

**University of Port Harcourt; Faculty of Agriculture;  
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**Blue Economy-based National Development: Cases,  
Model, Governance and Key Performance Indicators  
for Nigeria**

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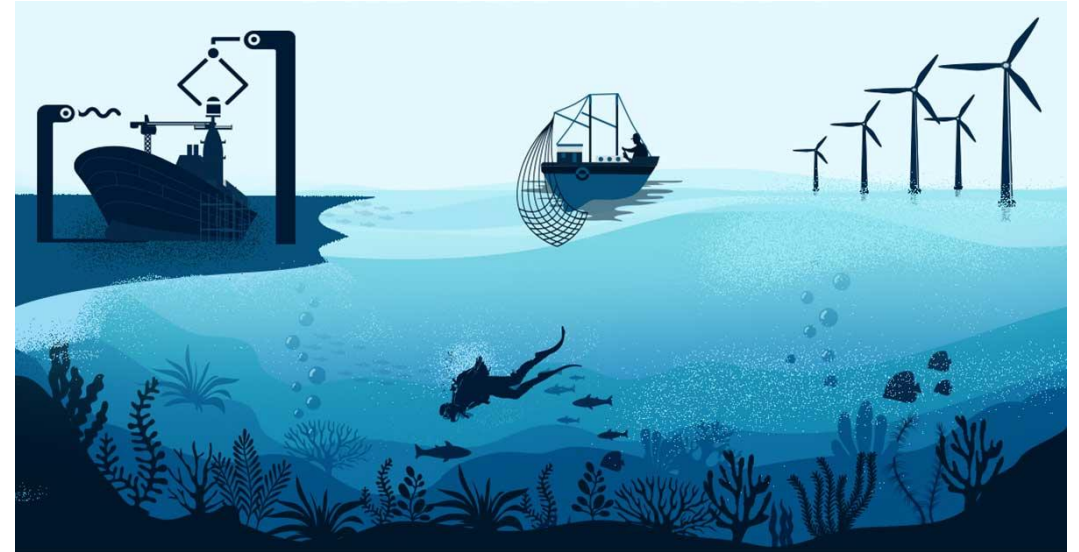
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# Introduction

- Blue Economy is an economic concept and an integrated approach by which the socio-economic advancement of a nation or people can be achieved
- through the rational and responsible exploration, exploitation and use of all Ocean-related renewable and non-renewable resources
- and services in such ways that will ensure the health of the ecosystem, livelihood and well-being to its several benefactors.



# Intro Cont'd.

## Blue Economy is multi-faceted

- and is a prominent approach to ensuring the actualization of set out objectives including

### key SDGs:

- 6 (clean water); 7 (renewable energy); 8 (economic growth), 9 (Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities); 13 (Climate Action) and 14 (life below water)



# Intro Cont'd.

- Colours and adjectives have been used to describe various types of economy
- depending on the nature of associated activities responsible for the observed growth in that economy and society.
- **Green Economy** for instance refers to economic growth through practices that result in low carbon emissions
- Circular economy has to do with recycling plastics, metals, etc.



# Intro Cont'd.

- UN, World Bank, Commonwealth of Nations and Centre for Blue Economy, among defines blue economy as the use of ocean-related resources for economic growth
- while ensuring environmental, ecological, social sustainability and management
- Including non-marketable services such as coastal protection, cultural values and carbon storage



**United  
Nations**



**THE  
WORLD  
BANK**



The Commonwealth

# Pillars of Blue Economy

- Environmental Sustainability: Protecting ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Economic Growth: Utilizing marine resources for national development.
- Social Equity: Ensuring inclusive and equitable benefits.

These pillars drive a balanced and sustainable Blue Economy.

# Collaboration Across Borders & Sectors

- Oceans connect continents. Thriving Blue Economies require:
  - Cross-border partnerships
  - Integrated management approaches
  - Sustainable resource (renewable and non-renewable) extraction
- Nations are adopting innovative strategies to harness ocean resources while balancing socio-economic growth and environmental conservation
- Nigeria is also taking giant steps, what with the establishment of the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy.



# 2. Sectors of the Blue Economy

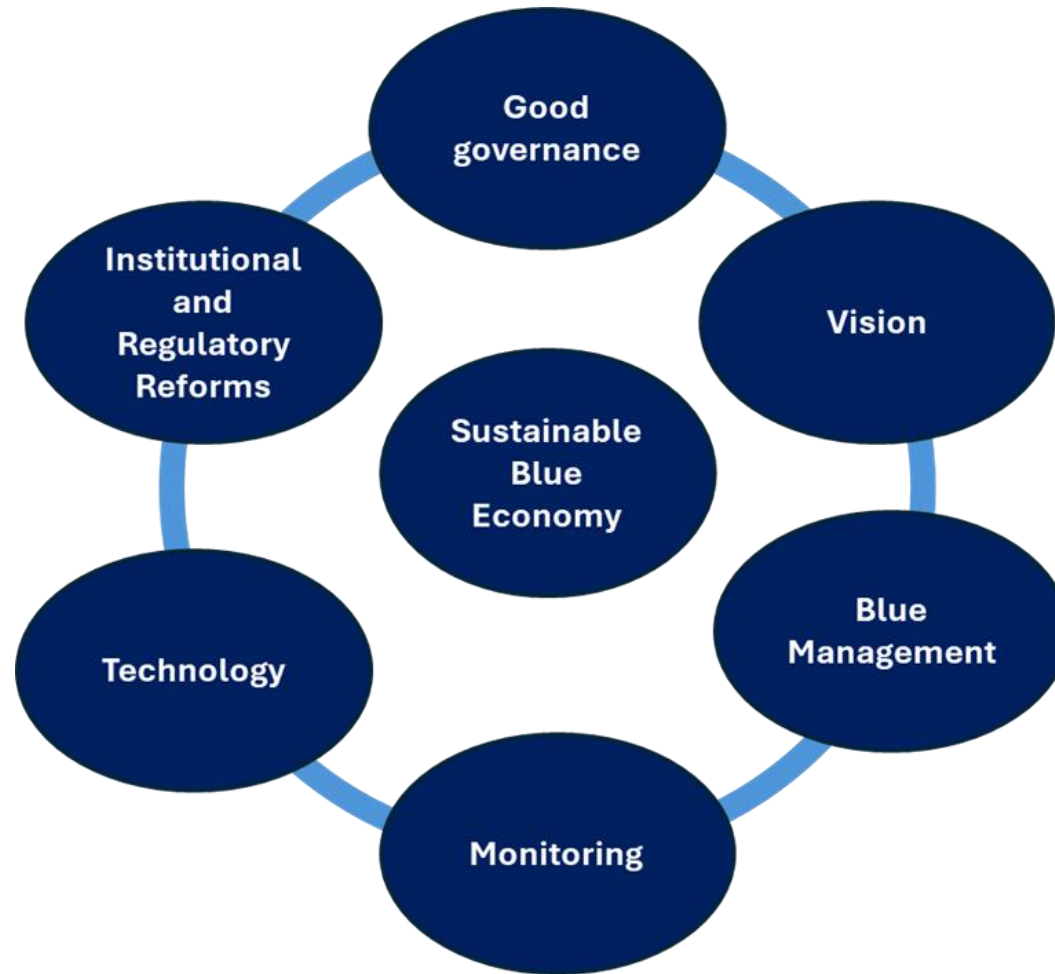
Various sectors contribute to a thriving Blue Economy. E.g.:

- Fisheries & Aquaculture
- Conservation & Research
- Tourism & Renewable Energy
- Oil & Gas
- Maritime Transport & Trade



• Figure 1.: Sectors of Blue Economy. Source: Hussain, Failler, Karim & Alam (2018)

# Six pillars of the blue economy



Source: Attri (2016)

# 3. Governance for a Thriving Blue Economy

- Governance in the blue economy involves social, legal, political, and economic arrangements for sustainable and profitable ocean resource management.

## **Key Mechanisms:**

- Green infrastructure & technologies
- Innovative financing
- Institutional arrangements

# Governance

- Governance, management and sustainable uses of resources are rife in the blue economy
- in order not to destroy the social and cultural heritage, nor tamper with:

## The Principles of Bioethics:

- Responsibility for the atmosphere
- Solidarity, equity, & cooperation
- Beneficence (doing good)
- Cultural diversity, pluralism & tolerance
- Human dignity, rights & justice

# Governance

- it should be inclusive so that communities are engaged and participate in the activities.
- there should be practices, mechanisms, approaches and activities to ensure profitable and sustainable use of ocean resources.
- under the auspices of the AU, there are frameworks, strategies, reforms and initiatives that refer to the blue economy as an approach to socio-economic development see Table 1.



# International Instruments for Blue Economy Governance

- Instruments guiding operations of the blue economy strategy established since the early 19th century (see Table 1 in the paper).

International cooperation and compliance are crucial

- **UNCLOS 1982**: Exclusive Economic Zone Management
- **CBD**: Biodiversity Management
- **AfCFTA**: Free Trade in Africa
- **Abidjan Convention**: Regional Marine Protection
- **Agenda 2063 & 2030**: Development Frameworks.

# 4. Model for Maximising Profits from the Potentials in the Blue Economy

- Models are structured to contain inputs, processes and outputs or outcomes/results.
- inputs serve as a foundation and consist of tools such as: Finance, capacity, partnerships, Regulatory Instruments and Ethical matrix.
- The mechanisms are reflected as processes and include capacity building, reviewing, monitoring, assessment, enforcement and promotion of research.
- Outputs will consist of assorted kinds of key performance indicators

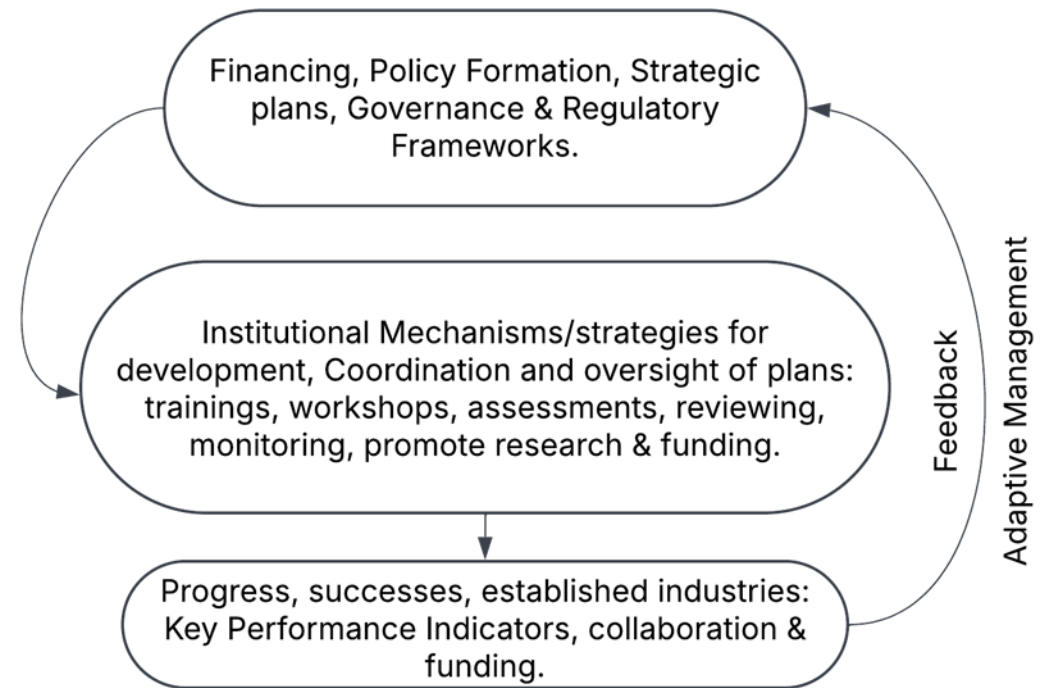


Figure 3. Model for maximizing profits from potentials of the Blue Economy

# 5. Practicing Cases and Lessons

- Developed nations and economies have based their economy on ocean-related industries, activities and services
- many coastal entities are developing their ocean-based economies,
- A good number of countries have developed their Blue Economy Strategies,
- some for over nine years whereas many of these countries have been enjoying tremendous contributions to their national GDP from fisheries resources



# America for Example

- America is described as an ocean nation
- with a growing blue economy contribution of approximately 373 billion US dollars to her GDP;
- in addition to 2.3 million jobs.
- Her ocean-related economy grew by 5.8% from 2017 to 2018 against 5.4% of her total GDP.
- It has also been reported that about 40% (127 million) of America's population resides in the coastal region.



# America for Example

- Between 2014 and 2018 the economy grew by 17% to 5.4 trillion
- which is about 26% of the Nation's 20.5 trillion US dollars GDP.
- The maritime commerce is envisaged to triple by 2030.



# Lesson for Nigeria

- The lesson for Nigeria is that
- Nigeria must be determined to set specific and measurable goals
- for a reasonable contribution to her GDP
- with sectors that are popular with the populace, especially from the fisheries sector.



# Policy Instruments

- In Africa, awakening to tap into sectors of the blue economy for national development has been established since about 2009,
- having been enshrined in some policy instruments such as:
- African Mining Vision, African Maritime Transport Charter and others such as the 2019 African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA)
- where Member States move their goods and services without restriction.



# Blue Economy strategy

- The Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES)
- was launched at the African Union 33rd summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- with a Theme –
  - Developing a Sustainable Blue Economy: Increasing momentum for Africa's Blue Growth.

# Thematic areas in the Africa Blue Economy strategy

The 5 thematic areas are:

- I. Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems.
- II. Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement.
- III. Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure.
- IV. Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries.
- V. Policies, governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative and financing.

# The Africa Blue Economy strategy (ABES)

- launching of ABES; is a real pointer to the greater commitment of African countries commitment
- to the realization of the following policy frameworks:

## **SDG 14 life below waters**

- Vision of Agenda 2063
- African Union policies and instruments: for example, the AU 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy
- The AU-Lome Charter on maritime security and development
- The Revised African Maritime Transport Charter



# Countries Practicing Blue Economy and Remarks (see Table 2)

- Vietnam: Hopes to enjoy a considerable contribution to her economy through the 2045 blue economy program.
- Portugal: European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture. Developed blue economy since 2015.
- Trinidad and Tobago: To develop its tourism and fisheries sector through heavily relying on the oil and gas sector.
- Kenya: Her blue economy vision is for actualization of its tourism seaweed farming tuna fishery.



# Common Market in Eastern and Southern Africa

- Regions in the African continent are making an effort to develop, for instance, COMESA (Common Market in Eastern and Southern Africa), aims at:
  - I. Increasing productivity and trade of fish and fisheries products.
  - II. Economic growth through tourism.
  - III. Economic growth through shipping and transportation, trade, and ports.
  - IV. Sustainable power generation and mineral (non-living extractive industries)
  - V. Innovative industries and
  - VI. Sustainable practices.

# Role of the University for Citizens to Maximize Profits from the Nigerian Blue Economy Potentials

- The University is already on its path to playing her role
- enlightening the populace on the indispensable pathway to sustainable socio-economic growth.
- By this lecture, the citizens are being introduced to the concept of the blue economy,
- its vast potential in Nigeria, segments in the sector, the various activities, opportunities and success measurement indicators.



# Role of the University for Citizens to Maximize Profits from the Nigerian Blue Economy Potentials

- By this shared knowledge each stakeholder can get a vision
- as to his or her role and run with the vision to fulfil it.
- It could result in an investment or picking up an entrepreneurial idea and nurse to fruition.



# 7. Thriving Blue Economy And Key Performance Indicators

- Established and functional institutions (financial, education, research)
- Restoration programmes – in terms of locally extinct organisms and habitats
- Sustainable extraction of non-renewable components of the blue economy.
- Global standards
- Better exploitation of the Sea

# 7. Thriving Blue Economy And Key Performance Indicators

- End to oil spills
- Prevention of pollution and harmful practices
- Clean water and sanitation
- Established, functional maritime security and safety institutions
- Good Governance
- Renewable energy
- Deep Sea Mineral Exploitation

# 7. Thriving Blue Economy And Key Performance Indicators

- Conservation investments to ensure the carbon sink capacity of the aquatic ecosystems
- Better pollution status of coastal zones in terms of chemicals and plastics, industrial effluents
- Healthy blue ecosystems
- Environmental management; biodiversity protection
- Modernized ports (with standard facilities and operations)
- Advanced shipping industry
- Managed fisheries

# 7. Thriving Blue Economy And Key Performance Indicators

- Maritime spatial planning; investment
- Productivity in fisheries
- Ecosystem health
- Governance
- Integrated maritime ecosystem management
- Pollution status of ecosystems
- Value-added products – fish, mineral
- Established Eco-tourism

# 7. Thriving Blue Economy And Key Performance Indicators

- Coastal tourism (eco-tourism embedded here)
- International standards for pollution and practices
- Collaboration with adjacent?
- Countries on monitoring
- Control and surveillance to curb maritime criminality and Sea piracy
- Illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing IUU and illicit trafficking with exclusive economic zones and territorial waters.



# Thriving blue economy and key performance indicators: Nigeria in Focus

- The progress and success of the Nation in her accent to National development through the blue economy can be measured through the establishment of the under-listed indicators:
  - More functional modern harbours
  - Development of security measures and having good port facilities
  - Put away corruption, have navigation aids
  - Have surveillance technology community-based
  - Processing facilities at fish landing sites
  - Investment in Fishing trawlers

# Blue economy and key performance indicators: Nigeria in Focus

- Greater proportion of power generation from renewable energy/Blue energy
- Greater investment in large-scale organic Agriculture and logging industries
- Restoration of biodegraded land and stocks like what is ongoing in Ogoni land
- Marine Protected Areas for purposes of fisheries management and recreation
- Oil and Gas exploration and exploitation are devoid of biodegradation of the marine ecosystem by means of global standard in operation, and use of renewable energy, while also bottling and monetizing the gas.

# Blue economy and key performance indicators: Nigeria in Focus

- Establishment of holiday resorts/Recreational/Eco-Tourism centres with a display of assorted fishes and aquatic mammals. Such ventures are accompanied with souvenir shops.
- Effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Unit, satellite technologies plus hydrophones to detect real-time Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.
- Functional Fisheries terminal in Port-Harcourt, etc.
- Boat Building Industries
- Large volume of Maritime trade
- Integrated Coastal development
- Resources for food

# Blue economy and key performance indicators: Nigeria in Focus

- Investment in Shipping
- Resources for blue energy
- Ocean transportation
- Innovative Industries
- Integrated Coastal zone management for marine resources.

# Conclusion

## **Abundant Ocean Resources**

- Nigeria is rich in renewable and non-renewable marine resources.
- Sustainable management ensures benefits for present and future generations.

## **• Strategic Implementation**

- Effective exploration, exploitation, and responsible resource use are key.
- Governance instruments exist, but capacity building is crucial for success.

- The 2024 African Union validation of Nigeria's Blue Economy sets the stage for growth.
- Other nations are successfully leveraging Blue Economy principles for economic gains.
- As a coastal nation, Nigeria must fully implement governance mechanisms.
- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) frameworks ensure accountability.
- Unlocking the Blue Economy will drive sustainable development and economic prosperity.

# Way Forward for Nigeria's Blue Economy

## **Infrastructure & Trade Development**

- Develop port facilities, green infrastructure, and maritime security.
- Improve capacity for trade, shipping, and local participation in the maritime industry.

## **Sustainable Resource Management**

- Expand offshore oil, gas, and deep-sea mining with net-zero emissions.
- Encourage responsible fishing, trawling, and large-scale mariculture.
- Reduce pollution and protect marine biodiversity.

# Way Forward for Nigeria's Blue Economy

## **Security & Governance**

- Strengthen coastal patrols and implement UNCLOS protocols.
- Prevent illegal fishing and protect territorial waters.
- Enhance maritime governance and spatial planning.

## **Collaboration & Research**

- Foster cooperation with neighboring coastal nations.
- Academia, government, and industry must work together (Triple Helix Model).
- Establish efficient research units for adaptive management.



Nigeria must implement international safety standards, support local livelihoods, and harness the full potential of the Blue Economy for sustainable development.

Thank you for  
Listening

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