



## **INTRODUTORY NOTE**

### **Title:**

**Marine Africa: the role in excellence in capacity building to increase globally ocean health and quality of life.**

### **Description:**

**Collaborative actions in Marine Conservation and Blue growth -Science and Education- University of Algarve (Portugal), African and European Partners to a commitment -Ocean Future Sustainability at Global Scale**

**Date: June 30 2022- online**

*2022 UN Ocean Conference - Virtual side events*

*For more information on the UN Ocean Conference, please visit:*

*<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022>.*

The University of Algarve develop several collaborative actions with African different partners to support excellence of Marine Sciences in Africa, from Mauritania, Cabo Verde, Guine Bissau, Sao Tome e Principe, Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, with funds namely from AKN-Aga Khan Network, FCT Portuguese Science Foundation. These actions include also partners in other European Countries, including in research/educational projects where UAlg is coordinating or participating, namely EEA grant (Norway), Horizon Europe (Spain, Germany, Finland, Romania) and Erasmus + (European Universities of the Seas with Spain coordination, and partners also in France, Germany, Poland, Malta).

UAlg's position in 2020 in the Times Higher Education Global Impact Rankings shows the impact of our HEI on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), not only in SDG 14, Life under water protection, where UAlg also ranked higher compared to most of other Portuguese HEIs, but also in other SDGs (4, 5,9, 10,11,17), demonstrating UAlg's contribution to the new global challenges of sustainability, such as quality education for all, reducing inequalities including gender, innovation, sustainable economic growth, and Global partnership. This demonstrates UAlg commitment to inclusive education, as well as lifelong learning, with innovative teaching techniques and the integration of research and accessible technology since the early years to protect the marine ecosystem as a whole. Despite decades of management and conservation efforts, we have seen only limited success in rebuilding marine life and restoring ocean ecosystems from human-inflicted damage on a global scale.

UAlg and partners, Science and Education, provide ways for support in collecting and interpreting data and information that can enhance our understanding and achieving a sustainable Blue Growth Strategy for the Ocean Economy. UAlg and partners learners combining emotional and rational sides can inspire global thinking and transform daily actions in new, creative ways. For this, not only impact lists but also positive stories about Ocean Future need to be shared with an open society. This will be the way in order to affect wide-ranging and long-lasting change, love and knowledge to transform our collective relationship with the ocean, achieving protection of life under and above water in the global Ocean and with impact in the whole Planet. UAlg has potential to share with their partners these experiences in the OCEAN DECADE event with the aim to volunteer commit to contribute to OCEAN HEALTH through Higher Education Quality with professional Master, PhD programmes, not only in Europe, but also bridging to other geographic areas with linguistic and cultural proximities, as the African continent.

Now the University of Algarve, who received the accreditation in phase 3, and had approved this side event targeting the SDG14 and improving quality of life, within several projects, EEA GRANTS, Erasmus +, Horizon Europe:

- 1- BLUE ROUTE-Preparing the new OCEAN economy 2030: the BLUE ROUTE of discovery EEA Grant Portugal-Noruega (including Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Sao tome e Principe, Japan and Sri Lanka) <https://blueroute2030.com/>
- 2- LUANDA WATERFRONT- Luanda Bay Ecological Assessment: A waterfront based approach to reduce environmental risks and increase quality of life (Angola) [home en - Luanda Water Front \(ccemarluandawaterfront.com\)](http://home.en- Luanda Water Front (ccemarluandawaterfront.com)) AKN-FCT
- 3- BIOFISH-QoL (Quality of Life) – An integrative approach to improving the quality of life in the fishing communities of the “Bons Sinais” estuary (Mozambique) <https://biofishqol.eu/project> AKN-FCT
- 4- LittleFish -STP São Tome and Príncipe little fish threatened - a big opportunity to unravel this fishery resource in tropical islands AKN-FCT
- 5- MarAfrica A network monitoring, integrating and assessing marine biodiversity data along the western coast of Africa to understand, predict and mitigate climatic / oceanographic changes AKN-FCT (Mauritania, Cabo Verde, Guine Bissau, Sao Tome e Principe, Angola, Namibia)
- 6- Sustainable Horizons - Universities designing the horizons of sustainability -Horizon Europe EU
- 7- SEA-EU – European University of the SEAS- Erasmus + [European University of the Seas \(sea-eu.org\)](http://European University of the Seas (sea-eu.org))

Partners of the Side event MARINE AFRICA are:

National Institute for Fisheries and Marine Research (INIPM), University of Namibe (UNINBE), Centre of Marine Sciences (CCMAR), University of Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), University of São Tomé and Príncipe (USTP), University of Huelva (UHU), Universidade Agostinho Neto (UAN), IBAP – Guine-Bissau, Universidade Tecnica do Atlantico, IMROP – Mauritania, University of

Namibia, RAMPAO, PRCM, University of Cadiz (UCA), Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO), Sustainable and Smart Aquaculture Collaborative Laboratory (S2AQUAcoLAB)

UAlg and partners aim to produce a Voluntary Ocean Commitment- Marine Africa claim that Science and Education, provide ways for enhance our understanding and achieving conservation and sustainability for Blue Growth. Such partnership can inspire global thinking and transform daily actions in new, creative ways. For this, Ocean Future need to be shared with an open society allowing to transform our collective relationship with the ocean, achieving protection of life under and above water at global scale, through Knowledge and Love. UAlg and partners aim to volunteer contribute to OCEAN HEALTH through Higher Education Quality such as Master and PhD programmes in situ, bridging to other geographic areas with linguistic and cultural proximities, as the African continent.

Alexandra Teodosio, Vice rector University of Algarve, 27 may 2020