



## Concept Note

The Government of the Republic of Madagascar and the Organizing Institutions present the

# Ocean 2026 Week

From 1-8 June 2026  
TOLIARA, MADAGASCAR

Theme

FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE  
ECONOMY: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSITION



# CONTENTS

*Ocean Week* From 1-8 June 2026

## FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

### 3. ORGANIZERS

A unifying event at the crossroads of science, public policy, innovation, and citizen engagement.

### 4. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

### 4. OBJECTIVES

Position Madagascar as a regional platform for dialogue on the ocean and sustainable blue economy.

### 4. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF OCEAN WEEK

Create concrete opportunities for networking, visibility, and support for high-impact initiatives.

### 4. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM THEMES

Provide multiple forms of support, including funding, expertise, communication, logistics, innovation, exhibition opportunities, and youth engagement.

### 4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

### 4. SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION

### 4. TARGET AUDIENCE

### 4. PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT



This brochure presents partnership and sponsorship opportunities for a scientific, institutional, and civic event aimed at connecting research, governance, innovation, youth, and a sustainable blue economy in Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean region.

# ORGANIZERS

*Ocean Week* From 1-8 June 2026

FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY:  
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

---

## **Lead organizing institution**

Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines (IH.SM), University of Toliara, under the patronage of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESupReS).

## **Co-Organisers**

Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MPEB)

## **Institutional partners**

- Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
  - National Oceanographic Research Center (CNRO)
  - National Environmental Research Center (CNRE)
  - Institute of Higher Education Anôsy (IES Anôsy), University of Toliara
  - Doctoral School of Marine and Fisheries Sciences (EDSMH), University of Toliara
-

# CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Ocean Week From 1-8 June 2026

## FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

The oceans cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface and play a central role in the functioning of the Earth system. They regulate the climate, produce a significant share of the oxygen we breathe, host exceptional biodiversity, and directly or indirectly support the livelihoods of billions of people. At the global scale, ocean-related activities, particularly fisheries and aquaculture, constitute a fundamental pillar for food security, employment, and economic development.

However, these ecosystems are currently under increasing pressure, notably from climate change, overexploitation of resources, pollution, and habitat degradation. These dynamics particularly affect coastal and island countries, where populations are highly dependent on marine resources for their livelihoods.

In Madagascar, these challenges are especially pronounced. The country possesses an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone, rich in fisheries resources and diverse marine and coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds. These resources play a vital role in food security, livelihoods, and the economic development of coastal communities. At the same time, the opportunities offered by the blue economy—particularly in aquaculture, marine bioresources, and technological innovation—remain largely underexploited.

In this context, the promotion of a sustainable blue economy appears as a key strategic lever to reconcile economic development, poverty reduction, and ecosystem conservation. However, its implementation requires strengthened scientific knowledge, improved integration of data into decision-making processes, and enhanced dialogue between scientists, public decision-makers, the private sector, and local communities.

It is in this perspective that the organization of Ocean Week 2026 is situated, on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Toliara Marine Station, now the Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines. The event is designed as an open international platform aimed at fostering dialogue, knowledge sharing, and the co-construction of concrete solutions for a sustainable transition based on ocean science.

### Scientific value

Conferences, scientific sessions, poster presentations, demonstrations, proceedings production, and knowledge dissemination.

### Institutional value

Dialogue between research, public decision-makers, partners, the private sector, and local communities.

### Territorial value

Anchored in Madagascar and Africa, highlighting local dynamics and the role of coastal communities.

### Partnership value

Multiple entry points for donors, technical and financial partners (TFPs), companies, media, and scientific organizations.

# OBJECTIVES

*Ocean Week* From 1-8 June 2026

FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY:  
**BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION**

## General objective

The general objective of Ocean Week 2026 is to create an international space for dialogue and collaboration on the role of ocean science in the development of a sustainable blue economy, within the context of environmental and socio-economic transition.

## Specific objectives

The event aims to highlight scientific advances related to marine and coastal ecosystems, strengthen interactions between research, public policy, and economic stakeholders, and promote innovations capable of supporting a sustainable blue economy.

It also seeks to foster the development of scientific partnerships at national, regional, and international levels, while contributing to public awareness of ocean-related challenges.

## WHY PARTNER WITH US?

Institutional visibility, territorial anchoring, support for science, and alignment with ocean, climate, biodiversity, and blue economy agendas.

## THEMES

*International symposium* 3-5 June 2026, Toliara

## FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

The international symposium (3-5 June 2026) will serve as the central scientific pillar of Ocean Week and will be structured around five main themes.

### Marine biodiversity and ecosystem resilience

#### ***Conservation, global change, and ecological restoration***

This theme will address the status, dynamics, and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds), as well as the impacts of climate change, pollution, and anthropogenic pressures. Contributions may focus on ecological restoration, nature-based solutions, and international conservation frameworks.

### Marine resources, food security and health

#### ***Fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, and nutrition***

This theme will address the role of marine resources in food security, nutrition, and the socio-economic development of coastal communities. Contributions may focus on innovations in sustainable aquaculture, seafood value chains, the sanitary safety of marine food products, and the links between marine resources, public health, and poverty reduction.

### Blue economy, strategic resources, and sustainable transition

#### ***Innovations, marine bioresources, and emerging ocean uses***

This theme will focus on new forms of valorisation of marine resources within the blue economy framework, including marine bioresources, technological innovations, and offshore energy or mineral resources. Discussions may address governance frameworks, environmental assessments, and trade-offs between economic development and ecosystem protection

### Governance and sustainable management of coastal and marine areas

#### ***MPAs, Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA), spatial planning, and community participation***

This theme will explore territorial approaches to the sustainable management of marine and coastal spaces, including integrated coastal zone management, marine protected areas, LMMAs, and co-management mechanisms. Particular attention will be given to community participation, local knowledge systems, and the resilience of coastal territories.

### Maritime sovereignty and international ocean governance

#### ***EEZs, fishing agreements, and international legal frameworks***

This theme will analyze issues related to the management and exploitation of marine resources within Exclusive Economic Zones, including international fisheries agreements, IUU fishing, and international legal instruments governing the oceans (UNCLOS, BBNJ). Contributions may address equity, benefit-sharing, and regional cooperation.

## Types of contributions expected

*The symposium will include:*

- **A high-level inaugural lecture**
- **High-level plenary presentations**
- **Oral communications (5 or 12 minutes)**
- **Scientific poster presentations (A0 format)**
- **Presentations of prototypes, innovations, or demonstrators**

Proposals for other formats (special sessions, booths, workshops, side events, or other initiatives) are also welcome and may be submitted directly to the organizers.

# SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION

*International symposium* 3-5 June 2026, Toliara

FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY:  
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

Special attention will be given to the dissemination of outcomes emerging from Ocean Week.



To enhance the visibility of the research presented during the symposium, a special issue of the international peer-reviewed journal **WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN JOURNAL OF MARINE SCIENCE (WIOJMS)** will be published.

[ <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/wiojms> ]

In parallel, an institutional document titled **"2026 Ocean week Proceedings"** will be produced as part of the **IH.SM Memoir series**. This publication will gather abstracts, major contributions, as well as key messages and recommendations from the various sessions.



All presentations (oral and poster), the resulting articles, and any other scientific outputs will be made available through the **Madagascar Coastal and Marine Atlas (MACMA) online library**.

[ <https://macmatlas.net/> ]

THESE OUTPUTS WILL ENSURE SCIENTIFIC, OPERATIONAL, AND STRATEGIC  
DISSEMINATION OF THE EVENT'S RESULTS.

# TARGET AUDIENCE AND SCOPE

Ocean Week

From 1-8 June 2026

FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY:  
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

Ocean Week 2026 aims to mobilize multiple stakeholders, with impacts at the scientific, institutional, economic, educational, and civic levels.

<b>Public institutions</b> Ministries, local authorities, technical agencies, and relevant public administrations.	<b>Scientific community</b> Researchers, academics, laboratories, doctoral schools, research centers, and experts.
<b>Partners and donors</b> TFPs, foundations, regional and international institutions, and cooperation programs.	<b>Private sector</b> Companies, investors, research-based initiatives, innovation actors, and stakeholders in tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, marine bioresources, and services.
<b>Youth and civil society</b> Students, young researchers, NGOs, associations, community-based organizations, and engaged citizens.	<b>Media and public-interest influencers</b> Visibility relays for dissemination and awareness-raising.



## EXPECTED IMPACT

Strengthening of national and regional networks, positioning Toliara as a hub for exchange, promotion of a sustainable blue economy, and improved science-policy-investment dialogue.

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Ocean Week


From 1-8 June 2026

FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY:  
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

---

 **1 June – World Reef Awareness Day**  
Field activities, ecological restoration, and awareness-raising on coral reefs.

 **2 June – Open Day & Exhibitions**  
Historical discoveries, scientific projects, and innovations.

 **3–5 June – International Symposium**  
Conferences, strategic panels, thematic sessions, and poster presentations.

 **6 June – Science & Innovation**  
Visits to research-based enterprises: from science to the blue economy.

 **7 June – Oceanographers' & Partners' Day**  
Intergenerational meetings, professional exchanges and networking.

 **8 June – World Oceans Day**  
Ocean March and civic awareness-raising activities.

Partnership packages may be attached to a day, a session, a panel, the exhibition space, communication, or civic activities.

---

# PARTNERSHIP MECHANISM

Ocean Week

From 1-8 June 2026

## FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

The event is open to complementary forms of support. Partners may contribute individually or through co-funding, to one or several components.

<b>Institutional support</b> Patronage, endorsement, expert mobilization, facilitation, advocacy, and networking.	<b>Scientific support</b> Sponsorship of sessions, support for speakers, publications, awards, and dissemination.
<b>Financial support</b> Contribution to the overall budget or to specific components, in accordance with a partnership or sponsorship agreement.	<b>In-kind support</b> Venues, equipment, transport, communication, kits, catering, accommodation, translation, and printing.
<b>Communication and media support</b> Media coverage, broadcasting, content production, and digital outreach.	<b>Innovation, youth and exhibition support</b> Hackathons, mentorship, grants, exhibitions, awards, and civic engagement activities.



### PRINCIPLE

Terms, benefits, and levels of visibility are adapted to the nature of the contribution and formalized in a partnership sheet or agreement.

# SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Ocean Week

From 1-8 June 2026

## FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

Indicatively, contributions may be positioned within the following packages. Financial levels remain to be agreed upon according to the partner's interest and the organizers' needs.

<p><b>Tier 1 – Lead Partner</b> Global Event Outreach &amp; Promotion Support.</p> <p><i>Plus</i> : Priority visibility on materials, protocol recognition, major branding, targeted meetings.</p>	<p><b>Tier 2 – International Symposium Partner</b> Support for scientific sessions, speakers, posters, proceedings, and dissemination.</p> <p><i>Plus</i> : sessions co-branding, mention in the proceedings, and visibility in scientific areas.</p>
<p><b>Tier 3 - Innovation and Exhibition Partner</b> Support for exhibitions, demonstrations, project showcases and research-led initiatives.</p> <p><i>Plus</i> : Visibility in the innovation zone, corner or pavilion, showcasing of supported solutions.</p>	<p><b>Tier 4 - Youth and Awareness Partner</b> Support for educational activities, civic engagement, and youth participation.</p> <p><i>Plus</i> : association with World Oceans Day, field visits, educational kits, and community engagement activities.</p>
<p><b>Tier 5 - Logistics and Hospitality Partner</b> Transport, catering, connectivity, audiovisual services, printing, and accommodation.</p> <p><i>Plus</i> : Indicative benefits : functional visibility, branding at service points and official acknowledgments.</p>	<p><b>Tier 6 - Communication and Media Partner</b> Audiovisual production, broadcasting, photography, press relations, digital communication, and public-interest influence.</p> <p><i>Plus</i> : Indicative benefits : presence on communication materials, mentions in press releases, and sponsored content visibility.</p>

# VISIBILITY AND BENEFITS

Ocean Week

From 1-8 June 2026

FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY:  
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

## VISIBILITY

Logo on the cover and on sponsor/partner pages, depending on the level of contribution

Presence on the event's printed and digital materials

Mention in speeches, press releases, and communication outputs

Branding of spaces, panels, lecterns, badges, kits, or exhibition areas

Opportunity to sponsor a session, a day, a thematic track, or an award

Networking opportunities with organizers and key stakeholders, as agreed upon in the partnership format

## BENEFITS

Accreditations and protocol or institutional invitations depending on the partnership level

Visibility in proceedings summaries reports and audiovisual productions

Opportunities for B2B engagement scientific exchanges and institutional networking

Association with messages on environmental responsibility youth and innovation

Co-produced or sponsored communication content subject to joint approval

Benefits tailored to in-kind contributions and media partnerships

**NB: Visuals, levels, placements, and recognition wording may be adjusted according to the partner's profile, compliance requirements, and the needs of the organization.**

## CONTACTS AND NEXT STEPS

*Ocean Week*

From 1-8 June 2026

### FROM OCEAN SCIENCE TO BLUE ECONOMY: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

Interested partners may express their interest in providing financial, technical, scientific, media, logistical, or in-kind support. A partnership or sponsorship form can then be shared to specify the targeted package, the proposed contribution, the expected benefits, and the implementation arrangements.

#### IH.SM / UU

Prof. Gildas Todinanahary. Director of the Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines, University of Toliara

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESupReS)

[direction@ihsm.mg](mailto:direction@ihsm.mg)

#### DPEB / MPEB

Andriantsilavo Rabary. Director of Blue Economy Promotion

Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy

[mpeb.dpeb@gmail.com](mailto:mpeb.dpeb@gmail.com)

**Organization and Scientific Programming**  
[symposium.ihsm@gmail.com](mailto:symposium.ihsm@gmail.com)  
[www.ihsm.mg](http://www.ihsm.mg)

