

Invitation to participate in Training on Effective Stakeholder Engagement

What is the purpose of the training?

The Commonwealth Blue Charter team is keen to provide training to help the Action Groups develop effective strategies for stakeholder engagement. Two trainings are being offered to Action Groups – at different times to accommodate multiple time zones, for up to ~25 people per session.

The training will draw out key insights and principles from international best practice to assist you in designing stakeholder engagement for Blue Charter initiatives. Some of these international approaches are set out in the attached survey. We're seeking to understand what guidance documents, standards or good practice approaches you currently refer to when designing stakeholder engagement approaches, to tailor the training to your needs.

As a minimum the training will include reference to:

- regulatory requirements for stakeholder engagement and associated limitations
- identifying stakeholders, and issues of concern or interest to them, focussing on coastal and marine stakeholders in different cultural contexts
- the level of required or desired engagement, with reference to the 'Five C's' (communication, consultation, coordination, cooperation and co-management)
- advantages and disadvantages of different engagement techniques
- respecting and managing stakeholder expectations
- reaching out to lesser heard voices and ensuring inclusion
- common challenges and approaches to addressing them.

Who is the Effective Stakeholder Engagement Training team?

The Commonwealth Secretariat has appointed Cameron Strategies from Australia to prepare and deliver training in Effective Stakeholder Engagement. The team comprises four experts with combined practical experience in community engagement, natural resources management and marine policy. The team has experience in working with local communities and protected area managers on marine, estuarine and coastal issues in Australia, Seychelles, Kenya, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Belize and China; and training delivery throughout the EU, Australia, Ghana, South Africa, Yemen, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China, Malaysia and Indonesia.

When will the training take place?

It is expected the stakeholder engagement training will be offered in two parts (~2-3 hours each), across two different time zones:

Offering 1, 2-5pm BST

- Part A – Thursday 1 October
- Part B – Friday 2 October

Offering 2, 8:30-11:30am FJT

- Part A – Tuesday 6 October
- Part B – Wednesday 7 October

These two-part online training sessions will be supported by self-learning modules.

A technical familiarity session will be offered Monday/Tuesday 28th or 29th September at 9-10am BST.

Note that this training is part of a suite of training offered by the Commonwealth Secretariat Blue Charter team which has engaged specialists to develop and deliver training in:

1. Project conception, concept note and proposal development;
2. Science-policy communications and integration; and
3. Effective stakeholder engagement.

Some materials covered in the stakeholder engagement training may be utilised in subsequent sessions.