



**LAGOS STATE
UNIVERSITY**



US West Africa Atlantic Coastal Resilience Research Consortium
<https://uswacrrc.org/>

***United States-West Africa Atlantic Coastal Resilience Research Consortium (CRRC)
4th Annual International Workshop
Hosted at the Lagos State University (LASU) Lagos, Nigeria
19th – 21st August 2024***

Workshop Concept Note

**Workshop Theme: Harnessing The Blue & Marine Economy in Support of
the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**



Globally, coastal areas are under severe pressure from a range of anthropogenic and natural threats. In West Africa, coastal erosion and flooding severely threaten communities, livelihoods, safety and infrastructure all along the coastline. Other threats include stronger storms and rising seas that are causing massive erosion problems along the coast; beaches that are being destroyed because they are deeply mined for sand; and protective mangroves being deforested to urban expansion and oil industry activities in parts of the region. The West African coastline extends for almost 4,000km from Senegal to Cameroun. About one-third of the region's people, estimated at 382 million and growing by four percent each year, live in the coastal areas. The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that about 42% of West Africa's GDP is generated from its coastal areas.

The US-West Africa Atlantic Coastal Resilience Research Consortium (CRRC) brings together a diverse and interdisciplinary group of researchers from multiple US institutions in collaboration with several leading institutions and agencies from coastal countries in West African to develop and implement a joint research plan to better understand the physical processes that impact and threaten the region's coastlines. The CRRC aims to improve the ability of people in West African coastal regions to adapt to changing environmental conditions by addressing critical coastal resilience gaps through targeted research and capacity development efforts. The CRRC's 4th International Workshop will bring together various stakeholders from the US and across West Africa to explore strategies for developing a sustainable Blue Economy. Emphasis will be on the North Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent coastal marine environments.

Workshop Hosts & Co-Sponsors: This three-day hybrid (in-person and virtual) workshop will be jointly hosted by multiple institutions in Nigeria led by Lagos State University (LASU). Major co-sponsors of the workshop include the Federal Ministry of Marine & Blue Economy, the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) Nigeria, Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), Ministry of Environment and Water Resources Lagos State, Ministry of Health Lagos State, and several universities in Nigeria, including University of Benin, Igbinedion University Okada, University of Calabar, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University, and Niger Delta University.

Workshop Partners: This workshop is organized by the CRRC as a contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Collaborating partners include UN agencies, multilateral and intergovernmental organizations, international marine/ocean science institutions/organizations such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African

Union Commission (AU), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO; the Decade Collaborative Center for Coastal Resilience (DCC-CR) Bologna, Italy; Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)-Africa; Nansen-Tutu Centre for Marine Environmental Research Cape Town, South Africa; Centre for Coastal Management Cape Coast, Ghana; and several other institutions in the Global South.

Workshop Objectives: The workshop will provide an opportunity for marine, atmospheric and Ocean science community to explore strategies for developing a sustainable blue economy with the following specific objectives:

- Raise awareness about the Blue Economy and its potential for economic growth and environmental sustainability.
- Discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with harnessing the Blue Economy.
- Explore best practices and innovative approaches for sustainable Blue Economy development.
- Foster collaboration and build networks among stakeholders in the Blue Economy sector.
- Develop actionable recommendations for policy and practice.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased awareness and understanding of the Blue Economy concept.
- Identification of key challenges and opportunities for sustainable Blue Economy development.
- Development of actionable recommendations for policy and practice.
- Establishment of networks and partnerships among stakeholders.

Workshop Participants: The Workshop will bring together practitioners and researchers with expertise in environmental economics, climate and environmental science; fisheries and marine science; sociology; and climate finance from the following institutions and agencies:

- Relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies: Environment, Finance, Water Resources/Coastal Affairs
- Government officials responsible for maritime affairs, fisheries, environment, and economic development.
- Academics and researchers working on Blue Economy issues.
- Private sector representatives from industries such as fisheries, aquaculture, marine renewable energy, and tourism.
- Civil society organizations with a focus on ocean conservation and sustainable development.
- Local communities dependent on ocean resources for their livelihoods.
- Research Institutions
- Bilateral/Multilateral Agencies working within that space, e.g., World Bank, UNEP, ECOWAS, UNDP

Workshop Registration & Abstract Submission: Workshop registration will be available online on the workshop website and onsite at Lagos University, Nigeria on the first day of the workshop. Details of the various technical sessions and information about abstract submission will also be provided on the workshop website. Additional information about registration and abstract submission may be obtained from the CRRC Secretariat by contacting Ms. Funmi Eyeoyibo at feyeoyibo@gmail.com or info.uswacrrc@gmail.com

Workshop Format: The workshop will be a three-day event, featuring a mix of keynote and technical presentations, panel discussions, interactive sessions, poster sessions, and working groups. See detailed program below:

Day 1: Monday, August 19, 2024			
Arrival & Opening Plenary			
10:00am – 4:00pm	On-site Registration		
4:00pm-5:00pm	Opening Plenary	Professor Akin Abayomi-Honourable Commissioner for Health, Lagos State	Interlinkages Between Human Health, Coastal Ecosystems Health and Ocean Health
5:00pm-6:00pm	Welcome Cocktail Reception & Networking		
Day 2: Tuesday, August 20, 2024			
Morning Session			
9:00am-11:00am	Official Opening Ceremony		
11:00am-11:30am	Coffee Break		
11:30am-12:30pm	Plenary Talks		
	Keynote Address	Dr. Ahmed Khan _ African Development Bank (AfDB)	Major Initiatives and Priorities of the AfDB on the Blue Economy
	Keynote Address		The UN Ocean Decade

	Keynote Address	Representative of the African Union Directorate of Sustainable Development & Blue Economy	
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch		

Afternoon Session			
2:00pm-3:30pm	First Oral Technical Sessions (3 Parallel Sessions)		
	Capacity Building For Marine Science And The Blue Economy Keynote Speakers: Prof. Brian Arbic – University of Michigan, USA Dr. Edem Mahu- University of Ghana, Ghana		
	Sustaining Africa’s Living Marine Resources: Challenges And Opportunities Keynote Speakers: Prof. Martins A. Anetekhai, LASU Prof. Paulinus Chigbu - University of Maryland, USA		
	Ocean Expeditions, Observations and Predictions through the Global Ocean Observing Systems in Africa (GOOS-AFRICA) and the Indian Ocean Observing Systems (IOGOOS) Keynote Speakers: Dr. Juliet Igbo - Nigerian Institute for Oceanography & Marine Research (NIOMR) Dr. Justin Ahanhanzo – IOC-UNESCO, Paris		
3:30pm-4:00pm	Tea Break		
4:00pm-5:30pm	Second Oral Technical Sessions (3 Parallel Sessions)		
	Land-Atmosphere-Ocean Interactions: Impacts and Benefits on Coastal Environments Keynote Speakers: Prof. Charles Ichoku- University of Maryland, USA Prof. Abiodun- University of Cape Coast, South Africa		
	Global Policy Framework on the Blue Economy Keynote Speakers: Dr. Funsho Somorin – African Development Bank (AfDB) Dr. Bunmi Akaakar- Rivers State University, Nigeria		
	Food, Climate and Biodiversity Nexus: West African Case Study Keynote Speakers: Prof. Shehu Akintola_ Lagos State University Prof. Rashid Sumaila – University of British Columbia, Canada		
5:30pm-6:00pm	Poster Session 1	Mangroves Assessment, Restoration and Conservation as Drivers of the Blue Economy Keynote Speaker: Hany Shalaby – African Development Bank (AfDB)	
6:00pm	Closing		

Day 3: Wednesday, August 21, 2024			
9:00pm-10:30pm	Interactive Sessions (6 parallel sessions focusing on specific issues and Opportunities, and recommendations for action from Day Two Technical Sessions)		
10:30pm-11:00pm	Poster Session 2	Ecotoxicological Considerations and Environmental Forensics in the Blue Economy Keynote Speakers: Prof. Ezenmoye – Igbinedion University, Nigeria	
11:00pm-12:30pm	Wrap-up Session with presentations from Working Groups & Closing		
12:30pm-6:00pm	Lunch & Field Excursion		