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The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) – Advancing Collaborative Biodiversity Observations

The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) is the marine thematic network under the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON). This session is designed for stakeholders to “**cooperate, connect and act**” as an MBON community of practice to observe life in the sea for operational and research purposes. Among the goals of the session is to continue to coordinate toward regional efforts for a successful UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Ocean Decade).

To **cooperate**, participants from academia, early career professionals, private sector, and civil society, across the Atlantic Ocean - from Pole to Pole – will discuss how to strengthen links and empower ocean research and innovation.

A session to talk about the needs for ocean biological observations in ecosystem-based management and sustainable uses of the ocean **connects** the marine research community across the Atlantic. Citizen science and co-production of knowledge between researchers and stakeholders will be brought into the frame for increased cross-sectoral and cross-border support.

Acting together to develop pilot programs, capacity building efforts, coordination mechanisms, and identify funding opportunities will help advance the connections and cooperation efforts.

The side event will have three panels and open discussion sessions:

June 2, 2021, 2:00-4:00 PM AZOT

(10:00-12:00 AM EST; 2:00-4:00 PM AZOT/Cape Verde/Accra; 3:00-5:00 PM Lisbon/Casablanca/Lagos/Luanda; 4:00-6:00 PM Cape Town/Maputo; 5:00-7:00 PM Nairobi)

1. Panel COOPERATE: The Framework (2:00-2:30 PM):

- a) Welcome and All-Atlantic framework: Overview (Isabel Sousa Pinto)
- b) The Global Ocean Observing System: Integrating Biology and Ecosystem Essential Ocean Variables (Frank Muller-Karger)
- c) The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) and the Pole to Pole of the Americas (MBON Pole to Pole) (Enrique Montes)
- d) Marine Life 2030: An Ocean Decade Program Proposal (Emmett Duffy)
- e) Q&A 10 min

Break: 5 m

2. **Panel CONNECT: Bringing people together (2:35-3:05 PM)**

- a) Lessons learned in the Caribbean Sea and Western Atlantic (Elva Escobar)
- b) Atlantic-wide long-term collaborative temperature and Biodiversity Observation Network (CCTBON) (Rui Seabra)
- c) iAtlantic mission (Murray Roberts and Dr AJ Smit)
- d) Ocean Best Practices (Jordan van Stavel)
- e) Q&A 10 min

Break: 10 m

3. **Panel ACT: A Regional Building Block - Africa (3:15-4:00 PM)**

- a) Initiating and advancing a regional MBON in Africa:
 - Capacity Development focused on Life in the Sea (Brian Arbic)
 - African Civil Society Ocean Literacy Action Network? (Anthony Johnson Akpan)
 - A Sustainable Shrimp Farm in Cape Verde (Tatiana Cabral)
 - Remote Sensing Requirements and Applications (Christo Whittle)
- b) **Roundtable discussion:** Synergies and Steps Forward (25 min)

Open discussion between panelists and attendees: Act Together for an MBON Africa.