



AAORIA Declaration

The All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) is the result of science diplomacy efforts involving countries from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. On 14 July 2022, the AAORIA Declaration was signed building on the work of the Galway and Belem Statements to prioritise the following:

- Increase our understanding of the relationship between the ocean and climate, and to develop outcome-oriented science for mitigating and adapting to its consequences;
- Monitor, protect and restore marine ecosystems and biodiversity, thereby enhancing their resilience and potential for adaptation to climate change and other natural and anthropogenic stressors;
- Tackle the impacts of marine pollution, including plastics, on marine species and ecosystems;
- Develop innovative, outcome-oriented science to support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
- Coordinate Atlantic Ocean observing and seabed mapping efforts and improve modeling capacities;
- Promote circular, sustainable and inclusive ocean economies; and
- Promote ocean literacy and broaden engagement in ocean sciences and ocean sustainability.

The AAORIA Forum will be held in Cape Town South Africa in November 2023 to usher in the shape of All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation cooperation for the next decade with

the priorities of the AAORIA Declaration aligned with global commitments such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science For Sustainable Development.

The Cape Town AAORIA Forum will take stock of the success and challenges of programmes and initiatives towards implementing the Galway and Belem Statements, with an emphasis on bringing in new Partners and Supporters and identifying priorities and an implementation plan for AAORIA moving forward.

AAORIA Forum

The forum will bring together representatives of government, research community, society, private sector, NGOs, and global Atlantic Ocean sectors, to craft a common path that is aligned with the aspirations of the AAORIA Declaration. The forum will have an African flavour to also bring along African countries in the Atlantic Ocean with active research and innovation activities.

The forum also intends to elevate the impact of ocean literacy and the societal impact and value of Atlantic Ocean research. There is also an intention to cultivate partnerships between government, civil society, private sector and the research community in the implementation of the AAORIA Declaration. Over the next few years, the societal impact of AAORIA initiatives will become key. The role of civil society, the youth and the early career professionals will also be prominent to ensure future proofing the AAORIA Declaration.

Expected Outcomes

- Short list of AAORIA Priorities for the Coming Year
- Input into implementation plan, which the SC and HLB will conclude
- Endorsement of new AAORIA Partners
- Participation of Supporters, with emphasis on society and industry partners

Forum venue (November 21st and 22nd):

CTICC (Cape Town International Convention Centre), Convention Square, 1 Lower Long Street, Cape Town, 8001, South Africa



Programme

Day 0 - Monday November 20, 2023	
	<p>Side Events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Polar Research Workshop at UCT Graduate School of Business Conference Centre at the Protea Hotel by Marriott® Cape Town Waterfront Breakwater Lodge 2. AAORIA Steering Committee Meeting – Closed Session
Day 1 - Tuesday November 21, 2023	
<u>8:00</u> SAST	<p>Attendee Arrival / Registration at CTICC, Cape Town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Includes security check, name tag pick-up
<u>8:30</u> SAST	<p>Networking Breakfast (Light pastries/coffee bar)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue Registration if needed
<u>9:00</u> SAST	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Master of Ceremony</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Remarks from the Director-General of the Department of Science and Innovation – Philemon Mjwara 2. Short Statements from the AAORIA Declaration signatories
<u>09:40</u> SAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Announcement of new AAORIA Partners ● Short statements from newly announced Partners
<u>9:55</u> SAST	<p>Digital Twins of the Atlantic Ocean – Atlantic Ocean Focus – Martin Visbeck</p>



<p><u>10:10</u> <u>SAST</u></p>	<p>A: Key outcomes from Galway and Belem JPAs/WG with emphasis on suggestions from those groups on ways AAORIA could move forward on their work</p> <p>AANChOR Project - Sofia Cordeiro</p>
<p><u>10:20</u> <u>SAST</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South African All-Atlantic Blue Schools Network Initiative: Learners Presentation 2. Short Video- AAORIA Flagship projects
<p><u>10:40</u> <u>SAST</u></p>	<p>Short break</p>
<p><u>11:10</u> <u>SAST</u></p>	<p>B: Key outcomes from Galway and Belem JPAs/WG with emphasis on suggestions from those groups on ways AAORIA could move forward on their work</p> <p>Flash Presentations from the EC Funded All-Atlantic Ocean Research Projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASTRAL – Elisa Ravagnan 2. iAtlantic – Murray Roberts 3. AA-BSN – Ronaldo Christofolletti 4. AtlantECO – Emma Rocke 5. AA-TP – Luís Pinheiro 6. AquaVitae – Bente Torstensen
<p><u>11:30</u> <u>SAST</u></p>	<p>Engaging African Partners/Supporters in the All Atlantic Ocean</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IOCAFRICA – Joseph Mahongah 2. NOAA – Staci Rijal 3. SANOCEAN –Tracy Klarenbeek 4. Global Ocean Accounts Partnership Africa Community of Practice – Ken Findlay
<p><u>12:20</u> <u>SAST</u></p>	<p>Round Table Discussions with Complementary organizations on their efforts and ways that AAORIA can complement without duplicating</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oceans Innovation Africa – Alexis Grosskopf 2. Birdlife SA – Alistair McInnes 3. ICES – Jo Foden



<u>13:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Networking Lunch
<u>14:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Short (5 min) panel presentations from existing Partners on their priorities for AAORIA from partners <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Argentina 2. Brazil 3. Canada 4. Carbo Verde 5. European Union 6. Morocco 7. Norway 8. United Kingdom 9. United States of America 10. South Africa
<u>14:50</u> <u>SAST</u>	Open discussions on Priority Setting – Solicitation of inputs on possible short term implementation ideas for AAORIA in the next 1-2 years.
<u>15:30</u> <u>SAST</u>	Day 1 Wrap UP and presentation of captured suggested inputs to the AAORIA HLB for consideration
<u>15:40</u> <u>SAST</u>	AAORIA HLB Closed Meeting
<u>16:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Afternoon Tea
<u>18:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Networking Cocktail Evening
Day 2 - Wednesday November 22, 2023	
<u>8:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Attendee Arrival / Registration at CTICC, Cape Town <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Includes security check, name tag pick-up



<u>8:30</u> <u>SAST</u>	Networking Breakfast (Light pastries/coffee bar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Registration if needed
<u>9:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Day 1 summary recall
<u>9:10</u> <u>SAST</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean Sciences New Generation Academic Programme (nGAP) – Magabo Ragoasha Setting up of an All-Atlantic Plastic Hub to work on microplastics bringing together Youth/ECOPs
<u>9:30</u> <u>SAST</u>	Intergenerational dialogue session: Empowering our future All-Atlantic Ocean Stewards and Leaders <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Isabelle Ansorge – UCT and the SEAMester Programme Mafalda de Freitas – Peniche Watch Marissa Brink-Hull – UCT ASTRAL Luther Adams – SANBI ECOP
<u>10:10</u> <u>SAST</u>	Round Table Discussions (Perspectives on the future of AAORIA from the ECOPS and Youth) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thulwaneng Mashifane – AtlantECO Precious Mongwe – CSIR SOCCO-COMFORT Ashlyn Kupczyk – DFFE Oceans & Coasts Aimee Cloete – UCT MARIS
<u>10:40</u> <u>SAST</u>	Short break
<u>11:10</u> <u>SAST</u>	Video
<u>11:20</u> <u>SAST</u>	Round Table Discussions (AAORIA Alignment to Ocean Decade) Video message on the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and AAORIA contributions. Vladimir Ryabinin,



	<p>Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO: Executive Secretary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Decade of Ocean Science – IOCCARRIBE African and Adjacent Island States Ocean Decade Taskforce – Juliet Hermes UN Decade on Ocean Predict – Enrique Avarez
<u>11:50</u> <u>SAST</u>	<p><u>Round Table Discussions (Creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive AAORIA)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PLAAS – Mafaniso Hara AtlantECO – Natasha Karenyi CLIMAREST – Ida Beathe Øverjordet Mission Atlantic: Optimising Ecosystem Management – Megan Van Der Bank UCT MARIS – Ndamona Mateus
<u>12:45</u> <u>SAST</u>	<p>Organization/Industry Alignment with AAORIA Declaration Priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic International Research Centre – Miguel Miranda CLS Southern Africa – Sidney Bilski EU Polar Net – Nicole Biebow CSIR SOCCO – Sandy Thomalla
<u>13:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Networking Lunch
	HLB Closed session
<u>14:30</u> <u>SAST</u>	Update on the Second World Ocean Assessment – Roberto de Pinho
<u>14:40</u> <u>SAST</u>	AAORIA HLB statement on proposed short term implementation ideas for AAORIA in the next 1-2 years
<u>15:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Remarks on Next Forum – Canada



<u>15:05</u> <u>SAST</u>	Closing Remarks
<u>15:15</u> <u>SAST</u>	Afternoon Tea
Day 3 - Thursday November 23, 2023	
<u>14:00</u> <u>SAST</u>	Workshop on Advanced Digital Technologies for Ocean Science Hosted by Brazil & South Africa at DFFE Fisheries Board Room.

