

**ECONOMIST
IMPACT**



The 11th annual

WORLD OCEAN Summit & Expo

“How to” sessions summary report

March 11th-13th | Lisbon, Portugal

Summary

The 11th annual World Ocean Summit launched the “How to” working group sessions this year.

The purpose of the sessions was to create a set of action points and practical takeaways for individuals and organisations committed to restoring ocean health. These sessions, for small, focused groups of subject-matter experts and a carefully picked audience were interactive, engaging and solution oriented. This report shares the key takeaways from the speakers and audience from each discussion.



How to take action against ocean pollution from wastewater and sewage

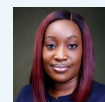


Four-fifths of the world's wastewater is released into the environment without treatment, harming people and aquatic habitats. Meanwhile, over 40% of the global population lacks access to safely managed sanitation services. On top of being a serious public-health issue, pollution from sewage and wastewater affects many industries that rely on the ocean, including tourism, fishing and offshore aquaculture, and contributes to coral damage and biodiversity loss. This session analysed sewage and wastewater treatment and discussed how to move from traditional solutions to intersection and circularity. It also explored how to raise awareness of the many harms that sewage and wastewater causes to the ocean and to public health. Participants discovered new ways to take action against ocean pollution from sewage and wastewater.

Moderator:



Martin Koehring
Global director of impact
Forum for the Future



Folayinka Dania
Chief resilience officer
Lagos



Amelia Wenger
Conservation scientist and water
pollution programme lead
Wildlife Conservation Society



Adam Baske
Vice-president coastal markets
and restoration
Running Tide



Jasmine Fournier
Executive director
Ocean Sewage Alliance

The key takeaways from this session are:

1. Global sanitation crisis is multi-sector and multidisciplinary. It cannot be tackled by one sector.
2. Integrated conservation and sanitation approaches offer many co-benefits including breaking silos.
3. The focus should be on the source of the sanitation crisis such as human, animal, pharmaceutical, chemicals, urban, and land.
4. Climate change exacerbates the crisis with water levels rising causing more frequent sewage overflows and spills.
5. A circular approach is needed. For example cleaning and reusing water; as opposed to current mindsets of 'the solution to pollution is dilution'.
6. Small-scale sludge-making systems could work instead of giant treatment plants, but they are currently not cost-effective.
7. The cost of inaction varies across human health, coral health, coastal erosion, aquaculture contamination and the blue economy.
8. There are benefits of action: ecosystem restoration, carbon dioxide removal, and co-benefits for markets.
9. Working with local communities will help with faster solutions for localised problems.
10. Education is needed and there are many options including innovative approaches and nature-based solutions, that can be explored with localised knowledge.



