

## Call for Application

# Blue Leadership Journey for Ocean Sustainability Training for Multipliers

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) is delighted to invite you to apply for a 6-days in person Training Workshop “Blue Leadership for Ocean Sustainability” from **16-21<sup>st</sup> September 2024** in Zanzibar. Applications close on **30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

### Background

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We are experiencing a fundamental shift. The socio-ecological transformation towards a just and safe future is a monumental challenge, especially in coastal regions where a third of the world's population resides. Countries are striving to develop their ocean economies and implement integrated ocean governance schemes, all while tackling issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequality, and meeting international targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite these efforts, progress is slow, and the climate crisis is worsening. Many dedicated "Blue Leaders" involved in this transformation are feeling increasingly resigned, exhausted, and doubtful of their effectiveness. Why is that?

The nature of the challenges we face today has changed fundamentally. We inhabit a highly interconnected and rapidly evolving world where multiple crises intersect. Consequently, many traditional approaches, behaviours, and habits are no longer effective and may even be counterproductive. Shaping the present positively and working towards a just and safe future entails more than just implementing specific solutions and technologies; it requires a fundamental shift in our humanity. Cultivating a change in culture and awareness, including our own behaviours, habits, and attitudes, is essential. We must develop new inner and outer skills such as systemic thinking, resilience, and co-creation – “future skills” crucial for effectively driving the transformation towards a socially just and ecologically safe society. To achieve this, we need individuals – Blue Leaders – who embrace these future skills and inspire others by enabling co-creation, leveraging societal transformation and caring for others and the ocean as much as for themselves.

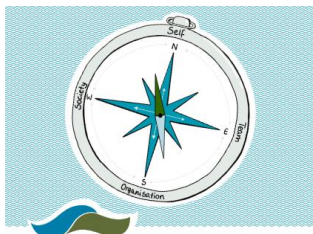
### Objective

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The Blue Leadership Journey is a cutting-edge leadership training that supports marine environmental change agents to strengthen their efforts for a healthy ocean and people. The Blue Leadership Journey supports you to make a fundamental difference for sustainable marine and coastal ecosystem management. You will:

- Learn to better understand systemic interrelationships and levers for profound transformation, and thereby become more effective in shaping (societal) change processes,
- Further develop innovation, co-creation and problem-solving skills in dealing with today's challenges,
- Further develop your self-efficacy by strengthening trust, individual resilience and self-care,





- Develop new patterns of awareness, thinking, feeling and action as a basis for life-enhancing change processes, and
- Connect with other like-minded Blue Leaders from the region and become a multiplier for Blue Leadership within your spheres of influence.

## Training Outline

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Holistic learning with head, heart and hand is at the centre of the journey. To this end, participants work together on their own topics that are close to their hearts. On the one hand, the journey will provide helpful frameworks and models that provide orientation by relating the various levels of transformation (self, team, organisation, society, and environment) to each other, illuminating systemic rules and helping to question obstructive basic assumptions and supplement them with beneficial basic assumptions. On the other hand, the learning journey will provide a methodological toolbox containing numerous exercises from personality and leadership development, team and organisational development, as well as nature connection exercises for practical application and experimentation. In addition, the journey will provide ample time for personal reflection, peer-to-peer learning and networking with fellow participants from the ocean community. And you are invited to develop your own follow-up prototype project to apply in practice what you have learned to your own context.

- Individual virtual preliminary talks to get to know each other and identifying your specific needs and learning objectives (30 min. by arrangement)
- Six consecutive training days (including 1-day excursion)
- Joint online session for peer-to-peer learning, conclusion and reflection 4-6 weeks after the workshop (26<sup>th</sup> October- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

## Participant Profile

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We invite applications from participants with the following profile:

- Professional in **marine and coastal conservation and management, or related sectors.**
- Experiences in or with **leadership in practice** (taking responsibility, leading people, engaging for a topic or alike).
- **Curiosity** to experience experiential educational concepts.
- High level of **self-reflection and inter-personal competencies.**
- **English language proficiency.**
- Interest and willingness to be a **multiplier for Blue Leadership approaches.**

## Financial support

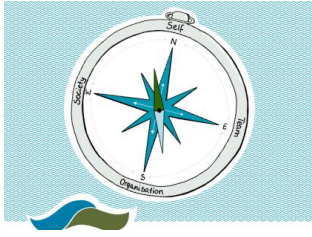
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WIOMSA will provide financial support to cover travel and accommodation within the within the limits of funds available. Applicants are encouraged to raise funds to enable them to attend the training. Such initiatives will be taken into consideration when selecting candidates and allocating funding support.

## Application

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We look forward to receiving your application! To apply, please fill out the application (written and video responses) here: <https://forms.gle/1Y8rPLi6e6LgnNWX8>. Please apply by **30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**. In case you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org) copied to [lilian@wiomsa.org](mailto:lilian@wiomsa.org).

