Ocean Data Inclusivity for Africa

Dr. Elegbede, Isa (PhD)
Background

Marine or blue data are information derived from resources (plants, animals, humans and non-living dimensions) associated to aquatic systems.

Marine data Inclusiveness considers full involvement through human rights, gender equity and equality, community and Indigenous Peoples’ participation.

Recognising data value chain in making impact for changes in Africa is important for sustainable development.
The Causes

• Despite the vast volume of blue resources in Africa, there are still issues with poverty, hunger, mismanagement of these resources.
  • Uncoordinated management
  • Unsustainable practices
  • Data deficit and stewardship issues.
People at Risk of Ocean Data Exclusions

- Low-income households
- Coastal communities
- Persons with disabilities
- Old aged groups
- SMEs
- Illiterates
Ocean data value chain

DATA CREATION
- Create

DATA TRANSFORMATION
- Combine
- Transform

DATA VALUE ADD
- Analyse

DATA IMPACT/USE
- User + decisions
  ⇒ Impact

Needs (user, community, business, market, social)

Real-world data at-scale
Digital Technology and Access by Gender, Age, Education, and Income

2020 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank
Issues on Ocean Data Sharing for Africa

• Marine data and information sharing initiatives are not visible to stakeholders
• Marine data managers and private sector users speak different languages
• Availability doesn’t imply usability
Sharing must be established as a new default unless there are compelling security, proprietary or privacy constraints.

New standards could allow marine data holders to define data for public availability.

Governments must lead the way by aggressively declassifying and sharing data that are relevant to ocean science and management.

Need for incentives for marine users and researchers can be incentivized to share data by making it a condition for access to public resources.

Need to promote more transparency in marine seafood traceability.
Ocean Digital Inclusion Framework for Africa

1. TMT infrastructure development to enable universal access
2. Digital content creation to support greater engagement
3. Regulation reform and wholesale open access to promote competitive pricing
4. Public access to connect and assist the financially challenged
5. Active learning support to build digital literacy and skills
6. Awareness and usage campaigning to enhance enthusiasm for digital
7. Safe digital environment to ease security fears

(Berger, 2021)
AU Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2030

“An integrated and inclusive digital society and economy in Africa that improves the quality of life of Africa’s citizens.”

Connecting

• Connecting Policymakers with Africa’s data & digital innovators

Catalyzing

• Catalyzing citizen participation in good governance and development through innovative engagement methodologies

Supporting

• Supporting the implementation of digital policies across Africa
“No one should be left behind” through active and participatory data collection and sharing through citizen engagement

Combination of bottom-top and top-bottom approaches of data collection and sharing for the marine resource's users

SDGs decade of action requirement for data inclusivity is crucial for growth through marine data value chain
Marine data and the Decade of action for Africa

**Incentivise**

• Incentivise the use of the latest innovations and technologies, such as satellites, autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence for near real-time data collection, research, monitoring, and enforcement and decision-making.

**Promote**

• Promote transparent and open sharing and accessibility of blue data

**Scale up**

• Scale up integrated local-to-global observation, including indigenous and local community knowledge, and research to better inform decision-making.

**Support**

• Support marine science capacity building, information exchange, collaboration and appropriate technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and mobilise capital for technologies where there are market gaps.

**Fill**

• Fill major data gaps and digitise information on coastal and marine ecosystems.
How to promote ocean data inclusivity

- Activate marginalised voices in ocean research
- Enquiry about equity across the data value chain
- Increase awareness with data and need assessment
- Ocean institutional data systems should be inclusive and safe
Conclusions

The benefits of sharing marine data with inclusiveness to the African continents cannot be underestimated.

Data inclusions is important for nations in Africa particularly connecting all individuals.

Though there would need to adapt lessons from the global north as a matter of urgency through combining local, traditional and scientific usage and adaptation of data sharing.
How do we achieve the #GlobalGoals by 2030?

- Mobilize everyone, everywhere
- Demand urgency and ambition
- Design new innovations and solutions