

EVERY CHAIR HAS A LEADER: BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN'S BLUE LEADERS

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Twenty participants from western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries and Sweden met for the first time in Zanzibar for the inaugural Blue Leadership Training for Multipliers on 13 June 2022. The training was organized by WIOMSA and aimed to equip professionals with skills to enhance their leadership of marine and coastal management initiatives and projects at local, national and regional level.



A large number of the participants are conservation managers in charge of marine protected areas (MPAs) and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) in the WIO.

The Blue Leadership journey is a leadership programme meant to inspire and support change for the benefit of healthy people, healthy teams, healthy organizations and a healthy ocean. The training is set up as a navigational journey and participants are encouraged to think of themselves as captains of their ships, developing skills to navigate the oceans. The expectation is that the professionals become marine environmental change agents who are better equipped to deal with ocean changes during the Ocean Decade.

Participants were guided by trainers Britta Heine and Jan Klein Buning and learned through games, group discussions and reflective journaling.



"A calm sea never makes a good sailor". The Blue Leadership programme is set up as a navigational journey

At the end of the workshop, they were able to sail and navigate with head, hand and heart through the four quadrants of the leadership compass which are:

- Leading self: finding safe harbour
- Leading teams: all hands-on deck
- Leading organizations: managing your fleet
- Leading social transition: navigating winds of change.

A full-day field excursion to a seaweed farm in Fumba, Msonge Organic Farm and a spice farm helped to deepen the bonds between the participants and enhance the learning.