



## A new free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) starts this October

**Ocean Science in Action: Addressing Marine Ecosystems and Food Security in the Western Indian Ocean** will introduce learners to innovative marine technologies and their applications used to tackle the challenges of the sustainable management of marine ecosystems.

The course has been developed by the National Oceanography Centre (UK) in partnership with Western Indian Ocean institutions as an output from the [SOLSTICE-WIO](#) project, a four-year collaborative project funded by the UK Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). Launched in October 2017, the project brings together advances in marine technologies, local knowledge and research expertise, to address challenges facing the Western Indian Ocean region in a cost-effective way via state-of-the-art technology transfer, collaborative environmental and socio-economic research and hands-on training.

In this four-week course, featuring over 30 video lectures including footage of fieldwork, numerical ocean model animations and visualisations of the Remote Sensing data, learners will explore how these marine technologies can form the basis for environmental research and monitoring programs to deliver decision support for marine policy development and resource management. Using case studies based in the Western Indian Ocean, learners will see how ocean science could be applied to the sustainable management of local marine ecosystems, and how this may contribute to global efforts to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The course is available via [FutureLearn](#) and starts **5<sup>th</sup> October 2020**. Course **enrolment is now open**; you can view and download the [Course Outline Brochure here](#).

Although the course is free to all participants, a paid upgrade is offered by the platform to receive unlimited access to the course materials and a certificate of completion upon successful completion of the test at the end of the course.

A **limited number of free upgrades are available** to learners from WIO-based universities, organisations and companies involved in conservation and management of marine resources. The first 200 learners to sign up via <https://www.solstice-wio.org/outputs/solstice-mooc/upgrade> will receive a free course upgrade.

For any further enquiries, please contact: [solsticeMOOC@noc.ac.uk](mailto:solsticeMOOC@noc.ac.uk).