



MEERWISSEN

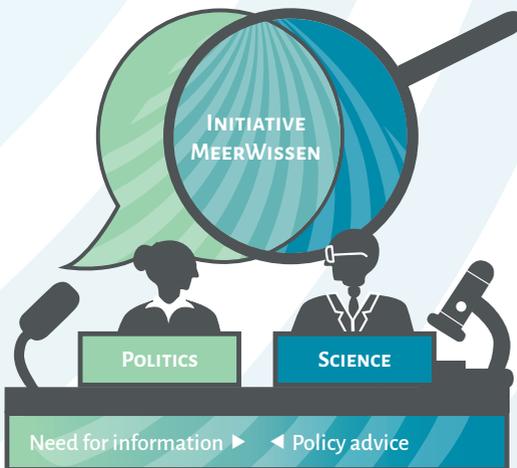
African-German Partners
for Ocean Knowledge

Building capacities for
knowledge-based policy making



SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE FOR MODERN MARINE POLICY

Healthy ocean ecosystems are crucial for coastal states, where they provide food security, support economic development and promote general well-being. However, as a result of population growth, poorly regulated waste disposal, climate change and unplanned coastal development, the oceans are increasingly polluted and over-exploited. In order to conserve these marine and coastal ecosystems more effectively, we need clear and feasible policies based on scientific knowledge. Marine sciences play a key role in meeting the targets set out in SDG 14 'Life below water' and they underpin the knowledge-based decision-making that should be the hallmark of marine conservation policies in today's world. In many developing countries and emerging economies, however, that transfer of knowledge between scientists and policy-makers is lacking. The research itself often fails to provide decision-makers with sufficient information in the form of data on the marine environment. Equally, many partner countries cannot afford to undertake research on the required scale. In addition, they often need more capacity to evaluate data systematically and to draw actionable conclusions.





INCREASING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



To increase our knowledge about the oceans, it is crucial to establish strong links among marine researchers on the one hand, and between researchers and policy-making bodies on the other. The MeerWissen Initiative supports partnerships between marine research institutions in Africa and Germany. It builds on Germany's worldwide pioneering role in the field of marine research and on the regional expertise of partner countries of

German development cooperation in Africa. The goal is to jointly align research with national and regional policy agendas and the needs of decision-makers. At the same time, African partners can benefit from the technologies, innovations and networks made available by marine researchers in Germany.

DR GERD MÜLLER (GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT):

'The deterioration of our oceans is one of the biggest challenges we currently face. The MeerWissen Initiative will lay the foundations for sustainable marine and coastal conservation policies in Africa.'

DR JACQUELINE UKU (PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MARINE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION):

'The MeerWissen Initiative provides the opportunity to strengthen north-south engagement and dialogue among marine scientists in the Western Indian Ocean region and Europe to enhance the level of decision-making around critical issues related to the sustainable use of the marine environment in Africa.'





AFRICAN-GERMAN PARTNERSHIPS IN MARINE SCIENCES

The MeerWissen Initiative supports partnerships between African and German marine research institutions through a dedicated funding programme. In a series of two-year projects, the scientists involved work together on marine conservation issues that are of particular importance in Africa. They will develop workable solutions for monitoring coastal biodiversity or for regional conservation strategies, focusing in particular on digitalisation, innovation and technology transfer. The measures funded by the projects are designed to promote modern, applied scientific methods and develop further expertise in African partner countries. Ultimately, this will contribute to a lasting improvement in the quality of the



information available to policy-makers.

Political decision makers, the private sector and civil society are involved in these projects from an early stage. This will ensure that their specific concerns are addressed in order to facilitate the process of drawing up scientifically based recommendations for policy making and to harness existing knowledge more effectively.

On behalf of:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

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