**Youth Transforming Africa (YTA) Briefing on Coastal Resilience  
in Partnership with the WACA Program**

**Saturday June 6, 2020, 10:00 – 11:00 EST  
3-4 pm WAT / 4-5 pm CAT / 5-6 pm EAT**

**Theme:**  **How can youth support in mobilizing communities around coastal resilience**

**Background**

West Africa’s coastal areas host about one third of the region’s population and generate 56 percent of its GDP. But environmental degradation on the coast of Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, and Togo cost $3.8 billion, or 5.3% of the four countries’ GDP in 2017. Beyond the economic cost, coastal degradation puts livelihoods, nutrition, food security, and prosperity at stake.

Climate change will exacerbate the environmental stresses along the coast. By 2100, West Africa is expected to have sea level rise of up to 1.06 m, higher incidences of extreme rainfall, a temperature increase of 2°C, and 5,500 km2 of coast flooded.

The West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program ([WACA](file:///C:\Users\WB196156\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\NS1A0BQY\wacaprogram.org)) supports countries’ effort to bring the solutions needed to protect coastal livelihoods. It will also help mobilize public opinion in order to reduce the natural and man-made risks affecting coastal communities.

Through its [Youth Transforming Africa](https://blogs.worldbank.org/youth-transforming-africa) initiative, the World Bank Africa Region is organizing regular roundtables on development topics. Their purpose is to build Africa’s youth capacity to understand the challenges, allow dialogue among Africa’s youth, and prepare some youth-grown solutions to influence policymaking in Africa.

In the context of the World Environment Day (June 5) and the World Ocean Day (June 8), the Africa Communications team (AFREC) and the WACA program will brief the Blog4Dev community members on the challenges related to coastal degradation. While the bloggers from the 17 countries planned to be part of WACA are specifically targeted, all the Blog4Dev community will be invited. Expected attendance is around 40 bloggers.

This briefing is a follow-up to a partnership engaged since the WACA marketplace in Abidjan (November 2019), resulting in six blog posts and social media material, including several videos. The overall objective is to engage in a structured way with youth as opinion leaders for their peers.

**Objectives of the Briefing**

* Explain the development challenges related to coastal degradation due to erosion, pollution and flooding.
* Invite the Blog4Dev community to implement a campaign through their platforms (personal blogs, Facebook pages, twitter account, Instagram) on how coastal communities could contribute to reduce risks affecting them. Best content will be shared on the WACA Website and Youth Transforming Africa blog.

**Date and time**

This one-hour webinar will take place on Saturday June 6, from 10:00 to 11:00 am EST. The expected platform will be Kudo to allow simultaneous translation. If not possible, Webex will be a plan B and people will be allowed to speak either in English or in French.

**Format and Speakers (EST)**

10:00 Welcome *(Sylvie Nenonene)*

10:03 Agenda and speakers *(Kelvin Adantchede, Moderator)*

10:05 The challenges of coastal degradation and interventions *(Maria Sarraf, Salimata Follea*)

10:15 Which role for young entrepreneurs? (*Margaret Arnold, Elikia Abraham*)

10:25 Using social media to mobilize communities (*Marie Duffour)*

10:30 Q&A

10:55 Closing remarks (*Maria Sarraf*)

11:00 End

**Speakers**

**Maria Sarraf  
Practice Manager,  
Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, Africa Region  
Coastal Challenges & Opportunities**

**Sylvie Nenonene,   
Lead External Affairs Officer, Regional Integration  
Africa Communications  
Opening remarks**

##### Salimata Follea, Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist,

##### Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, Africa Region Interventions for Coastal Resilience

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**Margaret Arnold**  
[**Senior Social Development Specialist**](https://intranet.worldbank.org/people/search?page=1&q=&psort=relevance&items=10&rvpu=&runit=&rjob=Senior%20Social%20Development%20Specialist&rinstitution=&rlocation=&raoe=&rskill=&rlanguage=) **Social Development  
Local Action & Citizen’s Engagement**

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##### Elikia Abraham, Private Sector Specialist Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, Africa Region Leveraging Private Sector & Innovation

**Marie Duffour,  
 Social Media Specialist  
Africa Communications  
Social Media for Resilience**

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