global leadership academy — we do change

BLUE SOLUTIONS

SUSTAINABLE OCEANS LAB
FOSTERING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVES ON OCEAN GOVERNANCE

An innovation programme jointly convened by the Global Leadership Academy and the Blue Solutions Initiative

Context

„How can multi-stake-holder initiatives on ocean governance become more meaningful, initiate collective action and deliver results that create human well-being?"

Oceans cover 71% of our planet's surface. They are critical for global food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being of humankind. Oceans are our natural life-support system. Their natural resources are the basis for economic growth. Our development opportunities and those of future generations depend on the sustained wealth of the world's natural ocean capital.
The present degradation of the marine environment and loss of ocean biodiversity is however jeopard-ising the services and products that oceans provide. Our current technical and policy approaches have reached their limits. Institutions and the formal and informal rules affecting policy design, implemen-tation and outcomes have failed to establish governance regimes that incentivize better and equitable management of the goods and services provided by the oceans.

How can divergent interests around the management and governance of oceans be brought into a meaningful dialogue across stakeholders and sectors that goes beyond a talk shop and results in concrete actions to ensure the long-term sustainability of the oceans and the benefits they provide? How can different stakeholder groups forge an economically viable, environmentally sound and social-ly responsible vision for the use of ocean biodiversity and marine natural resources? How can they co-create development solutions that reconcile diverging economic, ecological and social interests?

The Global Leadership Academy and the Blue Solutions Initiative are inviting leaders and change agents active in the management and governance of oceans to take part in a unique programme, the 'Sustainable Oceans Lab', in order to address the pressing challenges facing our oceans.

Objectives and Purpose

The 'Sustainable Oceans Lab' offers a safe space for leaders and change agents active in the man-agement and governance of oceans to engage in issues they face in their initiatives, to work with differences in values, roles and relations and to co-create sustainable development solutions that fit the need of their respective context and stakeholder groups.
Through a series of dialogues, the programme seeks to enable collective reflection on the challenges of multi-stakeholder initiatives on ocean governance, initiate transformation processes and develop innovation solutions. Participants will learn and experience different methods for initiating meaningful dialogue among stakeholders, sharpening the sensitivity for systemic factors and realizing solutions.

SUSTAINABLE OCEANS LAB

Process

The approach of this programme is an innovation and leadership lab (laboratory) – an environment where participants can feel safe in speaking about the unspeakable and consider issues in a largely open format.

Participants will reflect on the systemic issues and challenges that they individually and collectively encounter in their work contexts. The lab provides a space for exploring new perspectives and co-creating new approaches to multi-stakeholder engagement in the governance of ocean spaces. Working in teams, participants will steadily shape a change intervention that they commit to pursue together during the entire lab.

Over a period of twelve months, the lab combines face-to-face as well as interactive online elements in five phases. The three face-to-face meetings will take place in March 2015, August 2015 and February 2016. Intensive coaching between the face-to-face encounters will support the infusion of new insights into the home context of participants and the implementation of change projects. Each participant and initiative will decide what the most pressing issues are for them and work towards a respective outcome.

Participants

The programme is designed for up to 25 international participants from multi-stakeholder initiatives in the area of ocean governance. We would like to invite initiatives at different stages of development, though priority will be given to initiatives that are facing difficult situations and feel the need for a breakthrough. We are searching for both national as well as regional (multi-country) initiatives that truly engage stakeholders from different societal sectors (government, business and civil society).

From each participating initiative we would like to encourage participation of 2-4 high-level change agents from different stakeholders (e.g. from a government agency, from parliament, from NGOs, the private sector and media). All leaders and change agents involved will have relevant expertise in the field of management of ocean biodiversity and maritime natural resources. The leaders will be drawn from diverse cultures and nations, different business sectors and backgrounds, different institutional entities and different priorities and interests.

Cooperation Partners

The 'Sustainable Oceans Lab' is a programme jointly convened by the Global Leadership Academy (commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ) and the Blue Solutions Initiative (commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, BMUB). For more information on the organisers please visit: www.giz.de/leadershipacademy and www.bluesolutions.info.

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Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

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Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
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