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OCEAN PREDICTION  
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OF AFRICA



## Ocean Decade Africa Taskforce and Roadmap

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Funded by  
the European Union



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



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# The Africa Ocean Decade Roadmap, Taskforce and the SEAWARD-Africa Programme

OPERA Consultation Workshop

Cape Town, 8 – 10 April 2025

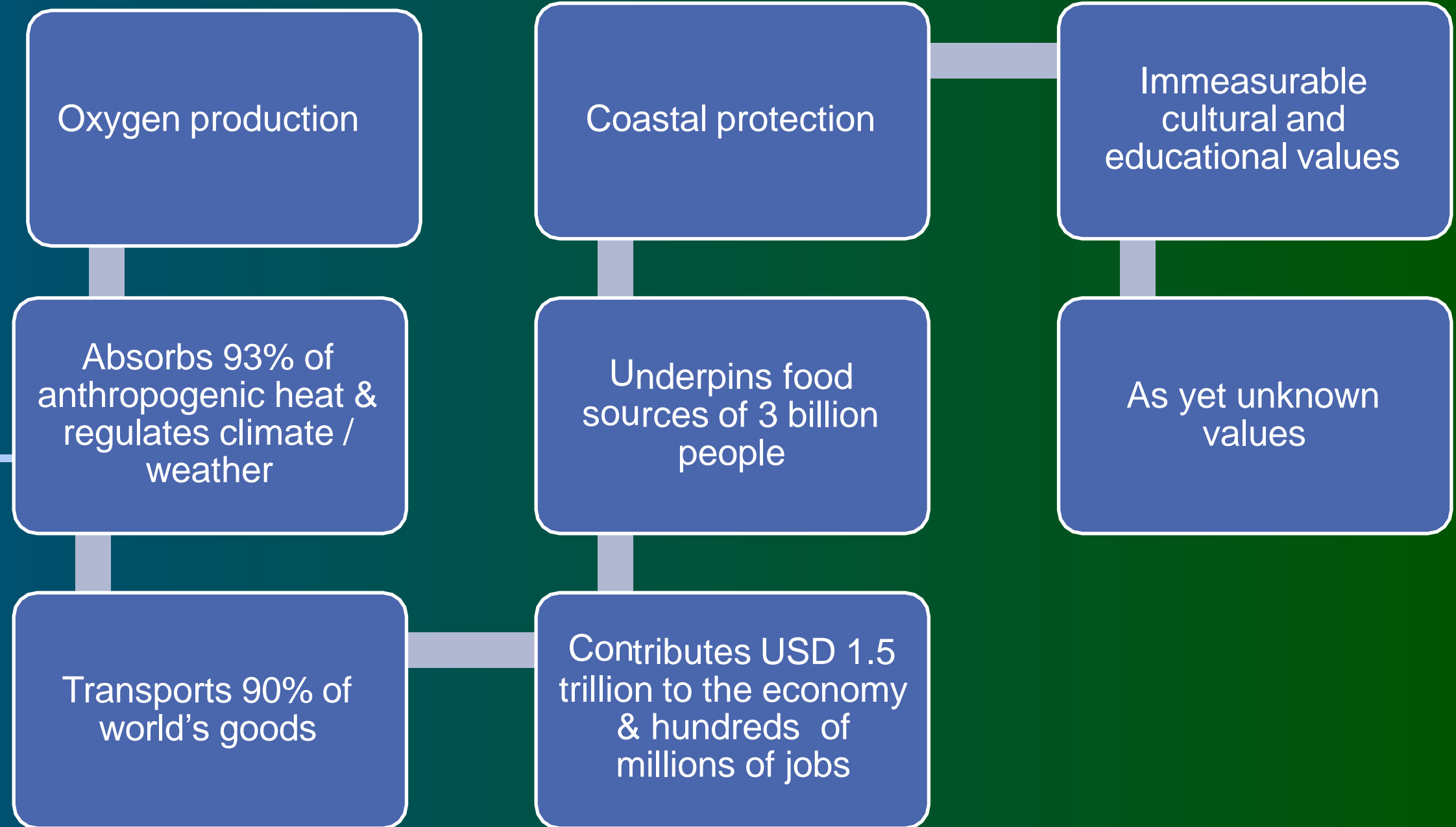
Dr Kwame Koranteng  
Member, Ocean Decade Africa Taskforce

## *Introduction*

- The 2016 World Ocean Assessment report concluded that *“Humanity is running out of time to manage the ocean sustainably...”*
- In 2017, the United Nations proclaimed 2021-2030 as the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Ocean Decade), to provide a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The Ocean Decade is all about *the Science we need for the Ocean we want*
- Obviously, active participation in decade actions is critical for sustainable development in Africa.

# Why Ocean Decade?

...because  
humanity  
depends on  
the ocean...



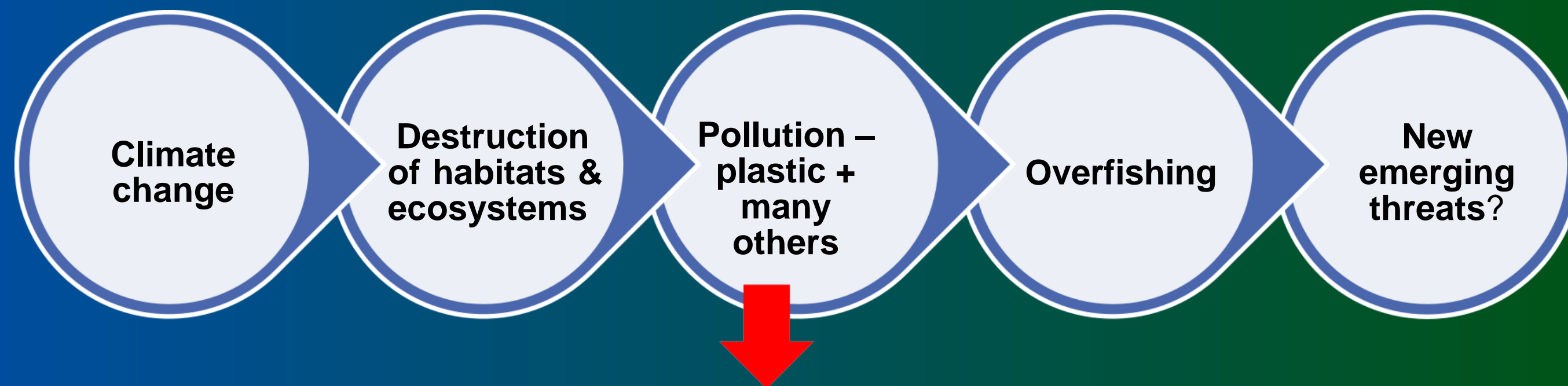
2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

...but the  
ocean is  
under threat

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2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



**The challenges facing the ocean are immense. But no single nation or sector can tackle them alone.**

- The **Ocean Decade** – is a framework to identify, generate and use critical ocean knowledge that is needed to manage the ocean sustainably, and achieve global aspirations for climate, biodiversity, and human well-being.
- Through its vision ‘*the science we need for the ocean we want*’, the Ocean Decade provides a framework for diverse actors to co-design and co-deliver transformative ocean science to meet some identified Challenges.
- The Ocean Decade is expected to contribute essential knowledge to global, regional and national policy frameworks.

# Ocean Decade Outcomes and Challenges

- The implementation of the Ocean Decade started on 1 January 2021 but prior to that, a number of workshops were organised to help identify regional initiatives to be implemented as part of the Decade.
- The meetings brought together key stakeholders to exchange information, identify possible collaborations, encourage stakeholders to take ownership of the decade, and, through the discussions, further develop the scope of the Ocean Decade thus enriching the conversation on the Ocean Decade and influencing its design.
- From the initial consultations and planning meetings, ten (10) Challenges were identified in respect of the Ocean Decade.

- The ODCs are said to “represent the highest level of the Decade Action Framework and articulate the most immediate priorities for the Decade”.
- Addressing these challenges is expected to lead to seven (7) Ocean Decade Outcomes which describe the ‘ocean we want’ at the end of the Decade.
- The Outcomes describe both the desired state of the ocean (Outcomes 1 and 2) and the desired state of society’s use of, and interaction with, the ocean (Outcomes 3 to 7).
- The outcomes are also linked to four strategic objectives of the Ocean Decade

<b>Ocean Decade Outcomes</b>	<b>Ocean Decade Challenges</b>
1. A clean ocean	1. Understand and beat marine pollution.
2. A healthy and resilient ocean	2. Protect and restore ecosystems and their biodiversity.
3. A productive ocean	3. Sustainably feed the global population
	4. Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy
4. A predicted ocean	5. Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change
5. A safe ocean	6. Increase community resilience to ocean hazards
6. An accessible ocean	7. Expand the global ocean observing system
	8. Create a digital representation of the ocean
7. An inspiring and engaging ocean	9. Skills, knowledge and technology for all
	10. Change humanity's relationship with the ocean.

<b>OD Objectives</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Increase transformative science capacity & capability globally to enable informed decision making and societal engagement to attain the 2030 Agenda.
2	Expand, innovate and integrate ocean knowledge systems globally, including ocean observing networks, data systems and other infrastructure.
3	Understand and predict fundamental aspects of the whole ocean system, including the human component, to provide critical knowledge to support sustainable development and nimble responses to ocean related change and hazards across multiple scales.
4	Secure a healthy, resilient and sustainably-used ocean by developing and enabling integrated assessment and decision support systems and other transformational tools and processes.



**Vision**  
*The science we need for the ocean we want*

**Mission**  
*Transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean.*

- Knowledge & Solutions Challenges:**
1. Marine Pollution
  2. Protect and Restore Ecosystems
  3. Sustainable Blue Food
  4. Sustainable Ocean Economy
  5. Ocean-Climate Nexus

- Infrastructure Challenges:**
6. Community Resilience
  7. Ocean Observations
  8. Digital Ocean

- Foundational Challenges:**
9. Capacity Development
  10. Behaviour Change

**Decade Programmes, Projects, Activities and Contributions solicited on a regular basis**

- In January 2020, the Ocean Decade regional consultation workshop for Africa and the Adjacent Island States was held in Nairobi.
- This was followed by a regional conference in Alexandria, Egypt in May 2022, to formally kick off Ocean Decade activities in Africa.
- The aim of the Alexandria was “*to provide a forum to take stock of the status of ocean science and technology in Africa, deliberate on how ocean science in Africa should be supported and focused on delivering the required societal outcomes.*”
- For the conference a regional gap analysis report was prepared “*to develop priority needs for Africa under the Ocean Decade and identify the key barriers, opportunities and actions to meet those needs*”.

# Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap

- From the Gap Analysis report, a Roadmap for Ocean Decade Africa was prepared.
- The Roadmap was intended to provide a vision and plan for diverse stakeholders to convene around a common set of priorities for the implementation of the Ocean Decade in Africa.
- The Ocean Decade Africa Taskforce was then constituted by the IOCAfrica Secretariat/Bureau to spearhead the implementation of the Ocean Decade in Africa.

The United Nations  
Decade of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development  
2021-2030



Sustainable Ocean Management in Africa



Ocean and Human Health in Africa



Unlocking the Blue Carbon Potential of Africa



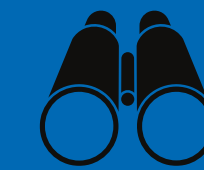
Fisheries and IUU in Africa



Strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems and community resilience



Ocean Observations and forecasting systems Africa



Digital twin for Africa-Establishing an African Ocean knowledge hub



Strengthening Capacities and skills for marine science and technology



Regional Ocean Literacy Programme for Africa



## THE ROADMAP

## NINE PRIORITIES FOR AFRICA



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# The Taskforce

**Established in October 2022**

**Multistakeholder- Civil Society, Intergovernmental Organizations, Private sector, multilateral institutions**

**Mandate: Oversee and promote the implementation of the Africa Roadmap and the enabling environment**

**14 individual members and 6 institutional members**

**Chair and 2 Vice Chairs**

Meets regularly to deliberate on the progress of implementation of the Ocean Decade in Africa, particularly the Africa Ocean Decade Roadmap

# AFRICA OCEAN DECADE TASKFORCE ROLES



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

Communications & outreach

Creating and Building  
Partnerships

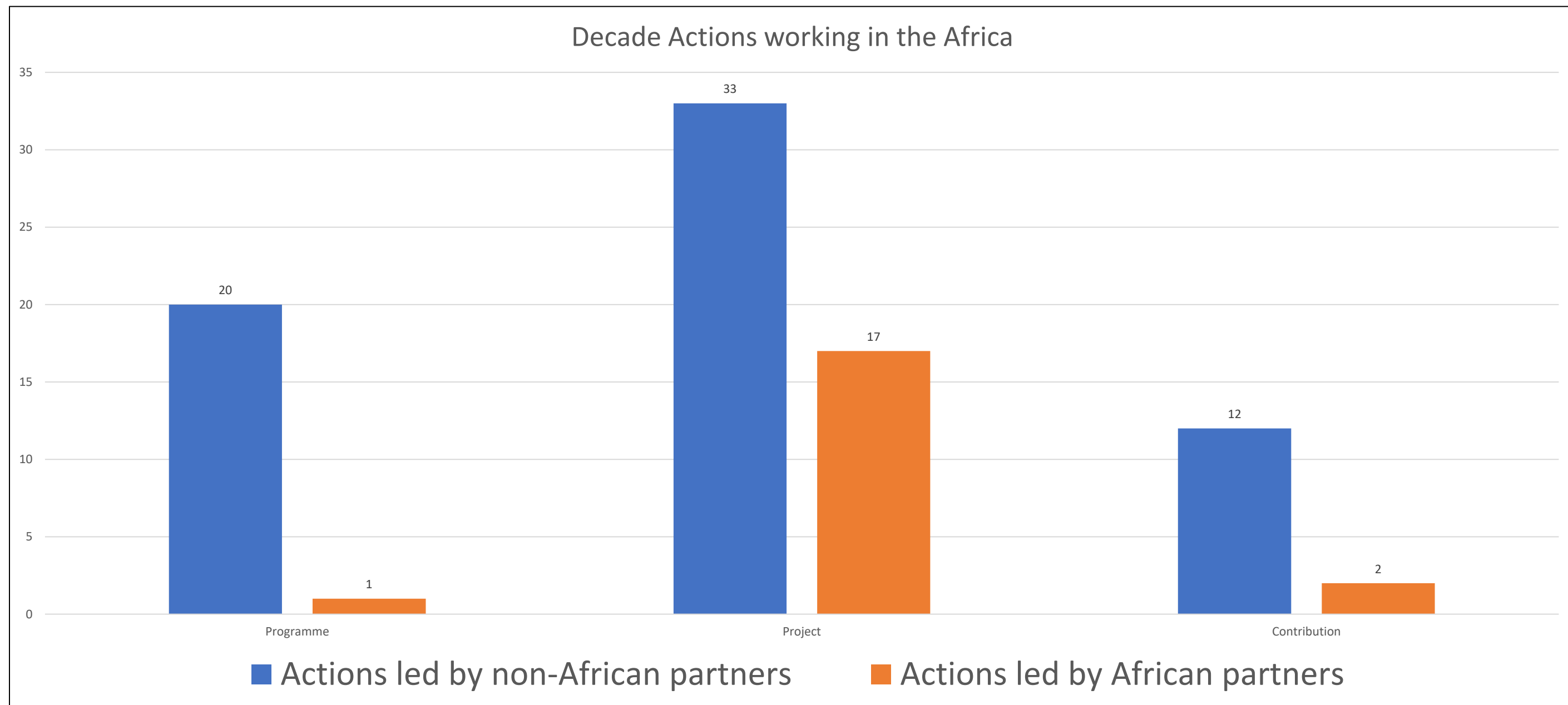


Monitoring, Evaluation &  
Coordination

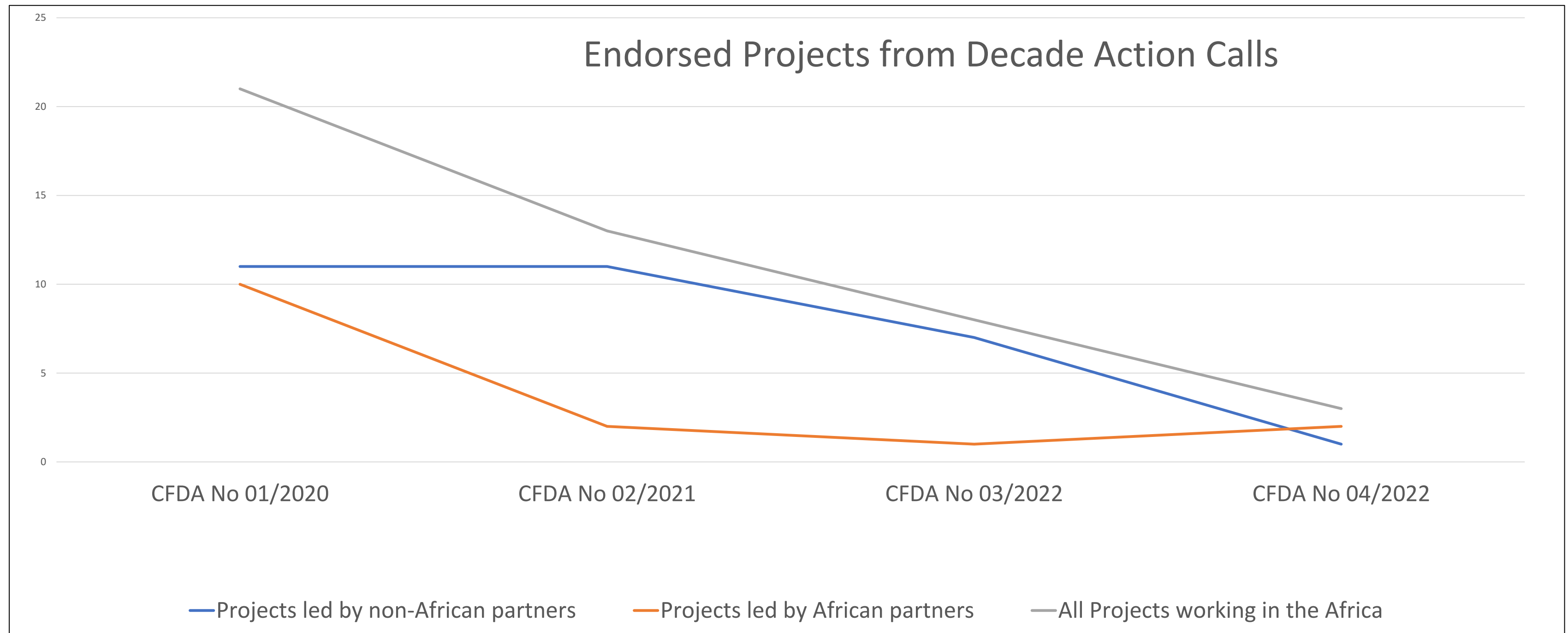
Resource Mobilization

*The Taskforce quickly noted the following from the Calls for actions:*

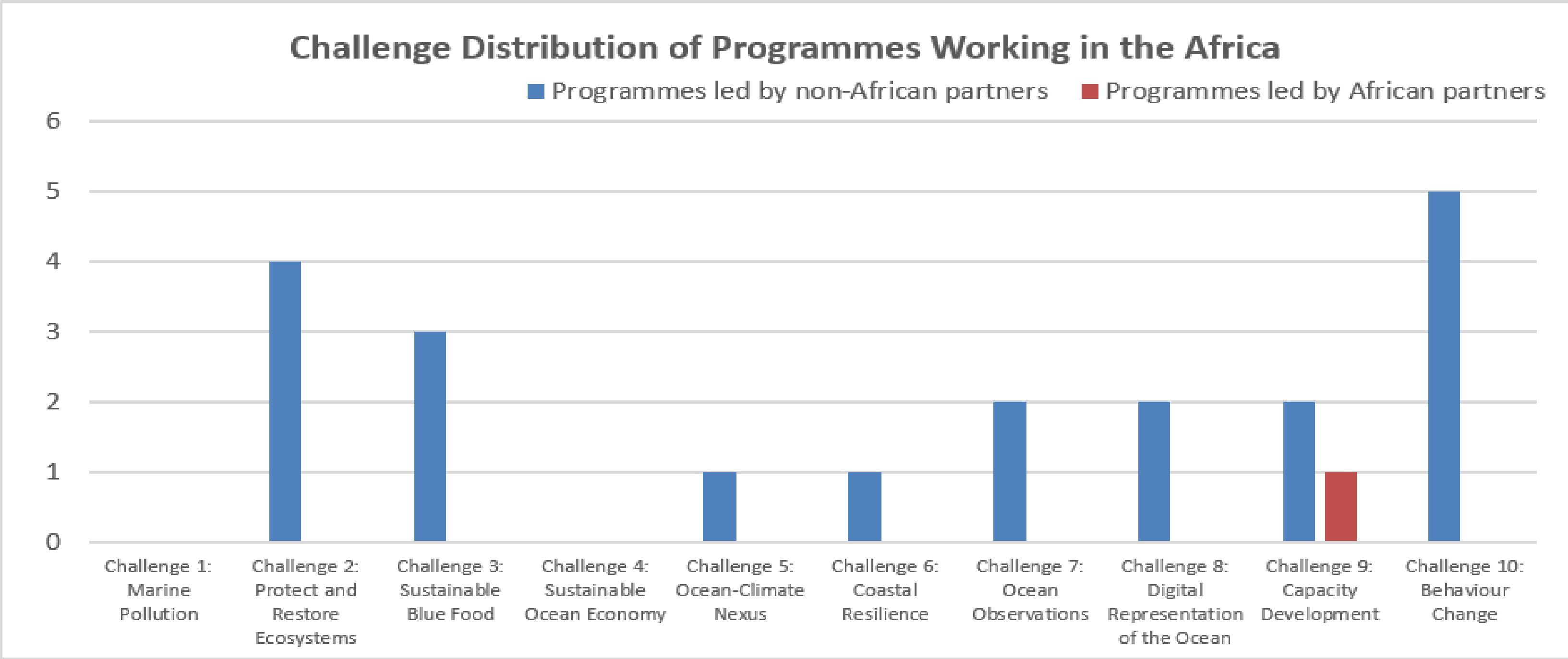
Around 44% of programmes targeted African countries but the number of actions spearheaded by non-African partners significantly surpasses those led by African partners



Decreasing trend in endorsed projects in Africa with each call (but this trend has been significantly reversed with Call for Decade Actions No. 06/2023).

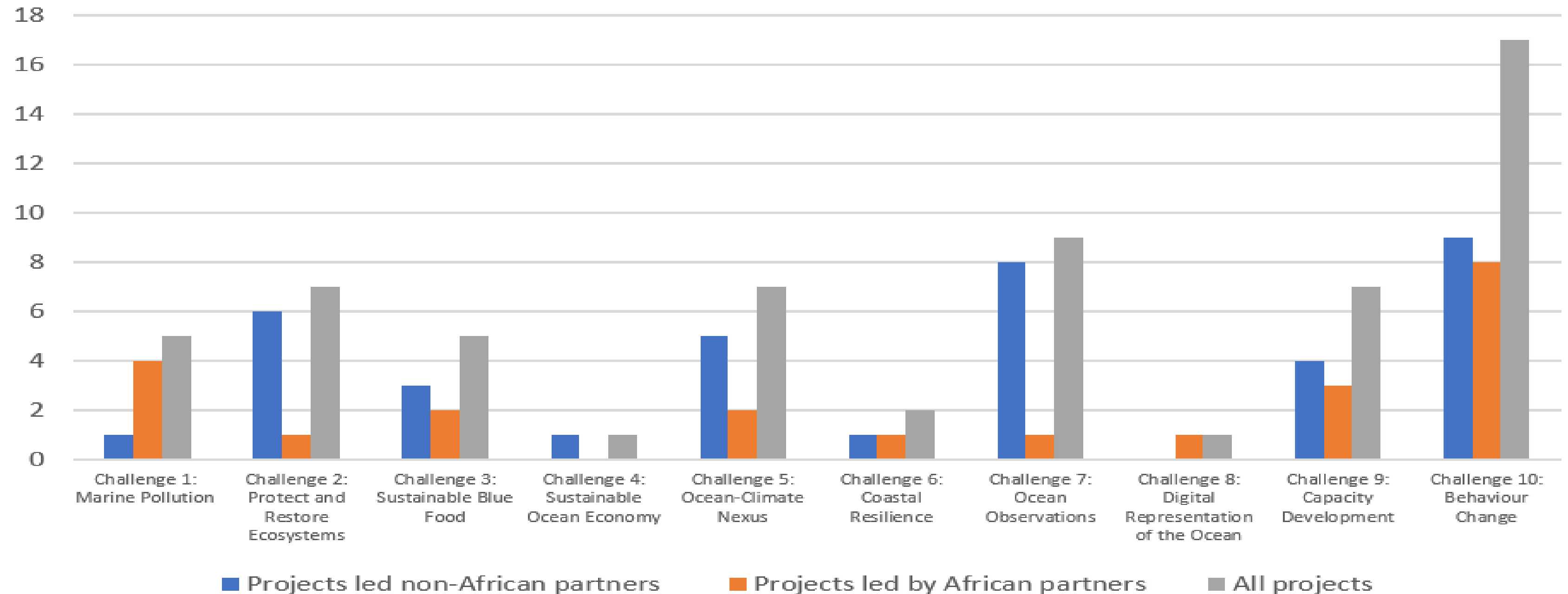


# Complete absence of programmes that primarily focus on “Marine Pollution” and “Sustainable Ocean Economy”

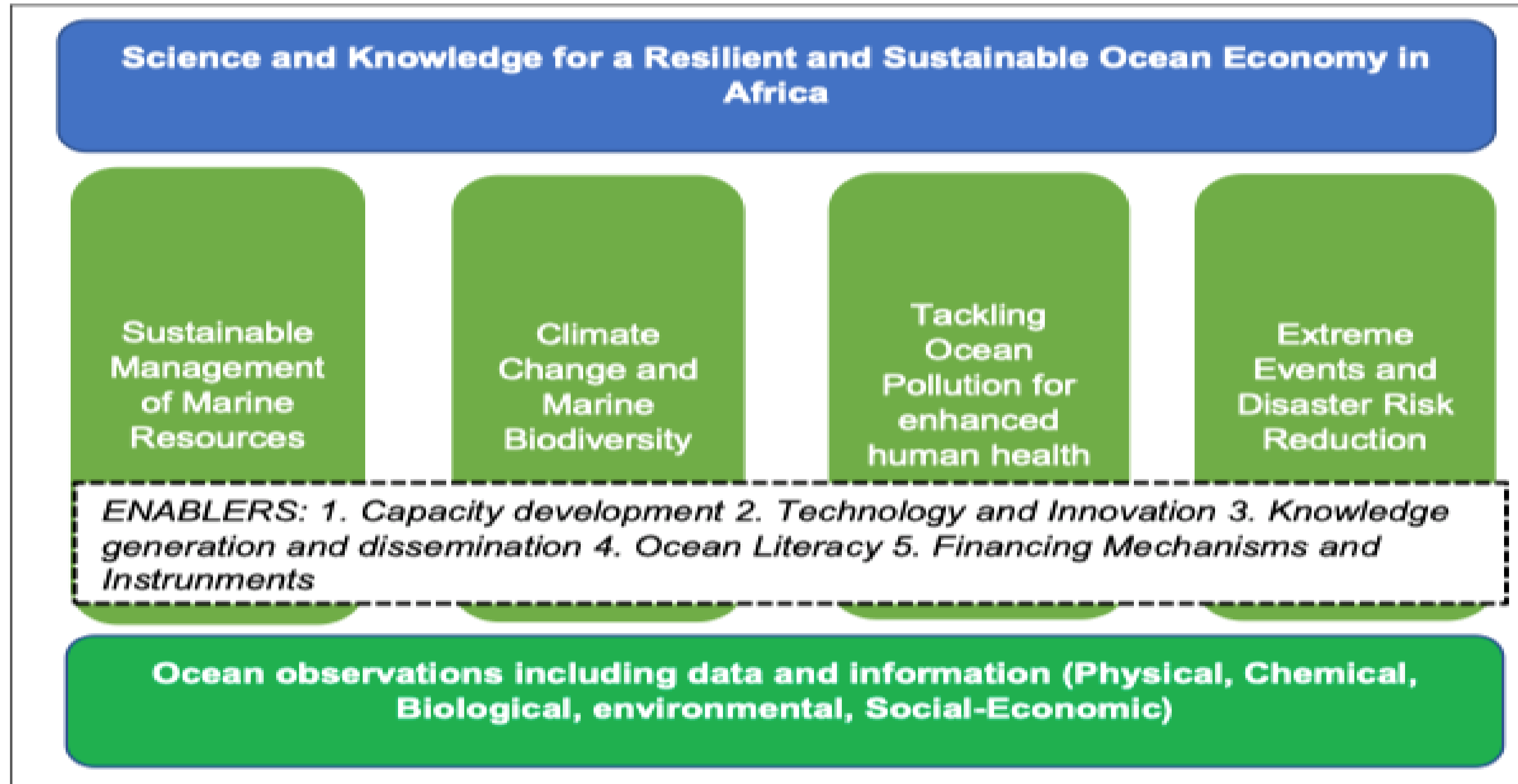


At the project level, “Sustainable Ocean Economy,” “Digital Representation of the Ocean,” and “Coastal Resilience” are themes that are least addressed by the projects.

Challenge Distribution of Projects Working in the Africa



To put things right, the Africa Taskforce decided to put together an umbrella programme for Africa - SEAWARD AFRICA



**ROADMAP THEMATIC PRIORITY DECADE ACTIONS**

**PRIORITY 1**  
Sustainable ocean management in Africa

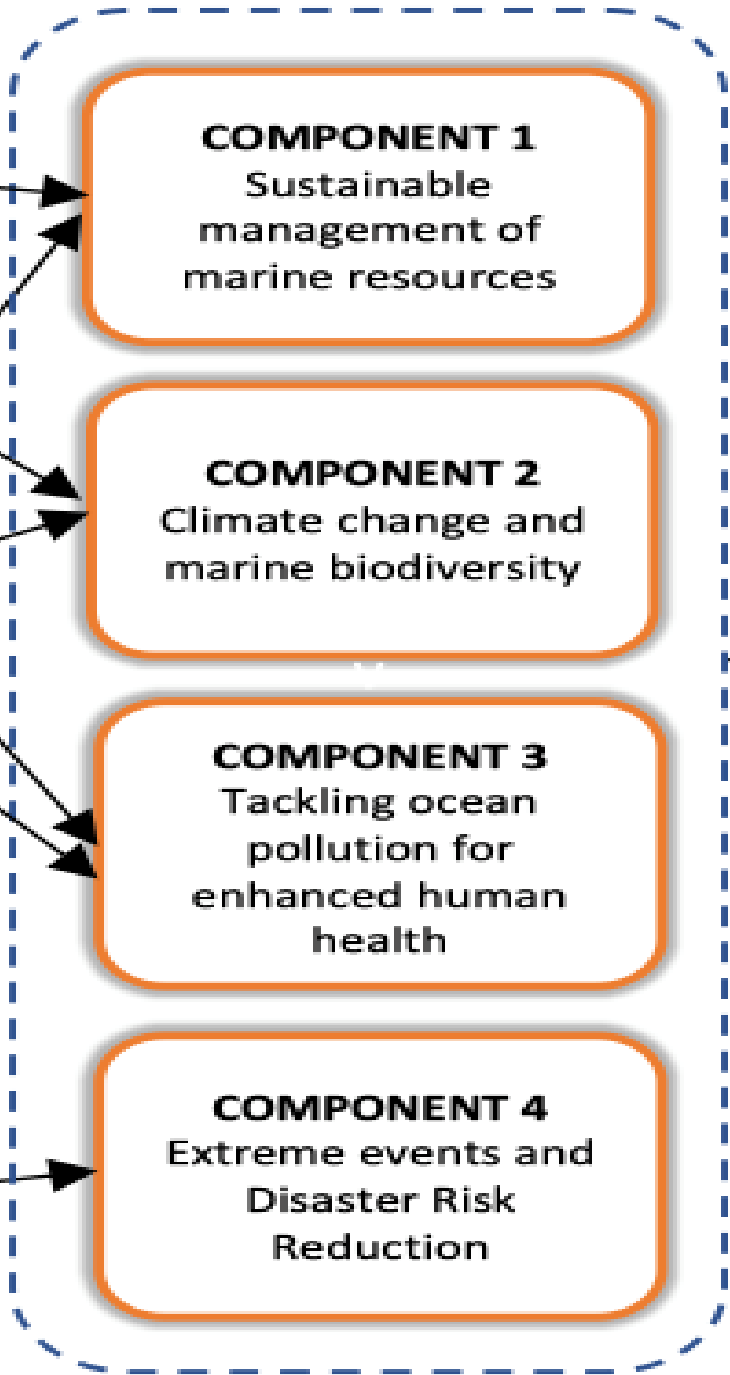
**PRIORITY 2**  
Ocean and human health in Africa

**PRIORITY 3**  
Unlocking the blue carbon potential of Africa

**PRIORITY 4**  
Fisheries and IUU in Africa

**PRIORITY 5**  
Strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems and community resilience

**PROGRAMME THEMATIC COMPONENTS**



**ROADMAP CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITY DECADE ACTIONS**

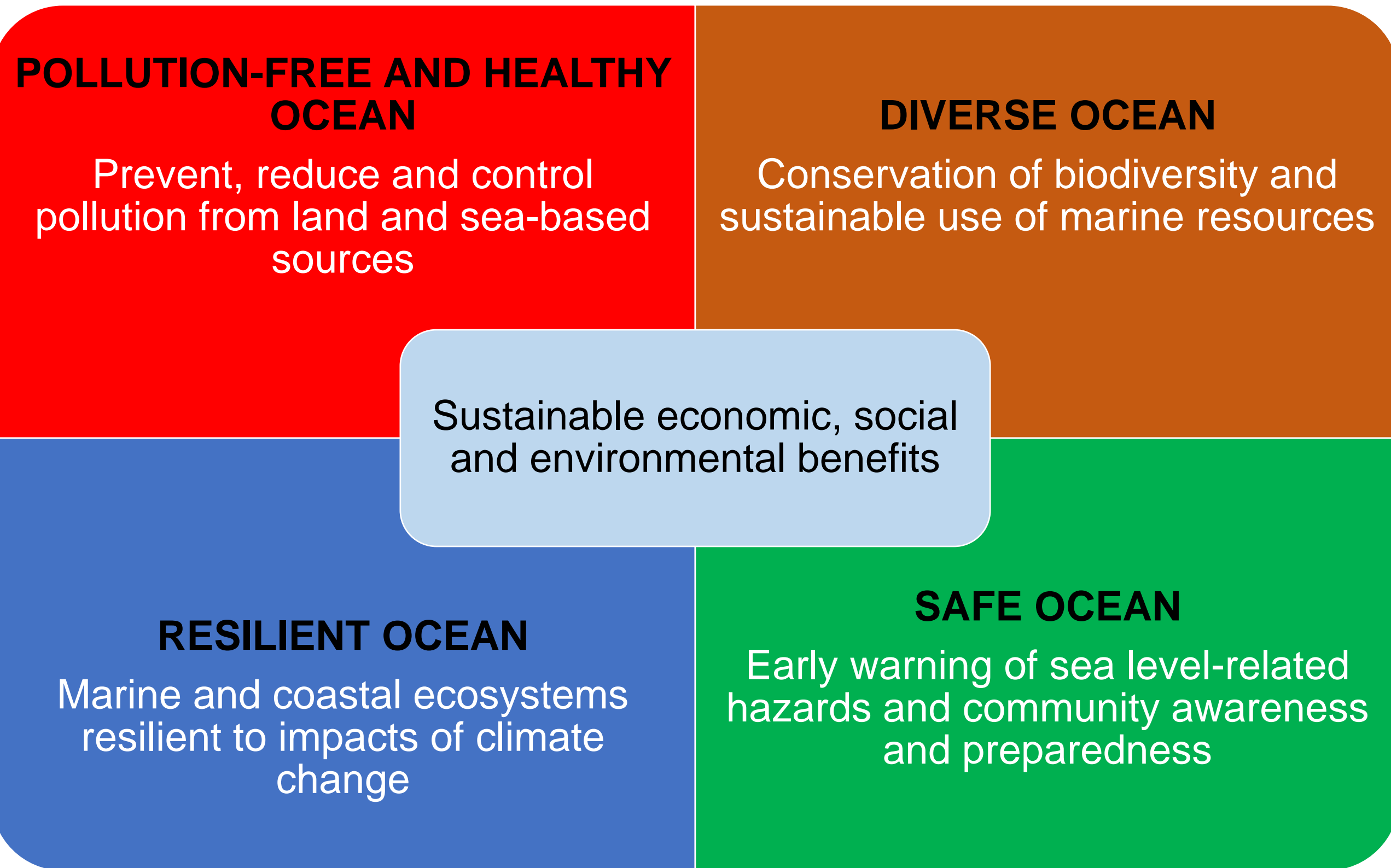


# Impact Statement

*Coastal Member States of Africa and Adjacent Island States manage ocean-based economies that are resilient to the effects of climate change and other human-induced environmental stressors to facilitate sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for their citizens and contribute to the goals and priorities of the 2063 African Union Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*



# Programme Strategic Objectives



## Ocean Observations, Modelling and Forecasting Component

- Ocean observations, modelling and forecasting of Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) and Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) underpin the entire Programme and are arguably the least developed, coordinated and funded of all the Roadmap priorities. Priority 6 of the Roadmap aims to strengthen Africa's ocean observations network as part of the overall development of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
- The Programme will identify specific regional and sub-regional needs and requirements and identify a subset of EOVs and EBVs to be routinely monitored as part of a long-term programme of ocean observations.
- Harmonized data standards and metadata formats will be developed to facilitate sharing of data both regionally and globally, based on FAIR principles and the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy.

- Ocean observation programmes are invariably constrained by lack of resources, both financial and human, and the co-design of projects between countries to share and optimize the use of available resources and capacity will be encouraged.
- The Programme will also seek to leverage and build deeper relationships with ongoing and planned observational programmes and Decade Actions, for example with EAF-Nansen, the NOAA PIRATA and RAMA moored buoy array programmes.
- The skills to collect, analyse and interpret meteorological, oceanographic and marine environmental data will be developed by the organization of hands-on training programmes at centres specialising in ocean observations, such as universities and research institutions, and will include opportunities for ECOPs to gain experience on research vessels.

*Simply, SEAWARD-AFRICA intends to...*

- *Strengthen Africa's ocean observations network as part of the overall development of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)*
- *Work with the GOOS Regional Alliances (GOOS Africa and IOGOOS) to coordinate efforts for expansion of the Global Sea Level observing System (GLOSS) in Africa, to establish long term and sustained multi-disciplinary observation programmes*
- *Conduct a mapping exercise of existing observation networks to establish a baseline and identify priorities for future observation programmes*

- *National Decade Committees are expected to align their agendas based on the programme structure and the priorities for the Africa Ocean Decade Taskforce.*
- *Partners with financial support are invited to collaborate with the Taskforce and for any pillar of the Africa Roadmap so that we can get support for all nine themes. From the discussions yesterday and today, I already see many potential partners in the programme implementation.*
- *For GOOS-Africa, it will be a classical case of co-implementation as Area 6 of the Crosscutting Priority Actions is exactly what GOOS-Africa is aiming to do and putting things in place in this week's workshop.*



- The SEAWARD AFRICA Programme aims to provide a coordinated framework for the implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap.
- The Programme is endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science and prescribes essential partnerships.
  - If your Action (project/activity) geared towards addressing any of the nine priorities of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap;
  - Submit your Action for endorsement under the SEAWARD Africa.
  - The Programme will facilitate connections between the endorsed Decade Actions and funders, donors, and partners.

THANK YOU

