonomic group density (No.s m<sup>-3</sup>) between seasons- higher during the southeast monsoon than in the northeast monsoon. Healthy seagrass subsites showed higher fish larvae density than degraded subsites. Nonetheless, zooplankton distribution could not be linked directly to the healthy status of seagrasses in the sampled areas. [Read the abstract.](#)

## WIO-ECSN IN THE MAURITIUS CORAL REEFS RESEARCH WORKSHOP

By Deepeeka Kaullysing and Frank Mirobo

In an effort to share maximum information with the younger generation and first year students at the University of Mauritius, our country coordinator Deepeeka Kaullysing assisted with the organization of a virtual training workshop on coral reefs research in Mauritius.

The workshop was held from 18 to 20 November 2021, led by Associate Professor Ranjeet Bhagooli of the University of Mauritius. Two world renowned coral reef research scientists, Dr Tim McClanahan and Dr Nyawira Muthiga, from the Wildlife Conservation Society in Kenya, and local reefs scientists from several organizations



presented their research work. Our network vice-chair Mouneshwar Soondur highlighted the WIO-ECSN activities being carried out in the region and encouraged early career scientists who are passionate about coral reef sciences in Mauritius to join our network. The event attracted the interest of more than 70 early career scientists in Mauritius.

# MARINE LITTER CLEAN-UP AT MSASANI BEACH IN DAR ES SALAAM | *By Ailars David*

**Marine litter is one of the leading global crises and there is a need for immediate action to eradicate the problem.**

The Arena Recycling Industry, a startup company that recycles plastic waste into building materials, in partnership with the Women in Recycling Foundation, Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania, MBRC the Ocean Foundation, and Msasani Beach Management Unit, teamed up with WIO-ECSN-Tanzania to organize a beach clean-up at Msasani beach in Dar es Salaam. The event aimed to generate awareness among the fishers and local

communities in Msasani Beach on the effects of marine litter on marine organisms and the importance of regular beach clean ups. This event was funded by Youth for Water and Climate. The event brought together more than 70 people who collected 444 kg of waste, while over 1 000 people were educated directly during the event and virtually through the media. This event was the first of many planned beach clean-ups.

**“ The event aimed to generate awareness among the fishers and local communities in Msasani Beach on the effects of marine litter on marine organisms and the importance of regular beach clean ups.”**

