

The World Bank and the Blue Economy in Africa



AFRICA AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

Aquatic resources such as fish, coral reefs, seaweed, minerals, oil and gas, the services they provide, and resilient coasts are assets that can be sustainably exploited for the benefit of current and future generations.

Climate change is an increasing threat to the equilibrium of the marine environment, the effects of which are not yet well understood. Extreme changes in temperature and ocean currents, coastal erosion and flooding risk exacerbating already stressed ecosystems. Although there are very visible impacts already being detected in African coastal countries, from washed out main roads to declining fish stock and stepped-up erosion, much remains uncertain. The World Bank recognizes this threat and starts to address it by devoting two chapters of the Bank's Africa Climate Business Plan to the Blue Economy and coastal resilience.

Growth of the Blue Economy is possible in fisheries, aquaculture, minerals, energy, transport and trade, tourism and recreation, and marine biotechnology. While some of these sectors require little encouragement or additional governance, others require better planning to achieve their full potential and return

more sustainable outcomes. Where different industries compete for the same space or resources, competition and tension often arise, and tradeoffs need to be better understood for decisionmaking to maximize economic, social and environmental benefits. Strong planning and regional coordination are thus needed to optimize investment and through improved regulations, ocean monitoring and surveillance, coastal protection, and waste management. Ensuring synergies across the Blue Economy is important for sustainability and enhancing efficiency.

THE WAY FORWARD

Growing a resilient Blue Economy requires (1) strategic vision and commitment; (2) good governance; and (3) investments.

(1) African countries have signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) many of which are extremely relevant for the Blue Economy, particularly SDG 1. At the 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris, nations committed to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). African nations are also party to several regional alliances offering appropriate frameworks for coordination and synergy, including the African Maritime Transport Charter, the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (which produced the 2050 AIM Strategy), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), which adopted a roadmap on the Blue Economy and, importantly, the African Union 2063 Agenda, which interfaces with the UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development. These statements and plans should be translated into actions under the leadership of African nations.

(2) Good governance based on science, data and technology is critical to underpin governance reforms and shape management decisions, whether to ensure that fish stocks are sustainably managed, or that oil exploration takes critical natural habitats into account. Securing tenure rights to well-organized communities has also proven to be effective in restoring fisheries and livelihoods.

(3) For the potential of the Blue Economy to be realized, investments will be needed to support improved governance, community initiatives (some of which are already tested and working, such as in Kenya), and an enabling environment for the private sector to engage in a responsible and sustainable way.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE BLUE ECONOMY IN AFRICA

Over 12 million people are engaged in the fisheries sector alone, including inland fishing and fish farming, and marine capture fisheries.

Fish is an important source of animal protein. On average, African people eat 9.7 kg of fish per year, which could increase considering the global average of 18.9 kg.

Oceans, coasts, coral reefs and unspoiled beaches attract tourism in Africa. According to CNN, Africa has 13 of the world's 100 best beaches¹.

About 90% of world trade is carried by ship over oceans². Offshore oil production accounts for about 30% of the total world production³.

SELECTED 2016 EVENTS

August 25, 2016, Kenya: Embracing Blue Economy for Africa's Accelerated Development - Side Event at Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD VI)

September 1-2, 2016, Mauritius: Towards COP22, African Ministerial Conference on Ocean Economies and Climate Change

November 7-18, 2016, Morocco: Events on oceans during UNFCCC COP22

THE WORLD BANK'S SUPPORT

Thanks to strong partnership with international and bilateral agencies, including UN organizations, the African Union, the African Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union, the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), and bilateral partners in particular France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, the World Bank has started assisting countries in capturing the benefits of the Blue Economy. This includes several programs:

- [West Africa Regional Fisheries program \(WARFP\) – \\$US 265 million in investment since 2010:](#) The WARFP supports sustainable contributions of fisheries to wider economic growth in eight West African nations. With the proactive support of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), the program achievements include: drastic reduction of illegal fishing; improved livelihoods at pilot community-led fisheries management sites; and modernized governance frameworks. The program is funded by IDA grants or credits with co-finance or parallel finance from the GEF and other donors.
- [South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Program \(SWIOFish\) – \\$US 222 million in investment since 2015:](#) The objective of the program, which currently operates in five countries, in coordination with the Indian Ocean Commission, is to increase the economic, social and environmental benefits to SWIO countries from sustainable marine fisheries. The program aims to reduce the degradation of fish stocks, increase fisheries-related GDP in participating countries, and increase local fishery benefits to individual households.
- [Support to Innovations in Coastal Livelihoods in Kenya – US\\$40 million in investment since 2010:](#) In Kenya, the Coastal Development Project (KCDP) is helping the government and communities sustainably manage resources and transform the livelihoods of the coastal population. The innovative project has allowed government to bring key research to communities, provide access to new aquaculture techniques and appropriate tree species to plant to decrease erosion. With the technical assistance and financial support of KCDP, community-driven projects have been designed to fit the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.
- [West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program \(WACA\) – \\$US 1.3 million in technical assistance since 2014 and planned US\\$150 million in investment:](#) WACA is designed to reduce the vulnerability of coastal areas and promote climate-resilient integrated coastal management in West Africa. The program's mix of technical assistance and investments seeks to preserve and rehabilitate the natural coastal resources essential for livelihoods, spur economic development and increase social welfare. WACA is also a convening platform to help countries obtain the finance and expertise they need to sustainably manage their coastal areas. It also serves as a forum within which countries and regions can share best practices and lessons learned.
- [Climate Resilience for Livelihoods Dependent on Living Marine Resources in Africa – \\$US 2 million in technical assistance planned, of which \\$US 0.2 million is secured:](#) The World Bank is preparing a series of papers on marine living resources and climate change to demonstrate the cost of inaction on livelihoods and poverty. Building on existing work, and generating new analyses, this work encompasses mapping of vulnerability across Africa coastal zones, climate change-driven risks, cost-effective adaptation and mitigation measures, and estimating net gains and limits.

- [Engagement of Media and Civil Society – \\$US 1.5 million in technical assistance planned, of which \\$US 0.3 million is secured](#): Comprehensive and investigative news reporting on fisheries governance and sustainable fisheries could accelerate the effective implementation of fisheries reforms and improvement of management of fisheries and coastal resources. To that end the African Union, World Bank and USAID supported training of over 100 African journalists from 44 countries in 2016, a first step toward relying on a network of journalists to act as watchdogs and bring attention to the message that a healthy ocean is needed to ensure the services of food and nutrition supply, income and jobs, and community resilience, as well as contribute to national economies.
- [Climate Change and the Blue Economy – US\\$ 0.3 million in technical assistance since 2015](#): As part of the Africa Climate Business Plan (ACBP), the Bank is supporting national climate-smart Blue Economy development plans. In Mauritius this work focuses on operationalization of the ocean economy in energy, logistics, fisheries, and tourism, while in Togo the work focuses on developing a strategic framework for the Blue Economy, including maritime security.
- [Fisheries Transparency –US\\$ 0.1 million in technical assistance since 2016](#): The World Bank is committed to transparency in general, and in the fisheries sector specifically. The Bank has piloted transparency in the fisheries sector, starting in Madagascar in 1998, and presently supports transparency by helping countries build policy and regulatory capacity, and improve the quality of data, processing and analysis. It supports countries in implementing mechanisms that allow stakeholders’ access to key information, including license agreements and fish catch data. Building on this experience, the Bank is engaged in the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), spearheaded by the Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform in collaboration with Mauritania, among others.

¹ CNN: <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/28/travel/100-best-beaches/index.html>

² International Maritime Organization: <https://business.un.org/en/entities/13>

³ Global Marine Oil Pollution Information Gateway, Facts on oil: <http://oils.gpa.unep.org/facts/extraction.htm>

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