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 **Ocean** | AFRICAN SEAS  
**Prediction**

## OceanPrediction Decade Collaborative Centre African regional team





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## OPERA Project - Ocean Prediction Enhancement in Regions of Africa

Lillian Diarra

Mercator Ocean International





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## OPERA - Ocean Prediction Enhancement in Regions of Africa

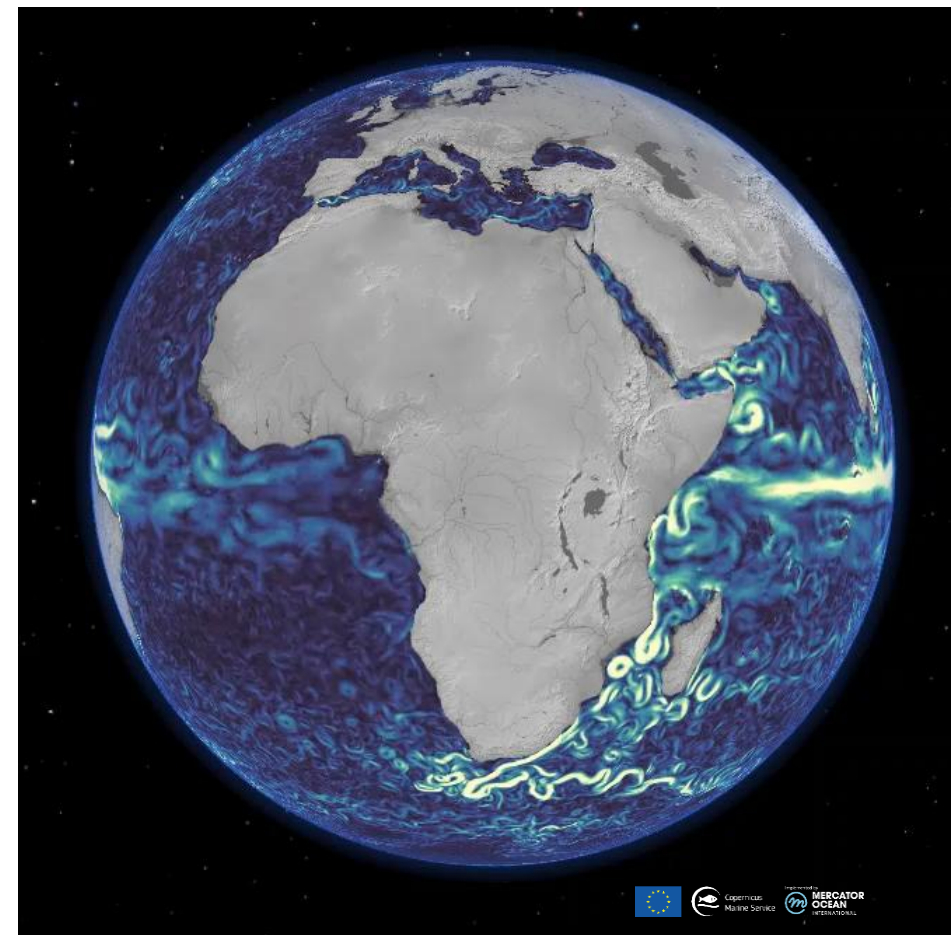
**Overarching goal:** Protect communities and ocean ecosystems while advancing sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa by strengthening ocean forecasting and its use.

**How:** Collaborate with the African marine institutions to enhance ocean forecasting systems, strengthen capacity and cooperation, and promote practical application of ocean data based on **African needs and priorities**

**Duration:** Jan 2025 – Dec 2028

**Budget:** 7 million euros (European Union/ ArcX programme)

**Implemented by:** Mercator Ocean International



Current velocity at 30m below the surface, Oct 2023 – Sept 2024,  
global analysis and forecasting system.  
Copernicus Marine Service Data 2022 | © Mercator Ocean





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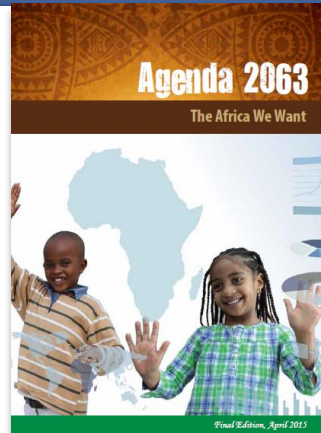
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## Why it matters?

**Africa has 38 coastal countries and over 30,000 km of coastline**, making its nations deeply reliant on the ocean, but also highly vulnerable to the impacts of a changing ocean state.

OPERA aims to serve the ocean information and knowledge priorities outlined in **African strategic frameworks**, while aligning with the **European Union's** commitment to **knowledge-based** and **innovation-driven sustainable development**.





Strengthen cooperation & grow ocean forecasting community in Africa, linking to global community

Improve science to policy connections & promote long-term commitment for ocean science & knowledge



Strengthen capacity to develop, access, and use digital ocean resources  
(knowledge sharing & technology transfer)

Strengthen ocean forecasting systems  
(for Essential Ocean Variables: currents, sea height, temperature, salinity, fish abundance, etc.)

Develop new services, applications & tools (disaster risk reduction, sustainable blue economy, ocean conservation)





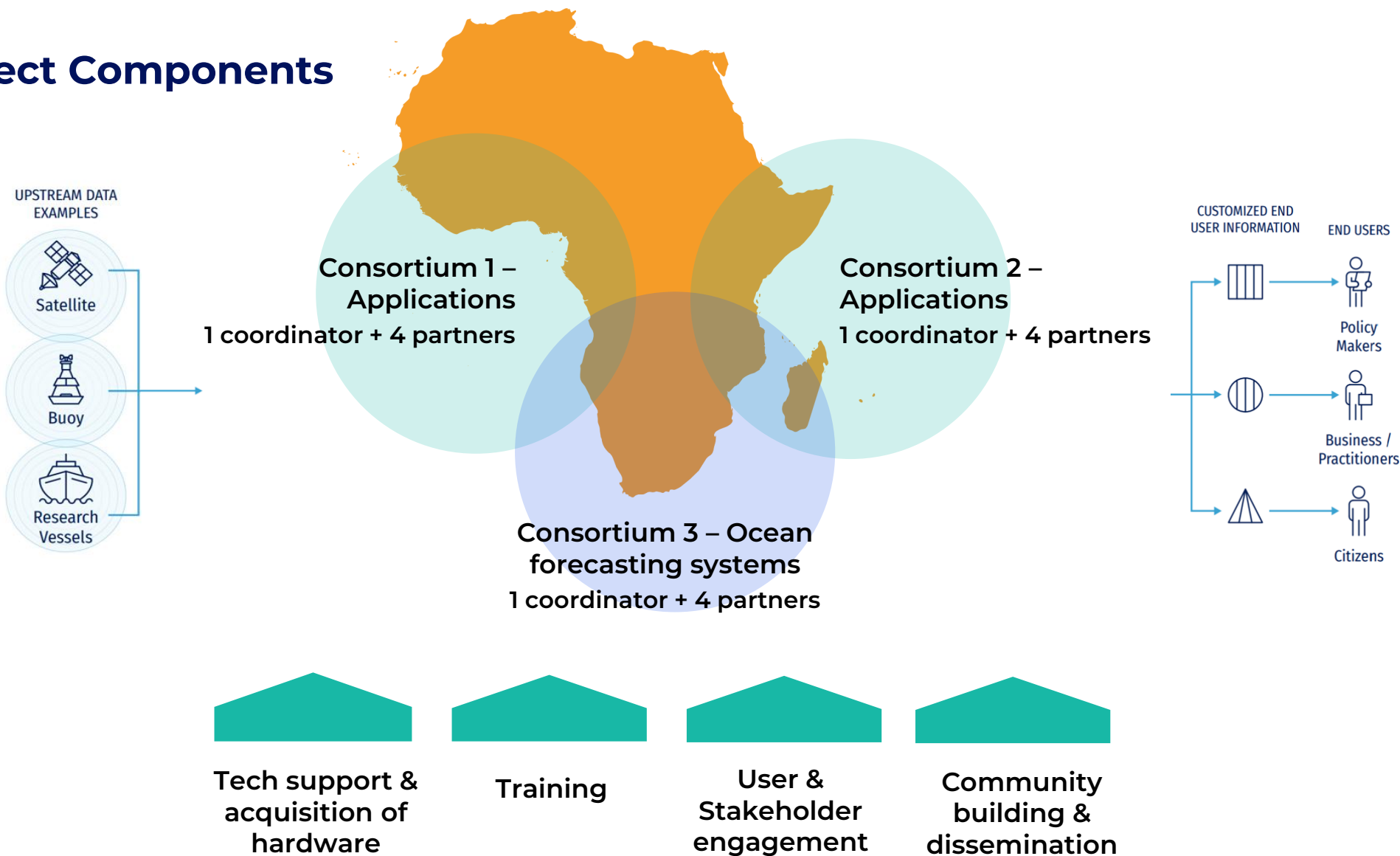


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## OPERA Project Components





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## Strong Co-design & stakeholder engagement approach

**OPERA first consultation meeting, 8-10 April, Cape Town**

30 participants from 12 African countries

*(national meteorological and oceanographic agencies, regional bodies and programmes (IOCAFRICA, GMES and Africa, Ocean Decade Africa Taskforce, GOOS Africa))*







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## Who will benefit from OPERA?

- Institutions and operational services involved in ocean monitoring and forecasting
- AUC, regional governing bodies and national governments
- IOC UNESCO, Ocean Decade Africa Taskforce, GOOS Africa, UNEP sea conventions
- Local authorities involved in coastal zone management & disaster risk reduction
- Blue economy actors (fisheries, port services, maritime transport, tourism, offshore energy)
- Civil society (coastal communities, start-ups, private sector innovators, community-based and non-governmental organisations)







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## OPERA Timeline

2025



Establish consortia, technology expert partners, advisory board  
Consultation workshops & scoping exercises  
Endorse OPERA as Decade Action linked to SEAWARD Africa programme)

2026



Co-design and development of ocean forecasting systems, applications, services and dissemination tools, including data hub

2028



Operationalisation of systems and applications developed, and sustainability and impact scaling

Community building, Communication, Capacity Development & Stakeholder Engagement activities



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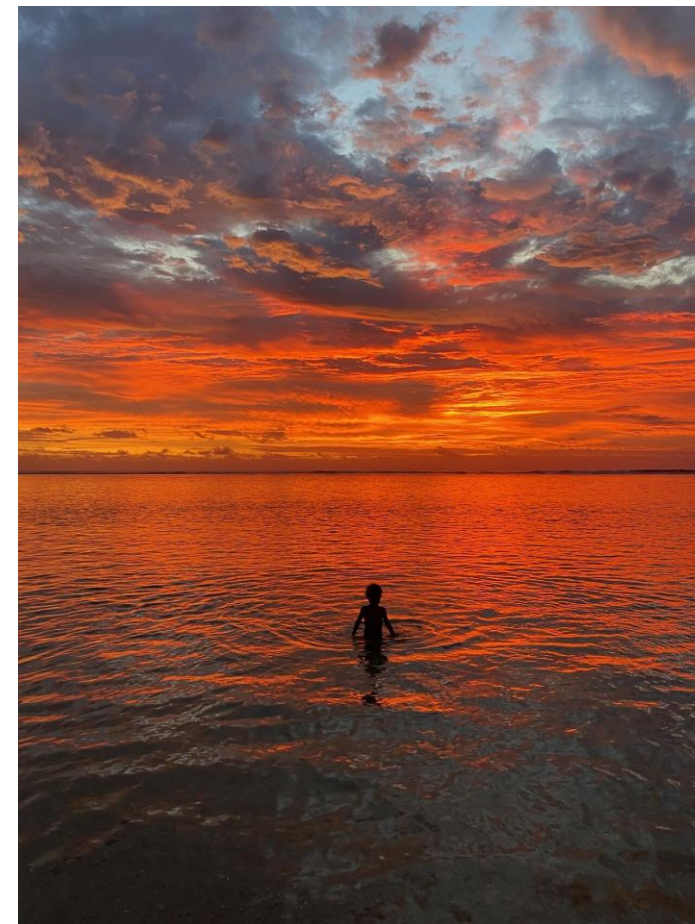
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## **The OPERA project will be transformative in many ways:**

- ✓ It will contribute to sustainable ocean development in Africa by contributing to a user-driven, robust, and innovative ocean knowledge system, fully integrated into the UN Ocean's Decade framework.
- ✓ Its open data, software, tools and training modules will lay a strong foundation for adaptable and scalable resources and solutions across the globe, fostered by the OceanPrediction DCC community

**With funding from the European Union, OPERA is just the beginning, and the impact from its results will reinforce our commitment to develop ocean science and build applications for a better today and a sustainable future.**







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Scan QR code for OPERA fact sheet

## Thank you for your attention!

[www.unoceanprediction.org](http://www.unoceanprediction.org)

<https://arcx.green/>

