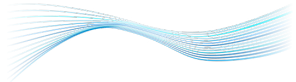


AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY FORUM

REPORT
2018

ABEF2018
AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY FORUM





“Blue is the new green.” If there is one takeaway from the first Africa Blue Economy Forum, it is the urgent need for more countries and societies to learn about the Blue Economy and its myriad benefits for the various African economies.

When I was putting ABEF together, I found myself explaining several times a day just what the Blue Economy is. “We’ve heard of the Green Economy, but what is the blue one?” people would ask. There is still a long way to go in educating the public on the impact of the Blue Economy, not just in Africa, but all over the world. The first Africa Blue Economy Forum (ABEF) 2018 aimed to do this and more.

The forum brought together international experts and African government ministers to debate the economic contribution of oceans, rivers and lakes in the context of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It was clear during the day’s panel discussions that there is no easy definition of the Blue Economy, spanning, as it does, multiple sectors across a wide range of investment opportunities. This is why we chose to focus on projects and programmes aimed at educating Africa’s youth; developing and implementing the Blue Economy has the capacity to provide desperately needed jobs for the younger generation across the continent.

Topics of discussion ranged from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to maritime security, ocean governance and the role of ecosystem services in fisheries and aquaculture. Speakers and delegates agreed on the need for innovative financing to start developing Africa’s Blue Economy on a wider scale, with the help of governments and the private sector.

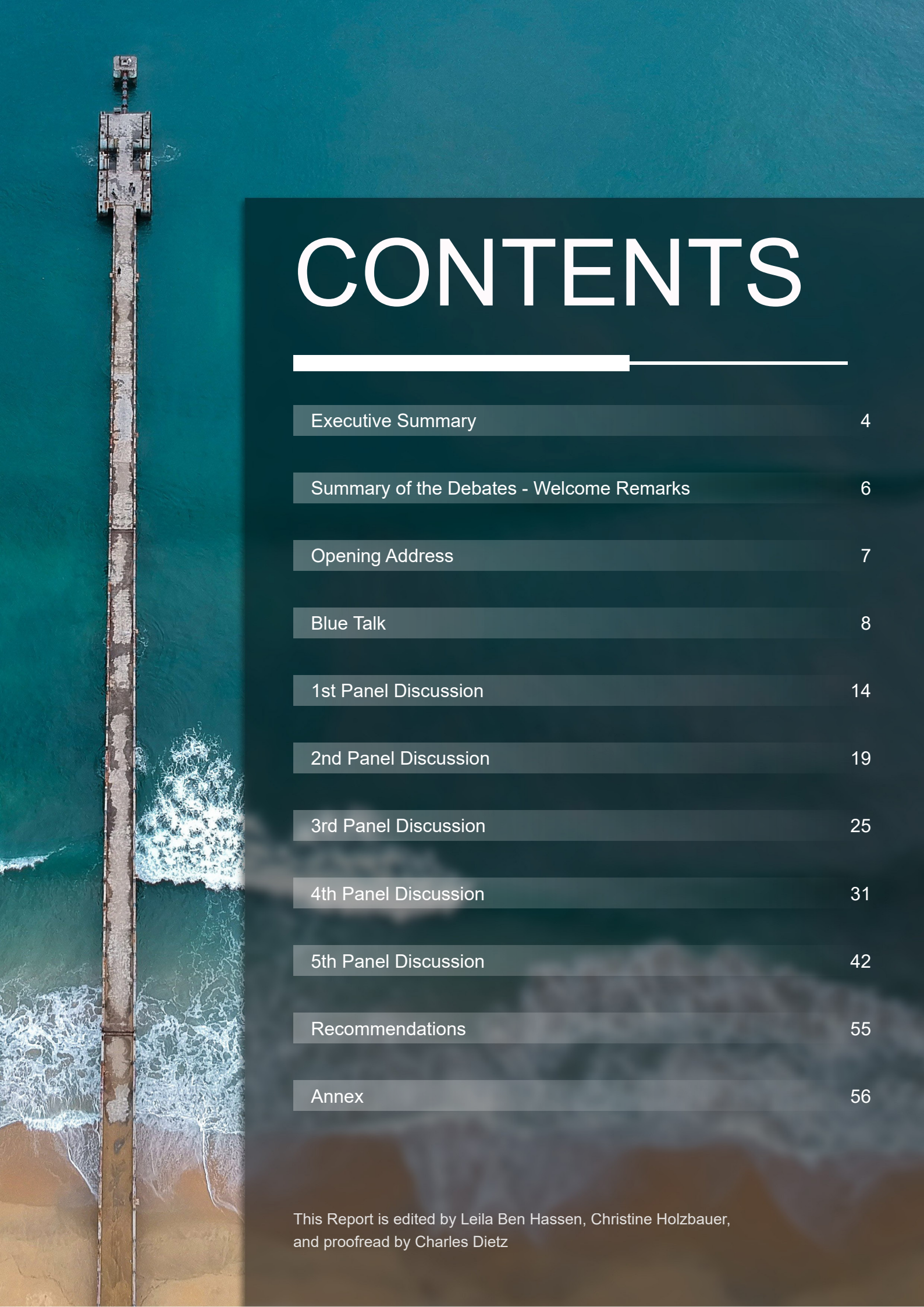
ABEF 2018 revealed that relevant data and more research are required to shape policies, especially with regard to climate change. The Blue Economy is not simply the responsibility of the 38 African coastal countries, but is also highly relevant to their landlocked neighbours.

There is considerable work to do to put the Blue Economy into action in Africa, thereby helping to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods and assure sustainable socio-economic development. ABEF 2018 may be just a drop in the ocean in the wider scheme of the Blue Economy, but the outcomes of its discussions focus on action, not words and look to a brighter future for all of us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L.B.H.' with a stylized flourish.

Leila Ben Hassen

Founder and CEO of Blue Jay Communication and ABEF 2018



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This Report is edited by Leila Ben Hassen, Christine Holzbauer,
and proofread by Charles Dietz



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first ever Africa Blue Economy Forum (ABEF) took place in London on June 8th to coincide with World Oceans Day. The Forum attracted more than one hundred international experts and African government ministers and delegates to debate the economic contribution of oceans in the context of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“

“The Blue Economy is about bold new thinking to accelerate Africa's structural transformation and create jobs for a young population on the rise. During the Forum, we will share Blue stories, Blue solutions and listen to ocean experts and leaders to highlight the many opportunities the Blue Economy can offer to both African and international businesses.”

”

- Leila Ben Hassen, Founder and CEO of Blue Jay Communication

What was the purpose?

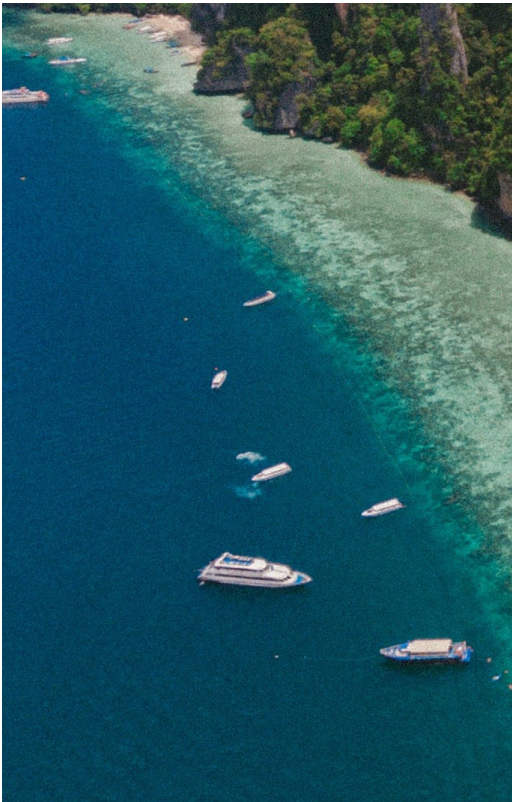
Several African countries have already formulated strategies to mainstream the Blue Economy in their national development plans and the concept is gaining traction across the globe. Everyone doing business in Africa will benefit from it in the long term.

Indeed, the Blue Economy covers a wide range of productive sectors that are crucial for the continent's sustainable development, including **fisheries, aquaculture, transport, energy, trade and tourism as well as extractive industries**. To be efficient, these sectors need to work together in an integrated manner.

The objective of ABEF 2018 was to gather all those industries together for the first time and discuss how the Blue Economy can help create jobs, improve livelihoods and accelerate sustainable growth across the continent, which economic policies will facilitate a better ocean economy and what are the opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs.

What are the results?

Five recommendations emerged from ABEF 2018's debates concerning the Blue Economy in Africa:



1. A need for action in order to implement practical policies that will bring sustainable and inclusive economic development to Africa in the different sectors of the Blue Economy.
2. A need to integrate the Blue Economy into national and regional development plans. In other words, new fields of cooperation will have to be found and implemented at a national and regional level.
3. The need for relevant data and more research to devise better policies, especially when it comes to defeat climate change.
4. The need for innovative financing in order to start developing the Blue Economy at a larger scale and also to get the private sector involved.
5. The need for education at the youngest possible age so as to keep in touch with local communities and involve them at every step.

Summary of the Debates

Welcome Remarks

The first ever Africa Blue Economy Forum opened with a warm welcome by **Mark Eddo, International Journalist and Managing Director, Mark Eddo Media**. The Master of Ceremonies reminded participants that June 8th was World Oceans Day. Since 1992, this date has been marked by an annual celebration to increase awareness of the importance of the sea – “from regulating our climate to generating the oxygen we need to breathe”. This year’s theme was “Preventing Plastic Pollution and Encouraging Solutions for a Healthy Ocean”. The theme was prompted by the catastrophic amount of plastic that is ending up in the oceans – an annual total of 8 million tonnes, causing £8 billion in damage to marine ecosystems each year. Another issue is safety and security. Drug trafficking and human smuggling have assumed staggering proportions. In addition to the rise of illegal migration, rampant piracy and illegal fishing, a recent Greenpeace report found that the West African region loses about \$2 billion to illegal fishing every year. “Neglecting these issues will hamper the potential growth promised by Africa’s oceans”, he said. So the big question is how African countries can harness the huge potential of their oceans despite all the impediments.

Indeed, there are also big opportunities for Africa’s Blue Economy. Africa’s vast coastline hosts a maritime industry estimated at \$1 trillion per year from the likes of deep seabed mining for minerals and hydrocarbon, fisheries, shipbuilding, travel and tourism – but this is only scratching the surface. Africa has 38 coastal states and a number of island states like Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Mauritius, Seychelles and the Comoros. Collectively, African coastal and island states have an ocean territory estimated at 13 million square kilometres.



After greeting the participants at **ABEF’s** first edition, **Leila Ben Hassen, Founder and CEO, Blue Jay Communication** explained that she wanted to do something different when she decided to create her own agency six months ago – something that would contribute to the African continent. “I am originally from Tunisia, and all I do is about our beautiful continent. The Blue Economy is a topic that means a lot to me, so I decided to focus all my efforts on developing this theme into a meaningful and impactful forum – but, most importantly, into action. Bringing ABEF to life has been a challenge. I have been repeatedly asked, ‘But what is the blue economy?’ and have found myself talking through this subject to people again and again. Today my hope is that our forum produces practical actions that can be implemented to help drive the UN’s SDGs and AU’s Agenda 2063”, she explained.

For her, taking action means “generating jobs for the youth and providing more opportunities to females to progress in Africa’s workplace, impacting local communities and developing national economies”. After greeting **Paul Holthus, Founding President and CEO of the World Ocean Council**, “who is always in great demand on World Oceans Day”, she thanked him warmly for joining ABEF “all the way from Honolulu”. She also welcomed her two main partners: Murdoch University, whose team had come from Perth in Australia to hold a symposium on Africa and the Blue Economy in support of ABEF, and Tunis Air.



Opening Address

The World Ocean Council is a non-profit organisation based in Honolulu. In his opening address, its Founder and CEO, Paul Holthus, emphasised the potential of Africa's ocean economy. "Fishing, shipping, all work in this eco system. The potential for Africa is enormous! But there is also the need to address the sustainability issue", he said.

African countries could learn a lot from the challenges and issues that other countries are experiencing across the world, especially since the Blue Economy is part of the United Nations' agenda (SDG 14 – "UN Member States commit to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development") and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Africa Marine Strategy 24 is another example of the growing momentum for the Blue Economy. "Africa presents major Blue Economy investment opportunities and also sustainable development challenges. We are working to bring together ocean business community leadership and collaboration in Africa to address both these opportunities and challenges", he said.

By bringing together the different industries and investing in communities, the World Ocean Council contributes to the Blue Economy. He encouraged the members of the African ocean business community to think of themselves as members of the broader ocean business community, both at an African and global level, and welcomed the launch of ABEF as part of a focused effort for the benefit of the peoples and countries that depend on the ocean.

Blue Talk

MODERATOR:

Mark Eddo

International Journalist and Managing Director, Mark Eddo Media

PANELLISTS:

Yonov Frederick Agah

Deputy Director General, World Trade Organization

Paul Holthus

Founder and CEO, World Ocean Council

David Luke

Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



Yonov Frederick Agah

The panellists discussed three main topics in this introductory session:

- The relationship between trade, economy and the Blue Economy.
- The main challenges and opportunities for the Blue Economy.
- Perspectives for the future.

Paul Holthus gave a basic definition of the Blue Economy: “Any economic activity in the ocean that can contribute to development and any activities from companies that work from the ocean.” He underlined the numerous challenges and opportunities that the many stakeholders are facing. For example, lakes and rivers are not used as much as they could be. Far more investment goes into ports – this is an opportunity. The private sector seems to be left out of policy-related decision-making processes – there is a need for a greater collaboration. One of the main challenges he sees is how to connect investors with the Blue Economy. “It is only by encouraging and facilitating open discussions that some of the key issues pertaining to the Blue Economy will be best addressed”, he said. For him, dialogue remains the best way to promote collaboration and cooperation.

Yonov Frederick Agah agreed with the importance of better cooperation. However, he said that there was no global vision as far as the Blue Economy was concerned. Big differences exist in the way different countries and regions mobilise resources. “Each country needs to decide what its priorities are”, he said. If countries want to harvest their ocean resources they must examine the markets for those resources and the technologies they need to exploit them and bring this all together into a holistic national strategy.



Paul Holthus



Mark Eddo

Mark Eddo commented that it is important to know who is in charge of running the Blue Economy. “Is it the African Union, is it individual countries, is it a collective? Who takes charge to push the Blue Economy agenda?” he asked.



David Luke

David Luke responded that “to walk the blue walk you have to connect with what African presidents and policy-makers are thinking about, and what they are thinking about today is how you transform the African economy”. For him, the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in Kigali by 44 African countries (out of 54) is a huge move. “The Blue Economy should be a big part of this boost to intra-African trade.”

With 38 Coastal or Island states and over 100 Port facilities, 90% of Africa’s trade is sea-based. However, Africa’s participation in global shipping trade is low. African-owned ships account for 1.2% of global shipping, and 0.9% of gross tonnage. Africa ports handle 6% of global water borne traffic and 3% of global container traffic. The AfCFTA is an opportunity to increase intra-African trade, especially trade in industrial and processed goods, which form the bulk of imports into Africa from other regions. But increase in intra-African trade will need to be supported by trade infrastructure, including ports (especially inland waterways), ships, shipping services and skills.

“The direct link between AfCFTA and Africa’s maritime trade has the potential to stimulate large scale investment in multiple industries, and boost job creation across the African continent”, he stated. There is a need for deliberate policy interventions at regional and national levels to maximise the opportunity presented. Private sector can invest into the thriving opportunities within Africa’s maritime sector.

Yonov Frederick Agah, was sceptical about the AfCFTA. “Looking at the history of initiatives to integrate Africa, what has changed? For me, nothing. Very good blueprint programmes are lying on the shelf. But how does this touch lives? Zero. Something needs to be looked at differently.” For him, AfCFTA will not be a leap forward unless there is more political commitment – African states need to agree to relinquish part of their sovereignty and change the way they relate to other countries in their region.

David Luke replied saying “The data tells us that when Africans trade amongst themselves, 46% of trade is value-added products; when Africans trade with the rest of the world, 80% is commodities. That alone tells you there is something interesting here”, he replied. He said that a great deal of effort was being made to build infrastructure to connect African countries but that UNECA had identified that not enough investment was

going into navigable rivers and lakes compared with ports. Concerning the efforts to link trade-related infrastructure like ports, navigable rivers and lakes, rail and road, he mentioned six landlocked countries in Southern Africa where this has already been done (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), three in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger), five in East Africa (Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, and South Sudan), and two in Central Africa (Chad and Central African Republic).

The legal instruments to help connect infrastructures and promote intra trade are:

1 The UN Almaty and Vienna Declarations to enable transit trade from coastal countries to landlocked countries.

2 Memorandums of Understanding on the Road Corridors. In West Africa, they go from Lomé to Ouagadougou and in East Africa, from Mombasa to Kigali.

3 The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Transit Trade treaties which are premised on the objective of creating free-trade areas. Several RECs have instruments which specifically enable transit trade. For example: in ECOWAS, there is the Inter-State Road Transport Convention (IST) and Inter-State Road Transit Convention (ISRT); in COMESA, the Protocol for Transit Trade and Transit Facilities; in SADC/EAC/COMESA, the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme; and in CEMAC, the Inter-State Convention on Carriage of Goods by Road.

4 The Trade Corridors. African countries are adopting a regional approach to trade infrastructure as, for example, in East Africa. Goods shipped from other regions to Ethiopia transit through Djibouti port to Ethiopia by rail. The Addis Ababa to Djibouti rail service has commenced, with plans to expand the service to Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. In West Africa, there are two Bilateral Memoranda of Understanding for Transit Trade between ECOWAS countries – the Ghana and Burkina Faso Agreement and the Nigeria and Niger Agreement – towards enabling trade to move easily from coastal to landlocked countries.

However, more needs to be done. There is the necessity of corridor development to reduce the costs and time of trade in Africa. Investments into trade infrastructure to be made by both public and private sectors, especially through PPPs. Indeed, investment into trade infrastructure is important not only for landlocked countries, but within countries, whether they are coastal or landlocked.

Dry Ports/Inland Container Depots (ICDs) are facilities for cargo storage and processing on land.

Cargoes can be shipped directly to ICDs in hinterlands with seaports as transit ports. This eases time and costs of goods clearance at seaports, and creates opportunity for job creation and growth of industry value chains within countries.

Truck Transit Parks support the movement of goods from ports to other ports, as well as markets. These dedicated areas for goods carrying trucks on highways. Traffic and pressure within cities are eased as a result.

Technology

Single windows can aid the completion of trade formalities and connect various modes of transportation through single technology portals.

ICDs in Africa

Nigeria, Gabon, Kenya, Tanzania, Niger and Guinea Conakry are examples of countries which have dry ports – Bolloré Ports alone manages 25 ICDs across the continent.

For the private sector to be more involved, **Paul Holthus** insisted that regulatory norms need to be developed. For example, renewable energies in the ocean have huge potential. However, there are some real conflicts between offshore wind industries and fisheries. There is a need to get these sectors talking and interacting with each other so they can understand one another and grow together. Development can be facilitated by Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). An example of where this has been accomplished successfully is the Benguela Current Commission, which brings together Angola, Namibia and South Africa to manage their shared marine environment and develop economic opportunities there.

The Blue Economy holds enormous opportunities for business. This is why the World Ocean Council has been reaching out to investor gatherings to help them understand what the Blue Economy is.

For **Yonov Frederick Agah**, it can be difficult to present opportunities to the investor community. He said that in Nigeria, where he comes from, there is too much fragmentation between government departments. He called for more coordination to ensure policy coherence and more communication with the business community in order to understand its needs.

Mark Eddo commented that fisheries around Africa are underexploited commercially, at least in terms of catering to the domestic market, and that the blame for this is put on subsidised foreign fleets that capture most of the fish for export by means of bilateral fisheries access agreements. As fisheries subsidies come under the mandate of the WTO, he asked: "What are the current fishing discussions at the WTO and what are the potential implications for African economies?"

Yonov Frederick Agah said: “Nobody is in doubt that fisheries subsidies are distortive and the fact that illegal, unregulated, unreported activities are being subsidised creates a moral problem.” There was clearly a need for the WTO to come in with some objective standards. He said he believed the new momentum in SDG14 would help to push things forward, but it could be difficult to get agreement on rules that created special protection for vulnerable countries and sectors.

David Luke said he was a pessimist on multilateral trade. “There is a trade war going on”, he declared. “Negotiations on fishing subsidies have been going on since 2001 but in Buenos Aires last year the can was just kicked down the road till next year’s ministerial meeting. At the WTO, nothing is agreed until everything is agreed – there is paralysis at the WTO. The multilateral trading system is crumbling before us.”

Yonov Frederick Agah said that representatives were around the table right now in Geneva working on the problem of subsidies as a priority. The challenge was finding agreement between those who wanted global rules for everybody and those who wanted rules that allow special differential treatment. He added that sometimes subsidies superior in value to the actual value of the catch are being given.

Questions from the floor

What do we do about trade wars and the use of subsidies – go the way of trade wars or wait for the WTO?

National policies on fisheries: What economic reforms might be needed? What about creating value chains?

The OECD predicts a doubling of the ocean economy by 2030. That entails great risk unless we do it in a sustainable way. How are the panel thinking about the SDGs and including them in their priorities?

David Luke said the SDGs are being seen as critical for human development, but cautioned against “band-aid solutions”. “You have to look at how you change the structure of the economy”, he said, recognising that sustainability was very important. With regard to subsidies, he said that there should be flexibility and tolerance for small-scale near-shore fishing operations – this is a sector that needs to be protected because it has a huge potential for added value.

In reply to the question on trade wars, **Yonov Frederick Agah** emphasised that the multilateral trading system has always been in crisis – indeed it was born out of crisis – “so if there are challenges today, we cannot say there have not been challenges in the past”. If you look at Africa’s trade with WTO members, most of it is based on preferential access agreements into which African countries are locked

– stability is there. But Africa has to fight for the strengthening of the multilateral trading system – “Africa cannot bilaterally negotiate agreements that are in its favour.”

According to **Paul Holthus**, we need to adopt a macro-scale view to be able to recognise the role of international trade in poverty alleviation. Shipping, indeed, is the backbone of the international economy. Value chains and supply chains need to be supported. For example, with regard to fisheries, we see issues in terms of relationships between artisanal/community-based/small-scale and large-scale/industrial, offshore fisheries. A balance has to be found and countries should be working together (not against one another). We need strong leadership and coordination – at the regional and continental levels. We can learn from what has been successful in other areas.



1st

panel discussion

Governments Panel:
Mainstreaming the Blue Economy
into National and Regional
Development Plans

The Blue Economy concept has gained momentum over the last decade and made its way into key African development and policy materials such as Africa's Agenda 2063. Some countries such as Seychelles and Kenya are championing this new approach by establishing a line ministry or department for the Blue Economy, paving the way for others to join their efforts to strengthen blue growth across the continent.

MODERATOR:

Joshua Brien, Special Counsel, Cooley LLP

PANELLISTS:

- *HE Vincent Meriton, Vice-President of the Republic of Seychelles, Responsible for Information, Blue Economy, Investment and Industry, Information Communication Technology, Disaster Risk Management, Civil Society and Religious Affairs, and the Inner and Outer Islands (video message)*
- *HE Stanislas Baba, Minister-Counsellor to the President of the Togolese Republic*
- *HE Derick Ally, High Commissioner to the UK, Republic of Seychelles*
- *Grace Cerere, Acting High Commissioner to the UK, Republic of Kenya*
- *Khemraj Jingree, Deputy High Commissioner to the UK, Republic of Mauritius*

The participants were asked to answer the following questions:

What key steps has your country taken to advance the ocean economy and improve the management of ocean space?

In your experience so far what have been the main challenges to mainstreaming the ocean economy?

How is your country seeking to incentivise investment in the ocean economy?



Joshua Brien



Vincent Meriton



Khemraj Jingree



Grace Cerere

Joshua Brien introduced the discussion with a look at the challenges faced in mainstreaming the Blue Economy into national and regional development plans:

- Seychelles has developed a “Blue Economy Roadmap”, encompassing tourism and fisheries. It also has a Fisheries Transparency Initiative, to promote more sustainable management of its fisheries, and has completed Phase 1 of its Marine Spatial Plan (MSP).
- Seychelles and Mauritius jointly manage their shared continental shelf beyond national jurisdiction.
- The Blue Economy in Africa is building momentum, with lots more potential still to unlock.
- In 2013, Mauritius developed a roadmap with seven key activities.
- In 2014, Mauritius put in place the necessary infrastructure to work on the roadmap, e.g:
 - put together a marine and fisheries related ministry
 - created a spatial department for its continental shelf and MSP
 - developed a National Ocean Council to coordinate public and private sector action
 - put emphasis on the ocean as part of its 15-year economic plan.
- Management of ocean space in Mauritius started with a marine spatial plan, in line with SDG

In his video message, **HE Vincent Meriton** emphasised the geographical particularity of his country composed of 150 islands with 1.3 million square meters of maritime domain. In addition to building a roadmap encompassing tourism and fisheries, the government of Seychelles decided last January to bind the Blue Economy, economy, people and environment together. “We decided to make land available for pan-African shipping lines”, he said. He also mentioned the joint management of the ocean shelf with Mauritius, a unique experiment that will “put the Blue Economy formally on the world agenda”.

Khemraj Jingree said that the key issue for Mauritius was to integrate the Blue Economy into its

national development plan by creating a National Ocean Council (NOC), which devises strategies for the development of its ocean economy. Mauritius has also developed a roadmap for attracting environmental investments despite its limited resources.

Grace Cerere explained the steps that Kenya took to mainstream the Blue Economy into its national development plan: in September 2016, for example, a state department of fisheries was created as well as a department of shipping. The transformation of fisheries as well as the rebuilding a national shipping line are some of the many opportunities that the Blue Economy has brought to Kenya.



Derick Ally

HE Derick Ally emphasised the creation of a Blue Economy department and roadmap by the authorities of Seychelles. Sustainability has been built into the education curriculum, schools have environmental clubs and there is a two-week “blue holiday” for young people where they learn how to take care of the health of the ocean. A major problem is changing mindsets – many stakeholders feel that changing their business plans will cost them money, but the government is impressing on them the need to achieve long-term sustainability. “Seychelles does not have the luxury of a plan B”, he insisted. He also said that Phase 1 of the Special Marine Plan was nearing completion.



Stanislas Baba

HE Stanislas Baba, who is Minister-Counsellor to the President of Togo, said: “The Blue Economy is very important for Africa as a way for development” but pointed out that in Togo “the challenges are not only in investment”, as the country also faces many issues to do with maritime security. He outlined the three pillars on which Togo’s approach to these challenges rests:

1. *Combatting insecurities in the Gulf of Guinea is critical: illegal fishing, pollution and illegal trafficking are very present in this area. Togo has a government official whose job is to deal with maritime security issues.*
2. *Better governance to unite the very different interests: fishing, mines, oil, alternative energies.*
3. *The Blue Economy is about investments, but also about constraints and challenges. For example, the cost of illegal fishing amounts to \$300 million a year. There is a need for an African strategy for seas and oceans and this should come from the African Union.*



Elizabeth Afoley Quaye

Joshua Brien invited each country’s representative to explain how they manage to operationalise the Blue Economy by attracting innovative finance. “We need more and different types of finance to promote an inclusive Blue Economy. How can we overcome barriers and attract investment to drive the Blue Economy forward?” he asked.

Grace Cerere said that Kenya has developed tax incentives for investment in fishing boats and gear, as well as shipbuilding and repair. The government has also invested heavily in port and associated infrastructure and created special economic zones. In November 2018, Kenya will be hosting an economic conference on the Blue Economy that will bring together international stakeholders.

HE Elizabeth Afoley Quaye, Minister of Fisheries, Ghana, was invited to take the floor. She explained that Ghana made great efforts to develop its fisheries. “There is lots of commitment to support sustainable development. We are renewing the laws for fishing – and it is going to parliament. We also conceived livelihood programmes for our fishermen”, she said. Ghana has devised a plan to clean the beaches and recycle the plastic that is collected. Youth was engaged to participate at all steps: “We want to create the awareness and boost our fishing industry and help the fish farmers (marine sectors and aquaculture). To bring young people into fish farming is the best way to meet food security”, she insisted.

Questions from the floor

Can you give more examples of international collaboration in the Blue Economy?

How can we achieve better stakeholder engagement?

How much of what you are doing is addressed in your national investment plan?

Khemraj Jingree said that Mauritius has a dedicated National Ocean Council. Its main role is to put in place regulations and rules for the fishing sector through the participation of all stakeholders. “They are the key part of developing the ocean economy”, he said.

Joshua Brien noted that there is currently no exact regional approach in Africa to developing the Blue Economy, but that there is collaboration between some states. The co-management of the extended continental shelf by Seychelles and Mauritius is the only collaboration of its kind in the world and serves as a model for others. On the question of integration, when setting up their national strategies the two countries looked at the ways their laws overlapped or conflicted with each other and sought to address the issues.

The background of the entire page is a deep blue, almost black, underwater scene. Several jellyfish are visible, their translucent bodies and long, thin, trailing tentacles creating a sense of movement and depth. The lighting is soft, highlighting the delicate structures of the jellyfish against the dark water.

2nd panel discussion

Climate Change and
Ocean Governance

The global ocean is under tremendous pressure due to the growing demand for marine resources and increasing threats from changing climate. The reality of this situation highlights the need to put in place appropriate governance frameworks that can address issues of sustainability and promote sustainable resource use.

MODERATOR:

Leo Horn-Phathanothai, Director for International Cooperation, World Resources Institute (WRI)

PANELLISTS:

- *Dr Nicholas Hardman-Mountford, Head of Oceans and Natural Resources, Commonwealth Secretariat*
- *Rassim Hariz, Business Development Manager, Offshore Renewables and Grid Access Solutions, Siemens*
- *Paul Holthus, Founder and CEO, World Ocean Council*
- *William Stephens, Conservation Programme Director, Blue Ventures Conservation*

The participants were asked to answer the following questions:

How does the Commonwealth Blue Charter help Commonwealth countries address climate change and ocean governance, particularly through its action groups on the Blue Economy, Aquaculture, Mangroves, Coral Reef Restoration, and Oceans and Climate Change?

Green Industry: What kind of options does the energy industry offer to reduce CO2 emissions across the African maritime territories?

Given the dominance of maritime transport in the Blue Economy, what could be done in African harbours to reduce greenhouse gas?

Examples of how local level action can spur national/regional level policies; mangrove carbon credit schemes; larger governance initiatives (protecting local coastal communities in vulnerable areas).



Leo Horn-Phathanothai



Dr Nicholas Hardman-Mountford



Rassim Hariz



William Stephens

Leo Horn-Phathanothai commented that the Blue Economy should not be seen so much in terms of exploitation of resources as about building an economy around solutions that marry ocean conservation with economic prosperity. He asked Dr Nicholas Hardman-Mountford whether this notion of the Blue Economy stacked up scientifically.

Dr Nicholas Hardman-Mountford said that we need to think about sustainability in terms of building resilience, and this comes from diversity in the economy. We have to look at how the different sectors can work together to support each other, bringing about “win-wins” rather than exploiting resources for short-term gain. The Blue Economy is going to be a declining resource if we tackle it in traditional ways. He used the example of enhancing mangrove forests.

This can strengthen coastal defences and capture carbon dioxide more efficiently, helping to countries to meet their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and benefiting different sectors. He therefore confirmed that this notion does indeed stack up scientifically.

Leo Horn-Phathanothai asked **William Stephens** how we can ensure that the Blue Economy is not only resilient but also inclusive – one that delivers real benefit for ocean communities.

William Stephens described Blue Ventures Conservation’s work with two locally managed projects in Madagascar. In north-west Madagascar, Blue Venture Conservation is working to develop the first major carbon project based

on mangroves, covering 1,300 hectares. They are working with the aim of ensuring the payback from carbon sequestration is fed back to the local community and the mangrove ecosystems are conserved. This is important because Madagascar's fisheries rely heavily on the nurseries provided by the mangrove ecosystems. The project addresses major problems afflicting the mangroves including cutting to provide charcoal for cooking needs, but recognises the subsistence needs of people in the local communities.



Another win-win solution is provided by a project based on coral reef fisheries in south-west Madagascar. By focusing on octopus fisheries together with conservation, they have been able to improve sustainability and spur other similar natural resource management initiatives in nearby areas. There has been a doubling of biomass in local marine ecosystems, a significant extension of the no-take zones and the growth of a network of locally managed marine areas, which has spread organically across the region. "This experience has shown that with a small amount of conservation effort you can get a payback quickly which can then provide a stepping stone to more thorough-going conservation efforts", he said.

Leo Horn-Phathanothai reminded the audience that the Commonwealth had a "long and illustrious history of helping its member states move forward on issues like ocean governance". Given the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States to climate change, he asked how ocean governance can support their needs and ensure that they are represented in global initiatives, as well as having the opportunity for continued economic growth while building resilience to future environmental changes. He also asked for an explanation of how the Commonwealth Blue Charter can help address the challenge of fragmentation in ocean governance and help African countries address climate challenge.

Dr Nicholas Hardman-Mountford explained that the Commonwealth has 53 member states, of which 46 have coastlines and 31 are small states. Many of them, small and large, do not have the capacity to deal with the great raft of international commitments on their own. The Commonwealth Blue Charter, which was unanimously adopted at this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, contains a set of principles for working together on these problems, based not just on SDG 14 but all the SDGs.

The idea was not to have top-down commitments but for nations to step forward on the issues that were important to them, and for those that were willing to “champion” certain issues and lead other states in action groups, “so that we could move at the pace of the ambitious”. Countries have shown great enthusiasm and there are now 11 champion and eight action groups on issues ranging from mangroves and coral reefs to ocean acidification. Kenya is an example of a country that is really stepping up on the Blue Economy.

Leo Horn-Phathanothai emphasized the emerging cross-cutting ocean approach. Different sectors are being discussed (as in the Commonwealth Blue Charter). How can we make sure that the business community understands the point of view of the World Ocean Council?

For **Paul Holthus**, the private sector should support the development of appropriate governance frameworks that can address issues of sustainability and promote sustainable resource use in Africa. However, global, regional or even national approaches are very complicated for business communities to grasp. “The private sector knows how to work with governments at the sectoral level, but is less familiar with the cross-cutting ocean sectors approaches that have recently emerged”, he stated. In other words, it is not sure that the private sector knows how or wants to engage in the Blue Economy at this point.

This is why the World Ocean Council is trying to engage the business community in ocean governance, for example in the negotiations on a legally binding legal agreement on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The World Ocean Council is promoting an active and balanced dialogue to this end and has released a White Paper entitled Ocean Governance and the Private Sector.

Leo Horn-Phathanothai addressed businesses like Siemens working in offshore renewables. Are they taking up the challenge of helping mitigate the

effect of human-induced climate change on the ocean? What can African actors do to accelerate the shift in private sector investment towards alternative business models to support a sustainable Blue Economy which does not adversely impact our climate and ocean-dependent communities?

Rassim Hariz’s answer was blunt: “Businesses want clarity, certainty and trust – these things are needed to attract investment”, he said. According to him, Africa is key for investors and this will be the case for the next 30 years, but there are lots of challenges in infrastructures and energy, as well as a complex geopolitical context. He mentioned as an example the Maritime Highways and the issues with piracy in East Africa. “This needs urgently to be improved”, he added.

Questions from the floor

How are climate change, migration and conflicts in places such as Nigeria, Mali and Syria impacting the Blue Economy?

According to **Dr Nicholas Hardmann-Mountford**, conflict is produced when we have a declining resource and increasing pressure over it. For example, global warming causes fisheries to move, leading to a decrease in resources. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing exacerbates the problems and leads to more conflicts. Dealing with IUU fishing should be the number one priority in terms of encouraging the growth of the Blue Economy, whose main sectors have to become more sustainable. Involving youth and promoting gender is also important for creating opportunities and drawing people out of conflict. For example, in Kenya, the problem of young people being drawn towards extremist violence in the coastal area could be solved by enrolling them in aquaculture.

According to **Paul Holthus**, migration is related to decreasing fishes and fisheries. This is why the private sector is a partner. To grow in the ocean arena, it can learn from the Green Economy to ensure that we will not only have a prosperous Blue Economy, but a sustainable one.

Final recommendations

1

William Stephens

wants to engage with local communities.

“When people are desperate, they have nothing to lose”, he said.

2

Paul Holthus

wants to engage companies and businesses on climate change.

“We need adaptation and resilience”, he said.

3

Rassim Hariz wants clarity and stability in the processes.

“We need research on the oceans in order to know better what we have”, he said. He also wants more youth education.

4

Nicholas Hardman-Mountford wants sustainability, diversification and innovation.

The background of the entire image is an underwater photograph of a coral reef. Several sea anemones are visible, characterized by their translucent, bell-shaped bodies and numerous fine, white tentacles. Some anemones have a distinct pinkish-red center. They are attached to a dark, textured, and porous rock surface. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the lighting creates a serene, naturalistic atmosphere.

3rd panel discussion

Blue Economy and
Ocean Financing

The thrust of this panel was to focus onto concrete actions that public development institutions and other actors can and should be focusing on in the realm of the Blue Economy. The objective for the moderator was to prompt participants to move past commitments to meet policy priorities — stewardship, sustainability, limitation of overexploitation, inclusiveness, etc. — to unearth some tangible experience and/or policy recommendations.

MODERATOR:

Christopher Marks, Managing Director and Head of Emerging Markets, EMEA, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG)

PANELLISTS:

- *Miguel Marques, Partner, Leader of the PwC Economy of the Sea Project*
- *Essam Mohammed, Principal Researcher, Ocean and Fisheries Economics, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)*
- *Gregor Paterson-Jones, LDCIP Independent Investment Committee Member, United Nations Capital Development Fund*
- *Kevin Chika Urama, Senior Policy Advisor to the President on Inclusive and Green Growth, African Development Bank (AfDB)*

The participants were asked to answer the following questions:

There seems to be a challenging trade-off between industrialisation (where export off-take provides attractive support for private sector financial viability) and food security. This is also true across many agro-business sector but salient in the fisheries space.

A small but evocative example is Highlands Trout in Lesotho – the country exports 80% of its high-value trout to Japan to cater to the sushi market and 15% to South Africa while 5% is consumed at home. Lesotho produces twice as much trout as South Africa (ca. 4,000 tonnes a year).

Another most dramatic example is from Peru. The overwhelming majority of the anchovy catch is exported to China in the form of fishmeal and fish oil to feed the Chinese aquaculture market.

The hydrocarbon industry is extremely active across the continent today – along the west coast of Africa from Angola to Mauritania, for example. How does this change our vision of coastal industrial investment: shipyards, naval salvage, etc.?

And, similarly, concerning larger container ports and/or logistics centres, transportation corridors, how does it affect our vision of the African coastline is evolving?

Christopher Marks' opening question was for the Senior AfDB Policy Advisor on Inclusive and Green Growth. He asked him to describe the Blue Economy's scope for Africa and how it connects with the AfDB's High Five development priorities.



Christopher Marks



Dr Kevin Chika Urama

Dr Kevin Chika Urama said the Blue Economy is very important for Africa because it is a means for structural transformation to achieve Green growth. The AfDB considers everything to do with water that will allow Africa countries to grow their economies sustainably. To do so, they look at value chain development as Africa lacks not resources but the technical capacity to develop them. The AfDB starts by helping countries with policy formulation to allow them to develop projects and draw in investment. This could pertain to fishing, deep-sea minerals or offshore oil and gas, but developing renewable energy from the sea to meet Africa's huge energy gap is currently of central importance. For the AfDB, the Blue Economy is not just about using water but also about creating the infrastructure to integrate the Blue Economy into the mainstream economy.

The Blue Economy cuts across the AfDB's High Five development priorities ("Light up and power Africa"; "Feed Africa"; "Industrialise Africa"; "Integrate

Africa"; and "Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa"). In terms of "Feed Africa", the AfDB focuses on value chains, making sure that the fish caught in the seas and rivers is not simply shipped off to other continents, but that Africa economies benefit from it as much as possible.

The other point discussed with the AfDB concerned Africa's island economies. They are obvious places to focus on, but represent difficult trade-offs with other more established sectors or areas where donors are providing financial support. Is this the challenge it appears? Do governments also feel the same towards all of those priorities? To focus on island economies would seem obvious, but what about the continent's fastest growing and diversifying economies in the East African Community or in West Africa? Similarly, larger economies (South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt and Ethiopia) have large urban populations which they might prioritise.



Gregor Paterson-Jones



Dr Essam Mohammed



Miguel Marques

Christopher Marks asked Gregor Paterson-Jones to describe the Blue Economy Investment Platform, which he has been involved in developing for the European Commission.

Gregor Paterson-Jones said the Blue Economy Investment Platform will fill financing gaps for sectors involved in the Blue Economy such as aquaculture, shipping, marine energy, fisheries, etc., for the member states of the European Union. In order to develop it, his team have focused on the question “What will the private investment market invest in, what is investable, and what do those companies and projects need from an investment point of view?”

They examined projects and companies at different stages of development to identify which would be attractive to private investors and establish how much money needed to be invested in order for the companies to develop, what sort of financing was required, and which sectors are well-served, or not, by existing financial instruments. Having identified companies that are attractive propositions, they found large sectoral differences in investment needs – for example an aquaculture project that is at an early stage will not need as much investment

as a renewables plant that is at commercialisation stage. However, they found a common investment gap at the stage where projects are moving from research to commercialisation – investors might not be ready to take a “leap of faith” with businesses just starting their first commercial foray. He cited the examples of technologies that have not yet been produced at great scale, such as tidal energy, where projects may need government support or feed-in tariffs.

The team has identified the most appropriate solution as being an umbrella investment platform that will identify investors who are experts in a particular sector, an approach that has already been successful in other European investment funds.

Christopher Marks asked **Dr Essam Mohammed** whether he sees the Blue Economy’s policy priorities primarily in terms of development finance or conservation. He also asked him to delineate the success he had in directing programmatic support for the Blue Economy sectors in Bangladesh where he was involved in financing large-scale as well as small-scale, artisanal fishing. Was this more conservation or development finance or both? How replicable is it?

Dr Essam Mohammed said that in order to develop an inclusive Blue Economy, one needs to strike a balance between socio-economic development and sustainable development together with conservation. How can we ensure that natural resource development is sustainable in the long-term? Fiscal policy could be one of the most powerful tools that governments have in terms of economics, because fiscal instruments can be used as incentives to invest in the Blue Economy or to disincentivise activities which are bad. In Bangladesh, he recalled, some marine resources have been managed by a “cumulative impacts” approach. In other words, they look at the long-term benefits from short-term loss. When imposing a “no-take” season (as they did in Bangladesh) to allow fish stocks to recover, subsidies were provided to local communities to encourage them to comply.

“Artisanal fisheries are very poorly understood in terms of their impact on the economy. Therefore, they can be hard to manage, but this has to be seen as an opportunity”, he noted. According to him, innovative finance mechanisms are needed to help African States to harness their Blue Economy, as well as a better capacity to implement fiscal policies. Bangladesh used scarce government funds to subsidise local fishermen, to enable stocks to replenish and to promote sustainability. “They looked at the return on investment over time by boosting long-term fishing. Bangladesh has inspired other countries such as Myanmar, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt to do similar things”, he said.

Christopher Marks asked **Miguel Marques** whether in his work with different sectors across the world he came across the sort of tradeoffs that had just been described. For example, can we support artisanal fishing in its current state?

Miguel Marques said that in his work for the PwC Economy of the Sea Project he looks to create links between industries – we cannot speak of a Blue Economy if we do not have an “integrated, holistic approach” – and that it is fundamental to engage

communities. He said that to protect the environment does not mean we have to ignore the community. If we want to reduce the fish catch, one solution is to introduce fish processing at community level, adding value without fishing more. Another solution is to develop the tourism side. He also underlined the importance of education and properly understanding the data in the development of the Blue Economy.

Dr Kevin Chika Urama said that whether we are talking about the Blue Economy or the Green Economy there are always tradeoffs, but the fundamental question is how to grow the economy in a sustainable and inclusive way. Just because we are talking about the Blue Economy does not mean it is automatically sustainable. We need to make conscientious efforts to harness these blue resources today in a way that will allow our children to harness them tomorrow. The question is not about tradeoffs but about building resilience.

He said that “the tradeoff we have in Africa is actually what I call the ‘development paradox’,” a situation where there is a glut of global savings but African economies are nonetheless hungry for capital. “How do we break this paradox so that financing that is investing in negative returns can actually be invested in economies where you get high returns?” he asked. Investors see risk in Africa, but if the risk is really so high, the African Development Bank should have closed – and it is still going strong. He called for innovative financial mechanisms that will help African economies to harness the Blue Economy today and to develop sustainably tomorrow.

Questions from the floor

How can we strengthen the capacity of the SMEs to become sustainable businesses?

What are your three take-away points?

Gregor Paterson-Jones said that financing for SMEs is most likely to be through an intermediated fund structure, where dedicated fund managers with expertise in particular sectors apply money to those SMEs. Generally, if there is a success with public sector money, the private sector will follow. He also addressed the question of explaining what the Blue Economy is, saying that creating a positive association with it as a brand is more important than being able to give an overall definition.

Dr Essam Mohammed suggested that rather than follow a one-size-fits all approach, countries should find ways to work within their existing institutional capacities. He said that we need to identify key bottlenecks in supply chains and provide better connections between service providers and users. He also emphasised the importance of fiscal incentives in attracting private investment.

Dr Kevin Chika Urama said his three take-away points were the need for data— “if we can’t measure it we can’t manage it” – innovative financing to scale the Blue Economy and value chain development in key sectors.

Miguel Marques also stressed the need for credible data. In addition, he pointed out that seas, lakes and rivers are not homogenous – countries may not be able to replicate what others have done and must examine their own resources to see their potential. Finally, he pointed out that different groups of people have distinct perceptions of how their water should be managed, and the need to work with them.

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The water is a deep blue, and the reef is covered in green and brown coral. Several fish are visible, including a large yellow and blue striped fish in the lower left, a smaller blue fish in the upper left, and a larger blue fish in the center. The text '4th panel discussion' is overlaid on the right side of the image, with the number '4' being large and white, and the rest of the text in a smaller white font.

4th panel discussion

Policy and Security:
Protecting Africa's Seas
and Oceans

Maritime security has become a priority for most of Africa's regional communities since the early 2000s with threats ranging from piracy, armed robbery, human and drug trafficking to dumping of waste and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Stronger policies and cross-regional collaboration are required to tackle these challenges efficiently.

MODERATOR:

Maximilian Jarrett, Founder Abudenta Divina (Media) Ltd, and Special Adviser, Africa Progress Group

PANELLISTS:

- *Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, Senior Fellow, One Earth Future Foundation/Oceans Beyond Piracy*
- *Phillip Cable, CEO, MAST Security*
- *Captain Peter Hammarstedt, Chairman, Sea Shepherd Australia*
- *Marta Marrero, Global Oceans Policy Director, The Nature Conservancy*
- *Professor Lee White, Executive Secretary, National Parks Authority (ANPN), Gabon*

The participants were asked to answer the following questions:

What is the extent of IUU fishing in African waters? What must be done to combat it? Do we need changes in policy or an increase in law enforcement capacities? Or both?

Why is illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing not just an administrative matter, but also a criminal matter with serious implications for maritime security?

Is there a good understanding of the linkage between piracy and other forms of criminality with the opportunities for the blue economy?

Is it possible to measure the positive and negative impacts of these factors on the development of the Blue Economy?

Would a better understanding of these factors help with policy and economic development of the Blue Economy?



Captain Peter Hammarstedt



Maximilian Jarret



Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent

Maximilian Jarret said he has been working on criminality and law enforcement for the past 10 years and believes that “safety and security are the first pillars of the Blue Economy”. He asked: “How serious is the threat and what are the opportunities we can gain from dealing with it?”

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent said that the topic of maritime security is not just about pirates or criminality but about a whole way of life – and in particular an economic way of life – for those who are engaged with the sea. According to him, the Blue Economy is one of the key enablers or disablers of maritime security. So there is a direct correlation between livelihood and maritime security. “We need better and more sustainable livelihoods and that requires leadership and education”, he said.

On the question of whether piracy can be considered as a “livelihood”, he said that people had to be persuaded that there was a better – and more sustainable – livelihood to be had through the Blue Economy. “This is why macro-economic projects are needed”, he insisted.

Maximilian Jarret asked Captain Peter Hammarstedt about his direct experience in dealing with communities who have been negatively affected by others involved in IUU fishing. Sea Shepherd has “ship

rider” partnerships with Liberia, Gabon and Tanzania whereby the company provides a civilian offshore patrol vessel, including crew and fuel, to assist law enforcement agents from those countries to patrol their sovereign waters, at no financial cost to those countries.

Captain Peter Hammarstedt’s answer was blunt: “we need boots on the ground” since there is no point in having laws, unless those laws are enforced. While people are happy to talk about policy and technological solutions, too often, they forget to enforce the laws in place and ensure that they are followed. To illustrate that point, he explained that for the past two years, Sea Shepherd has been working with the Republic of Liberia, a country faced with a major issue concerning illegal fishing which needs monitoring, control and surveillance.

“The Ministry of National Defense, which is responsible for maritime security throughout all of Liberia’s sovereign waters didn’t have a vessel that could cover the entirety of their waters”, he revealed. Sea Shepherd provides a civilian offshore patrol vessel, fuel and operating crew for the vessel, which also carries Liberian law enforcement agents with the authority to board and inspect ships.



Marta Marrero

How do these partnerships work in practice and what kind of results have been generated? “In the past year, we’ve assisted the Liberian coastguard to arrest 12 vessels. Thirty-three thousand Liberians depend on the artisanal fishing sector for their livelihood. They’ve told us that for the first time ever, fish is coming back”, he said.

Maximilian Jarrett asked how to combat IUU fishing in African waters “within a more global context”: Do we need changes in policy or an increase in law enforcement capacities? Or both? Furthermore, why is IUU not just an administrative matter, but also a criminal matter with serious implications for maritime security?

For **Marta Marrero**, who has worked extensively with East African countries, Africa is different in many ways from other continents. However, there are also common elements such as the political

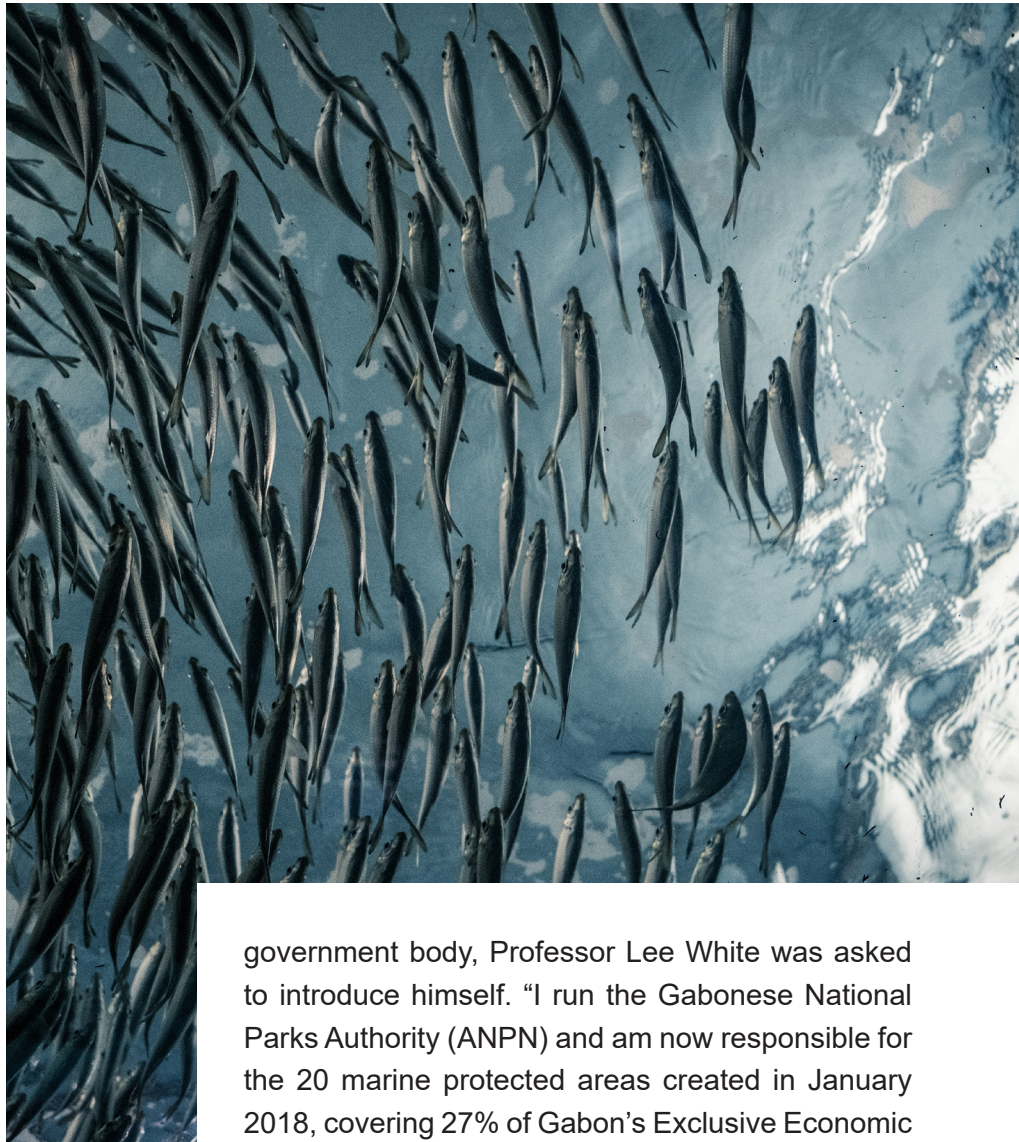


Phillip Cable

commitment and the will to take action. In every country, IUU fishing could be tackled at a global and regional level “on three grounds: governance, international cooperation and transparency”. She said that Nature Conservancy had identified five key elements to define governance: (1) the legislative framework – solid fisheries law, a strong sanctioning scheme and a state’s control over its own nationals; (2) compliance with international conservation and management measures; (3) implementation capacity, which means boots on the ground and giving institutions the mandate to take action; (4) monitoring/control/surveillance; and (5) catch documentation schemes – having effective documentation is an effective way to combat IUU fishing.

Maximilian Jarrett asked the Phillip Cable what challenges and solutions the Blue Economy provides for the private sector.

Based on his “tactical insights” from 10 years’ experience in the maritime security business, **Phillip Cable** said he sees four main challenges. Firstly, the challenge with commercial entities and governments operating in Africa. Then, the challenge relating to private security. Thirdly, a practical security challenge when operating with government military forces. And, finally, an inter-operational agency challenge, such as who is responsible for maritime security when it comes to coastguard, police, and government.



The good news is that more and more work is being done in West Africa and that public-private partnership has been a key solution to help governments solve the problem at a tactical level. He said that people want to be able to trade safely on ships and be secure on gas and oil platforms. Cost-effective solutions exist, as for example in the Middle East, where he trained coastguards for three years. "Five members of MAST staff with previous experience in the Royal Navy trained a total of 600 men." He deplored, however, the lack of political will in some places. This is one of the main reasons for corruption.

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent emphasised, in turn, the necessity of having strong involvement from governments and local communities to defeat corruption. Being the only representative of a

government body, Professor Lee White was asked to introduce himself. "I run the Gabonese National Parks Authority (ANPN) and am now responsible for the 20 marine protected areas created in January 2018, covering 27% of Gabon's Exclusive Economic Zone. ANPN has been leading the charge on President Ali Bongo Ondimba's Gabon Blue initiative, launched in 2011 following a Pristine Seas/NGS/WCS/ANPN expedition to document the marine jewels in Gabon's waters and the pressure they were under. We have almost eliminated illegal trawling in our territorial waters by making Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data transparent and applying the actually quite good fisheries law. We have started to control the international tuna fleet operating in Gabon (with support from Sea Shepherd over the last three seasons) and have seen a 500% increase in declared catch since we have been boarding and putting observers on the tuna boats. We had a spike in piracy events some five years ago but have no incidents since we improved governance of our waters. We have developed a marine surveillance strategy with all Gabonese actors with technical support from the US Navy", he explained.



He went on to say that, for him, corruption was a real problem. “In Gabon, 90% of fishing is illegal and neighboring countries have run out of fish. Over two-thirds of the Gabonese population live along the coast and fish from the sea”, he said. When the President was informed of the situation he fired the entire fisheries department. Professor Lee was then given instructions to clean up the fisheries: “All illegal fishing trawlers in Gabon have VMS. But the VMS was in a dark room in the Fisheries Ministry. Nobody else was allowed to look at the screens. I resolved illegal trawling in Gabon by making VMS transparent on my telephone. If there is a boat fishing in the National Parks, we send a boat to verify”, he said.

Once ANPN started going out into deeper waters where 23-25% of the Atlantic’s tuna is taken, he discovered that international (Chinese and Japanese) fleets had been systematically underdeclaring their tuna catch in Gabon. “Gabon was getting very little revenue from its tuna and it was not creating any jobs”, he said. So, he decided to collaborate with Sea Shepherd. The result was very encouraging: the fish catch went from 5,000-10,000 tonnes/year to 50,000 tonnes a year. “While with 5,000-10,000 tons; you can’t build a tuna factory, with 50,000 tons we can build two tuna factories and create 5,000 jobs for Gabonese people”, he said. So, the lesson to be learned from Gabon is “to have political leadership to put order into the system and deal with the biggest problem in illegal fisheries: corruption.

Then we have to become technical – the Gabonese fisheries department had no idea that we had 50,000 tonnes of tuna a year available to fish”, he said.

For **Captain Peter Hammarstedt**, the continent will indeed need a critical mass of political will to be able to drive things in the right direction “We need political leadership from the top, especially when dealing with corruption and industries on a national scale like fishing or extractives”, he said. Indeed, there is a need to make substantial, critical improvements like better licensing or better tracking. In addition, there is an urgency to “move faster since we are experiencing a phenomenal waste of resources and livelihoods”, he added.

Maximilian Jarrett noted that some African countries are benefiting from the status quo, and asked: “How can we make enough noise to change things for the public’s interest?”

For **Marta Marrero**, it is worth noting that while there are 38 coastal states in Africa, only 19 countries have ratified the FAO Port State Measures, the only international agreement aiming to tackle IUU fishing. Thus, the importance of working with top politicians like Presidents and Ministers and to speak a language they can hear (job creation, revenues, etc.) when fighting corruption. She gave the example of Togo where there is a loss of 300 million per year in IUU.

For **Captain Peter Hammarstedt**, however, one of the most important things is to recognise that IUU fishing is not some kind of administrative problem – it is a law enforcement problem. “The oceans are out of sight, out of mind for many people” – countries do not realise the value of what is being extracted from their seas. “Criminal enterprises thrive in the shadowy world. When you see it first-hand you realise that it is nothing short of plunder”, he insisted.

On the question of what could be done to create better coordination with civil society activist groups, Captain Peter Hammarstedt answered with examples taken from Liberia and Tanzania. “The Tanzanian government sees illegal fishing within that broad maritime security context”, he explained. Sea Shepherd’s patrol vessels have fisheries, drug enforcement agency, the navy and the police on board. Every vessel inspected, even if it’s a fishery vessel, is checked not only for catch, but also for drug residues and so on. “The problem comes down to monitoring, control and surveillance. There is money to be made for enforcing laws.” In Liberia, a huge revenue stream has been created through fining vessels for criminal offences. “Liberia has made more money through fisheries and law enforcement than by issuing licenses.” Furthermore, there are 33,000 artisanal fisherman in Liberia whose livelihoods are protected by law enforcement.

He said that the amount of money that can be made from enforcement varies from country to country. “We had a vessel flagged in Nigeria that was sustainably certified for shrimp fishing and had import permits for importing shrimps to the US and was caught fishing in Liberian waters without a licence, inside an inshore exclusion zone reserved for artisanal fishermen. Furthermore, it was caught fishing without a turtle excluder device, which prevents sea turtle mortality, a requirement for a US licence. The vessel was arrested and fined \$250,000 by the Liberian government and was sent back to Nigeria, whose government took action against them. A vessel caught for illegal fishing can be fined under Liberian law from \$250,000 to \$1 million dollars”, he

said. He also pointed out that certain countries like Tanzania have forfeiture laws. This means they can take that vessel under their custody and give it to an agency of the government. Thus, if you are lacking fisheries enforcement vessels, confiscated fishing vessels can be turned into new fisheries enforcement vessels.

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent was in agreement. For him, what is needed are strong laws and for many nations, including the European nations, to be involved in enforcement, which can be carried out by the private or public sectors. In Indonesian waters, where at one time there were sometimes 10,000 illegal vessels, the authorities blew many of them up. “I’m not advocating for that, but that is an extreme example of tough enforcement. You need tough laws, tough enforcement in any sort of criminality be it drugs, arms or people smuggling”, he said.

Maximilian Jarrett asked: “At your level, how do you make sure that the countries of the South don’t get overpowered by the Europeans and Chinese in these issues?”





Marta Marrero said: “I am European and have some experience in Brussels working with the European Commission. I wouldn’t put China and the EU in the same basket. But it’s a good point to say that, as far as fishing is concerned, we have to put Chinese and Spanish boats in the same boat. I’m 100% sure that the EU has the laws in place to take action. If I’m not wrong it is Article 41 of the EU IUU regulation that talks about EU nationals, be it a person or a captain or an EU company. If you find an EU vessel misbehaving, I can give the phone number of the European Commission.”

Professor Lee White gave a counter-example: “When we arrested a Spanish fishing boat last year, in São Tomé waters, with Sea Shepherd, they had 30 tonnes of shark fin on board, but the EU treated us like we were the pirates. They didn’t seem interested in prosecuting the EU boat at all. In Gabon we estimate we lost about €500,000 million to undeclared tuna fishing by EU boats. That is a lot of money in the economy of a Central African country”,

he said. **Captain Peter Hammarstedt** explained that when the EU signed the fisheries agreements (the so-called Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with developing states), they looked good on paper. Indeed, according to them, EU was saying, “We give you this amount of money and you can inspect our ships, put observers on board.” But, in reality, they signed the agreements knowing that a lot of the developing countries don’t have the vessels to do it and it’s not going to become all of a sudden their problem. “Criminality is an economic phenomenon. People would break the law if the benefits outweigh the risks. They’d break the law if they can make a lot of money when they do so”, he insisted.

He said that on the first campaign conducted with the Gabonese authorities, one of the French captains said that it was the first time he’d even been boarded – after 20 years of fishing in Gabon. “From a European standpoint, we often point the finger at China and rarely point fingers at ourselves. I’ve seen the plunder first-hand that Professor White mentioned earlier and am aware that the EU was declaring between 45,000-50,000 tonnes as opposed to 100,000 tonnes”, he said.

Questions from the floor

“Concerning piracy, the problem is not just lack of resources. In Somalia, for example, there is no government to issue licences. How does the panel see the resolution of this problem from a fundamental base – the real cause of the problem, rather than the outcomes of the problem? We have lot of things like corruption, lack of resources, and lack of capabilities.”

“It is very important to talk about capacity building in the security sense. What do you think about building capacity for Africans and the African governments you work with to ensure that Africans can take over from yourselves?”

“When you are trying innovative types of surveillance and apprehension, how have you managed to make this work with the core systems in the countries? And how did you manage to make a successful prosecution?”

“In terms of surveillance technology, do you have any stories about how you’ve used, let’s say, a satellite with local observations with someone on an application or a cell phone?”

“Vessels which are picked up for illegal fishing are often suspected to be involved in drug smuggling. I’d love to hear members of the panel speak on these issues.”



Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent said that the One Earth Future Foundation had started an index called the “Stable Seas Index” which aims to measure the various components of maritime security: international cooperation, coastal welfare, piracy and robbery, development of the Blue Economy, illicit trade, maritime enforcement fisheries and migration. “We have metrics for these around the African coastal states. By measuring these things, it’s not ‘name and shame’, it is ‘educate and inform’. And you can measure trends”, he added. On international cooperation, he said “let’s stop EU fishing fleets operating in African states territorial waters”. He also pointed out that as the Blue Economy builds up, so the illicit economy builds up with it, and this must be watched.

According to **Phillip Cable**, the question is about making sure the locals are involved and taking responsibility for their own security. “From the private industry perspective, that’s what it’s been about, working in partnership with the military, in particular

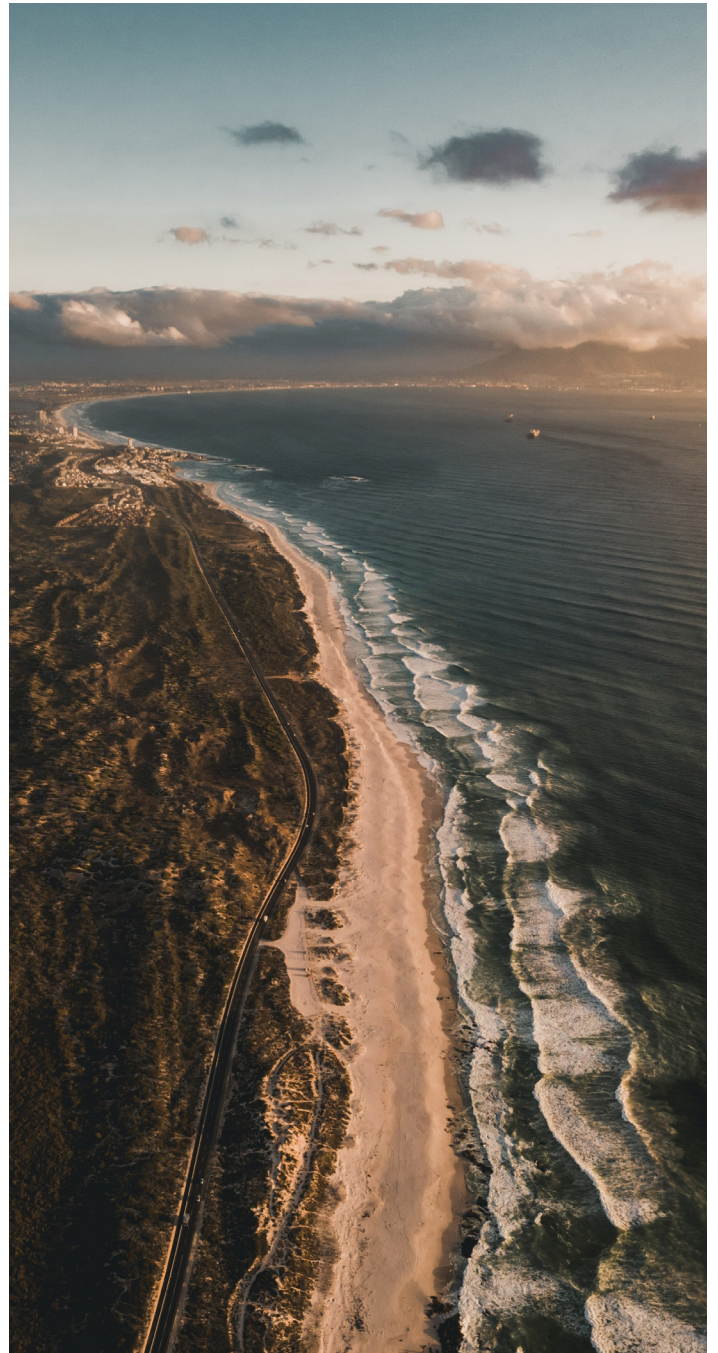
in Nigeria. Some of the training programmes we’ve been involved, like ‘Training the Trainers’ or monitoring and providing support at the partnership level, are not about coming and taking over. It is about working with local expertise”, he answered.

According to **Captain Peter Hammarstedt**, there are concrete examples of how we’ve used other technologies. “My colleague Paul Whitaker from Kongsberg Satellite Services has been generously assisting our Gabonese campaigns with satellite services. There’s a lot of intelligence on the ground in Gabon, especially on the border between Gabon and Congo Brazzaville, where there is a big issue with trawlers across the borders and fishing in marine parks. After a few of those been arrested by the park service, the trawlers moved out to sea about 44 miles so that they couldn’t be seen by people on land. But through satellite surveillance, we were able to see that they were there. That allowed us to make a critical determination as we had only one vessel there. And the decision we had to make was:

do we send the vessel to the border with Equatorial Guinea and Gabon or Congo Brazzaville and Gabon? By getting satellite, we could allocate our vessel resource and that saved us money”, he commented. He acknowledged that coming from the not-for-profit sector, he is in the business of “putting ourselves out of the business”. Moving back to the Liberian experiment, he said that one of the great things for the Liberian coastguards was that they get to train on a vessel similar in size to the vessel that they will one day have. So when the Liberian coastguards get their own ship, they will be able to hit the ground running, he said.

According to **Marta Marrero**, there are some good examples in terms of capacity building coming from the NGOs. “I’m quite positive about some countries that are opening the door from the Minister level to work with us. So if there’s a political will to cooperate with a diversity of organisations – for example with NGOs like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) which is all around the world – to put in place the right policy, legislation, to write the text, then talk about the institutional aspect, the structure and the MSI, quite a lot could happen”, she said. This does not mean that corruption could be solved at once, but that it is important to start planting the seeds. “In two years, you can see good progress. For example, in Ecuador, we’ve seen a lot of progress. I’m seeing good potential for cooperation between those on the ground and us (the European Commission and the new Spanish government) to put pressure on them (the pirates)”, she added.

According to **Professor Lee White**, an “elephant index” should be drafted to measure progress. “If we design a graph of elephant numbers and good governance in Africa, the graph is going to be a sort of exponential increase. We have more elephants in countries with good governance”, he said. Indeed, if one looks at the countries which have lost their elephants, many of them have fallen into civil wars. “We had a spike of piracy incidences in Gabon and as we engaged on this fisheries mission that involved improving governance of our marine space,



imposing the rule of law and increasing the capacity of the navy of the parks, of the fisheries, to deal with these sorts of issues. So that little spike of piracy died off and we haven’t had an incident in the last five years”, he noted. In other words, there is a clear link in Africa between environmental governance and peace and security and economic development. “That’s why African presidents should be involved in those issues”, he insisted.



5th panel discussion

Fishery and Aquaculture:
Boosting Job Creation, Training,
Technology and Opportunities for
African Youth

According to the FAO, employment in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors has grown faster than the world's population and faster than employment in traditional agriculture. Fishing harbours, landing sites and associated processing facilities provide significant employment and economic benefits to countries and local coastal communities. In Africa, the scope for sustainable aquaculture growth is immense and key to reducing extreme poverty, building resilient communities and fostering strong economies.

MODERATOR:

Nadia Mensah Acogny, Co-Founder of Acosphere and Journalist at Forbes Afrique

PANELLISTS:

- *Jacqueline Alder, FISHCODE Manager, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO*
- *Hamady Diop, Head of the Natural Resources Governance – Food Security and Nutrition Programme, NEPAD Agency*
- *Christian Neumann, Programme Leader Ecosystems, Economies and Sustainable Development, GRID-Arendal*
- *Jeremy Prince, Fisheries Assessment and Management Expert, Biospherics Pty Ltd and Murdoch University, Australia*

The participants were asked to answer the following questions:

Fish production and the need for aquaculture in Africa: what is the present situation?

What is the Africa Maritime Charter?

From an economic point of view, what are the numbers from the Value of African Fisheries report?

What is the contribution of fish production in securing food security in Africa?

What are ecosystem services and what is their role in fishery and aquaculture?

What are the methods needed to empower communities in order to manage fisheries and coastal resources more efficiently?

How do ecosystem services restore value to local coastal resources?

What are the examples of successful experiences in Africa?

Mark Eddo took the floor to start the debate. “In 2015, The Economist called Africa the young continent. Fertility rates in Africa are falling more slowly than anywhere else in the world. UNICEF says that Africa’s youth population will reach 1 billion people by 2050. By then, a third of the global population will be African. In 2050, one in 10 babies born in the world will be born in Nigeria. There is a massive need for Africa to invest in its economies, in particular the Blue Economy”, he said.

For **Christian Neumann**, ecosystem services are fundamental to the Blue Economy. He said that they are nature’s benefits – it’s what nature does for you. When you inhale, the oxygen is coming from somewhere, and you exhale, the carbon dioxide is going somewhere. He took the case of mangroves as an illustration of a very useful ecosystem service. Mangroves are trees that live in tropical and subtropical areas. They live on the coast as they are salt-tolerant – no other tree can do that – and have important functions. “And there are a few ecosystem services that I’d like to point to. Carbon sequestration: mangroves, like any other plants, sequester the carbon from the atmosphere and then they shed it through leaves, branches and organic material. They live on muddy soil so the organic biomass gets shut down and often sinks down into the mud, in areas where there is no more oxygen, so it doesn’t decompose and the carbon stays there. They can go down to 30m depth and mangroves are four times more effective than tropical rainforest in sequestering and storing carbon. It’s a system that everybody is benefiting from. So why are mangroves so important?”

In addition to sequestering and storing carbon, the trees have many legs, which are roots in the water, where fish can hide. So, mangroves provide nursery grounds for fish. And because of the way they hold the soil together, they protect the land from coastal erosion and storm surges. So whatever infrastructure is behind them (ports, aquaculture installations, etc.) will be protected by the mangroves. They are the last line of defence. Finally, as



Christian Neumann



Nadia Mensah Acogny

a fourth ecosystem service, because they go up rivers, pollution that comes down rivers (such as sand and plastic litter) will be slowed down and trapped by the mangroves. They make for a good water quality downstream which in turn is very important for coral reefs, the latter being good for biodiversity and fish.

Nadia Mensah Acogny asked **Jacqueline Alder** if she could share her insight on the importance of aquaculture as a key area for growth in Africa.



Jacqueline Alder



Dr Hamady Diop



Dr Jeremy Prince

Jacqueline Alder said that aquaculture has a lot of potential for growth in Africa. If you look at the production statistics, Africa is growing quickly but if you compare to Asia, it has still a long way to go. She sees two main reasons for this great potential. Firstly, the labour force. “Aquaculture usually employs a lot more people than capture fisheries, in the sense that you have employment in the construction of the facilities, plus the operations. It is really a growing industry and has lot of potential for both youth and women employment. Women can participate in the farming harvest and post-harvest process where they often have a big role to play. At FAO, we’ve been working hard on developing best practices to make sure that aquaculture is a sustainable industry and it doesn’t impact on the environment and in particular on the ecosystem services. At one point in history, a lot of mangroves were transformed into aquaculture facilities, but we’ve learnt that it is not a good use of mangroves”, she said.

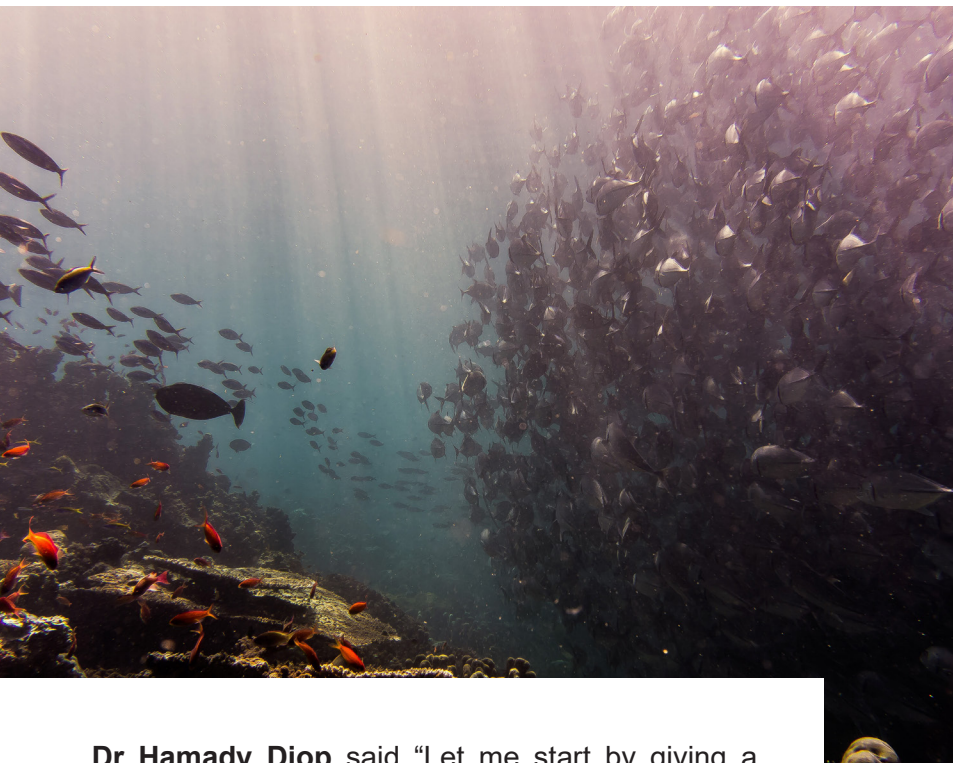
The other good thing about aquaculture is that you can do it both in fresh waters and green habitats. There is the opportunity to have aquaculture facilities offshore and to be able to grow high value fisheries. “In Africa, there is a long coastline, so a lot of opportunities to enhance the value of mangroves”, she insisted.

But aquaculture can also be an activity that helps with migration issues, especially in Africa. She gave

the example of Nigeria to explain how jobs are being created at a small scale. “We’ve developed a fibreglass tank system so that you can grow catfish with minimal technological infrastructure and the security situation becomes unattainable. You can drain the tank, sell the fish, put them on the back of a truck and move, so those people can take their livelihood and move into a safer place to undertake their activity and they can quickly rebuild economic activities to be able to support their livelihoods. That’s one example of the potential that aquaculture has in terms of livelihoods at a small scale. There is also great potential for investment in aquaculture if we can get enabling conditions in place: legislation and policy, building capacity”, she explained.

African universities are also seeing aquaculture as a new subject for study and research. “Two years ago in Kenya, 12 universities were planning to offer aquaculture as a degree programme. It means that there is a lot of training and capacity building going on and there will be a lot of people available for scaling up aquaculture. It can be a large-scale, commercial production system and a small-scale, livelihood system. There are a lot of opportunities on the business and technical side as well”, she concluded.

Nadia Mensah Acogny turned to **Dr Hamady Diop** to talk about the importance of fish production and the need for aquaculture in Africa. She also asked him to talk about the Africa Maritime Charter.



Dr Hamady Diop said “Let me start by giving a good picture of African fisheries. Since this morning I’ve been hearing a lot of numbers, and this is not new because in the continent for years we’ve been hearing one number that was in all reports – the value of African fisheries estimated at about \$4 billion. I don’t know who estimated this number but it’s been used for the past 20 years. For example, in Senegal the number of fishermen is 600,000 and this number has been here since the 1980s or 1970s. So, at NEPAD, as an African institution, we want to get the right narrative. In 2014, we partnered with the FAO and published a report called *The Value of African Fisheries*. Their value was estimated at \$24 billion. That is 1.26% of African GDP.”

He pointed out that long distance fishing by non-African fishing vessels accounts for 25% of that value. If this long-distance fishing were given to local fishermen, it would generate \$3bn – way more than the \$400 million that members states are getting from the fisheries partnership agreements. “It is a no-brainer. You have a sector that can create jobs, so you need to focus on that sector”, he insisted.

He pointed out that direct employment in the sector amounts to 12 million people. “We’ve been focusing on the marine fishing, because you can control

and count the number of vessels that are in the water. But you cannot count the number of fishermen. Small-scale fishermen contribute 0.43% of African GDP. Those small fishermen are left out of the discussion”, he said. Furthermore, “inland” fishermen contribute 0.33% of African GDP. “If we want to make a change, our focus should be on small-scale fishermen”, he insisted.

“Aquaculture is a great opportunity for growth”, he said. For him the major issues in aquaculture in Africa can be summarised by “feed and seeds”. “If you solve these two problems, you solve the problem of aquaculture in Africa. It is very costly to have enough fingerlings to grow in a pond because we have not mastered the technology yet – we still import it. And we have not figured out how to feed fish at a cheap cost”, he said.

Nadia Mensah Acogny turned to the panel’s expert in fisheries assessment and management. She asked him why he was critical of the actions on fisheries that have been proposed by the *2014 Africa Progress Report*, which focuses on the need to stop the plunder of African fisheries by the industrial distant-water fleets of the rich world.

Dr Jeremy Prince said: “They are great goals, but are all about the distant-water fleets from the developed world plundering the African fish. Dr Hamady has made the case that it is just the tip of the iceberg. Most of this problem is under the water and most of the problem is in these small-scale fisheries. IUU are small-scale fisheries. There are no laws about these fisheries, no management of these fisheries, nothing to be illegal about. They’re unreported and completely under-appreciated and unregulated.”

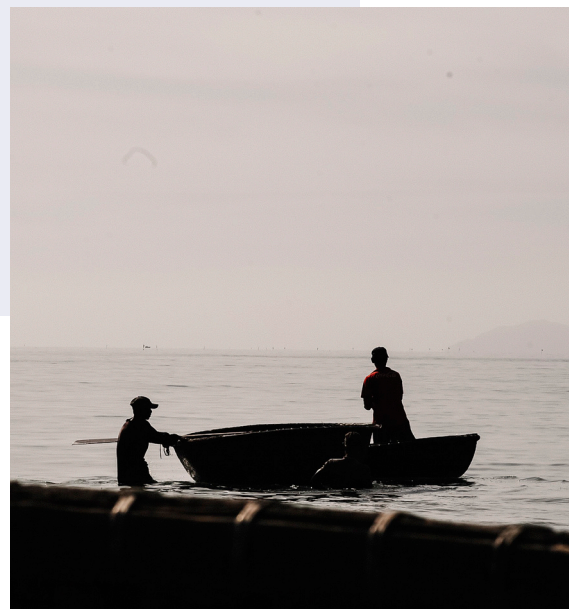
He mentioned research done by the University of British Columbia to estimate the missing fish. “Their figures support Dr. Hamady’s point: Most of the plundering, particularly by the distant- water fleets, is going on in the deeper waters on the edge of the shelf, in the tuna fisheries off the shelf. They are distinct from these inshore small-scale fisheries. The figures they came up with showed that the fisheries have been plundered by those distant-water fleets on the West coast of Africa, where they’re most important, only account for about 25% of production; 75% comes from small fisheries. In East Africa, distant-water coast fisheries don’t amount to more than 5%”, he said.

Referring to **Professor Lee White’s** argument that foreign fleets are coming to Gabon because there is no fish left at home, he said that this has to do, mainly, with failure of management of the small - scale fisheries. And food webs are being completely destroyed. The main fish caught today in Kenya are rabbit fish and small parrot fish. Twenty-five years ago, there were lots of snapper, i.e. premium quality fish that are now gone. “This is not only Africa’s problem, it’s even worse in the Caribbean. Small-scale fisheries are a universal problem”, he said. In the 1980s, a red flag was raised since the current techniques for assessing and managing fisheries failed with the small-scale fisheries. As a result, 90% of the world fisheries cannot be assessed and scientifically managed using the existing techniques. This means we cannot provide tailored management solutions and have to use very blunt instruments of management, although he said that new

approaches were emerging. This means we cannot provide tailored management solutions and have to use very blunt instruments of management, although he said that new approaches were emerging. “If we want to build value in the Blue Economy in terms of fisheries, we need to stop their collapse and start to rehabilitate and add value”, he insisted.

Nadia Mensah Acogny asked **Christian Neumann** to provide more numbers and to delineate for the audience his three action points before leaving the panel.

Christian Neumann said: “The economic value of the marine ecosystem services has been discussed for the past 30 or 40 years. There are many ways to look at the economic value of services and any of these ways will be different and reductionist. Some numbers are better for awareness raising and some other are better at supporting informed decision-making.” As a rule of thumb, the value of coral reefs would be about \$350,000 per year per hectare. The value of mangroves with its tremendous economic impact on water filtration and erosion is about \$200,000 per year per hectare. The value of a shark throughout its lifetime in a dive location off Palau is \$1.9 million since sharks attract many tourists and scuba divers. If it was fished it would provide just \$108.



He also emphasised that 70% of commercial fish species depend on mangroves at some point in their life. Worldwide fisheries employment amounts to 40 million for direct employment and 200 million for indirect employment. “That means 240 million jobs depend on the fisheries’ activities, i.e. more than 1/15 jobs in the world”, he said. He also referred to the WWF report *Reviving the Ocean Economy* that was done with the Boston Consulting Group. “The numbers are impressive”, he said. Indeed, Gross Marine Product – GMP (the Blue Economy) – amounts to \$2.5 trillion per year. This makes the ocean economy the world’s seventh largest economy. In comparison, the UK is the sixth largest world economy. The asset value of the ecosystems of the ocean economy is estimated at \$24 trillion. In comparison, the Norwegian sovereign wealth fund (the largest in the world) amounts to \$1 trillion.

For him, the three main action points (at global, national or local level) to reach the Blue Economy’s potentials are:

- to better understand the level of the ecosystems and what they do for us;
- to better understand who they benefit (local communities, global community, big/small industries, and small-scale fisheries) and, then, where the synergies as well as the potential conflicts are; what trades you have to make as

a decision-maker/investor; and where the connections between people and ecosystems services are;

- to invest more into “blue” infrastructures. This must be understood by the ministries of infrastructure, development, finance, etc. They need to treat this type of investment in the same way as strategic infrastructure contributing to economic development.

Nadia Mensah Acogny said we need to look differently at the Blue Economy: “We’ve been looking at the bigger industry in terms of fisheries and aquaculture but we have not given enough thought, efforts and investment to the coastal resources, smaller fishermen and this is where our food security lies and the future of our maritime economy lies.” She turned to the representative of the FAO to explain the employment opportunities for youth: “Are we talking the usual employment at all costs or are we talking new opportunities?” she asked.

Jacqueline Alder replied “I think in the Blue Economy we are talking about a lot of new opportunities. One thing I’d like to point out is that globally the labour pool for fisheries is declining. There are opportunities for youth but the technology is changing as well, so the job is going to change in the fishery sector.



It's not only about labour anymore, it's about managing those less dirty jobs. If there are a lot of opportunities in the fishery sector globally, it is particularly true in Africa, especially if we get more of the fleets being African based. In the aquaculture area, we've been encouraging youth to participate more, because it offers a lot of advantages over the fishery sector, because they don't have to go away from home and work in dangerous conditions. You'd be surprised about the number of people who don't swim." Grenada is an island so you'd think that everybody can swim, but 90% of the population don't. So 90% of people cannot have a job related to the Blue Economy. In contrast, aquaculture tends to be land-based or on platforms. It creates innovations. If we educate a whole group of young people to be able to participate in aquaculture, they would be thinking about innovating. "That's where the excitement happens and big gains will be made", she added.

Indeed, youth is going to help move that agenda. There is also innovation on the technology side: smartphone apps and automation of the production processing. "In the developed world, there are huge aquaculture farms where you need only one person because it's all automated. The same potential exists for that technology to be transferred in Africa but also to make it better and cheaper. Africans are very good at taking that sort of technology and making it more affordable or finding similar low-cost technologies", she said.

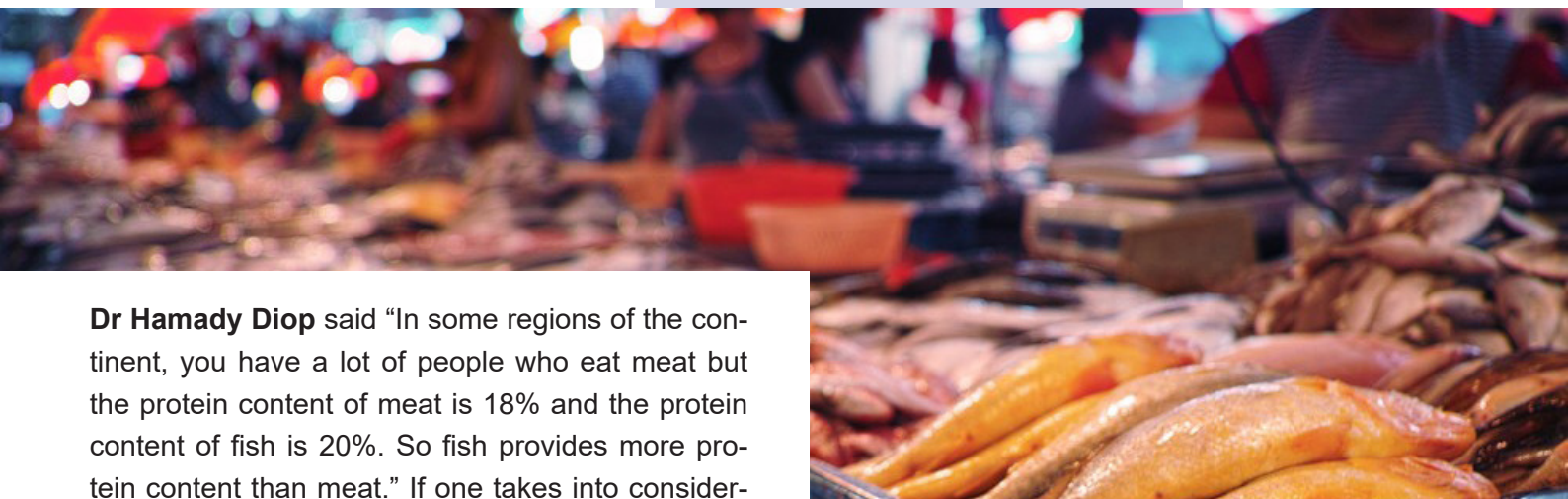
She has worked with people in a manufacturing industry, where smoking ovens for women were developed in Côte d'Ivoire in order to burn less fuel and burn it at a lower temperature. So the product quality was sufficient to be able to trade it and it improved women's health. "And it's a low-cost technology, it costs only \$1,000 to build the oven and it can burn just about anything. We can put a gas adaptor on it so you can have a tank. So women will spend less time tending the fish and more time looking at other business ventures", she added. The other interesting part of the project was that it was



able to build a cooperative around the oven. These women were able to act as entrepreneurs and businesspeople rather. There is lots of scope for that sort of low-technology development and a lots of opportunities for youth. The big constraint will be access to finance and this is where we need to think of creating financial solutions to be able to provide that financial incentive to invest rather than just be operators.



Nadia Mensah Acogny asked the representative of NEPAD about the contribution of food production to food security.



Dr Hamady Diop said “In some regions of the continent, you have a lot of people who eat meat but the protein content of meat is 18% and the protein content of fish is 20%. So fish provides more protein content than meat.” If one takes into consideration that the world’s fish consumption per person amounts to 21kg, then in comparison, Africa’s average fish consumption per person is very low at 9kg. The question remains, however, whether the 9kg is an accurate representation or whether it is because 80% of the fish trade is done informally, i.e. not captured in the statistics. “I know in some countries fish consumption reaches 60kg, for example in Senegal, Gambia, and even Mauritania where most of the diet is fish based. In Ghana, the official commercial size of a fingerling (fish in the ponds) is 5g. On the market you will find fingerlings of 2g, because the demand for aquaculture in Ghana is so big that people fight to get their fingerlings when it is like 2g”, he commented. In other words, the business opportunities to do aquaculture in the continent are definitely there and the demand for food is there also.

The population of Africa is expected to reach 2 billion in 2030. The middle class is expected to grow to 400 million. Therefore, the demand for protein will increase and fish can be a good alternative.

“Fish should be pretty soon be a business that is viable”, he added. But the most important question is how to bring youth into productive activity and how to add value to the fish they are producing so that they can diversify and find new niches. “Since yesterday, we’ve been discussing the Blue Economy and trying to categorise it. On the FAO website, the definition of small-scale fisheries is 250 words, because they try to categorise it. With the Blue Economy, it is going to be the same. However, there is no ‘one size fits all’”, he reaffirmed. The African Union’s Maritime Charter has defined the Blue Economy, a definition that was captured within Agenda 2063. It encompasses the different areas that were discussed during ABEF 2018. One area, however, was neglected: ecotourism. “If you have fishermen living along the coast, developing activities for tourism purposes to make revenues, it is part of the Blue Economy. In the continent, when we talk about the Blue Economy we are not talking about the oceans only, we talk also about the land. Lots of water-related activities are happening on land”, he insisted.

Dr Jeremy Prince took the floor to explain that in 2011, his team found a new approach that he described as a “global game-changer”. This consists in getting people to look at the size of the fish they’re catching and compare it to the size at maturity. Indeed, as he put it, “if nothing gets to breed, you have no future!” This principle of maturation translates into practical management. “I’m coming from science but now I’m into communication and theory of change management. We do this with communities. They collect the data and we teach them to look at the size of the fish at maturity. If you don’t have enough adults, you don’t have enough babies. That’s a universal concept. Fishermen everywhere get it”, he explained. The experiment started in 2012 and a re-fish management campaign was implemented. Fiji is reforming its small fisheries. Sri Lanka has picked this up at government level. In Kenya, the first training started in March. By the end of the training, there were five assessments and the genesis of a management plan for re-fish with communication tools taken back to the fishing communities. This plan has also been adopted at the government level. “The big challenge is not to work top-down or bottom-up but to work top-down and bottom-up at the same time, coordinated. With this communication, we can create stakeholder groups in the fishing communities demanding change from the government. We can have the government understanding what they need to support the fishing”, he said.

Nadia Mensah Acogny interrupted him to make sure everybody understood the method elaborated by Biospherics Pty Ltd and Murdoch University: “So what you’ve done basically is create a fish management system for the local communities so they can manage their resources and fish in a more efficient manner that stabilises the resources?” she asked.

Dr Jeremy Prince replied: “Yes, and start functional discussions at the community level.” He explained that in some places the government is fully supportive, but when there is no functionality in the government to work with, the work is done directly with the communities, “which are doing the stuff for

themselves”, as for example in Papua Guinea. “In some places, there isn’t the capacity in government to even comprehend the issue. Once they’ve been trained and given the concept, the communities start thinking about the size at maturity”, he said.

Nadia Mensah Acogny asked how we can save the aquaculture and fisheries sector.

For **Dr Jeremy Prince**, the focus has to be on legal framework and capacity building to better support these sectors. He also emphasised securing forms of access rights and property rights. “The rule of law is what you need to stop people stealing from aquaculture and to stop fishermen fishing from other people’s grounds. There are linking issues: building capacity in whatever field, it’ll have influence on other sectors”, he said.

For **Jacqueline Alder**, a greater investment in the regional institutions will certainly go along with improving collaborations. “Within Africa, there is lots of knowledge and understanding capacity to be able to work on this issue. It is a case of investing in these regional bodies to be able to take up that capacity that is not being used. Every country in Africa has a fisheries and aquaculture school, at least one if not multiple ones, and they are producing graduates that are capable of becoming part of the solution. It’s just that we haven’t invested enough in the public sector to develop fisheries management, and therefore we don’t enough capacity or resources to further support the investment that’s needed to make these regional bodies act as great platforms for coordination and collaboration”, she said.

In addition to the regional fish bodies, she also would like the regional economic commissions and all the African organisations and institutions that have been tasked with improving fisheries and making it more sustainable to be more involved.

“We need a key platform for developing the Blue Economy. Investing in these regional organisations

that can drive down the things happening at the global scale and downscaling the decisions that are made amongst African countries to be able to implement those at a national level and support national level implementation at a local level. That's a key action that we could try and strengthen", she stated.

Nadia Mensah Acogny asked what is preventing investment.

Jacqueline Alder referred to Dr Hamady Diop and Christian Neumann's proposal to demonstrate to national governments, especially the finance and development departments, that there is value in the fisheries sector and, more importantly, that there is economic growth potential in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. "If you invest a few million, your return on investment is probably five times up. It's worthwhile for the government to either invest directly from consolidated revenue or take out a loan from the banks (World Bank or AfDB). But for that to happen, we have to improve governance, reduce corruption, and create the enabling conditions so that the legislation is in place and the private sector has the certainty that they have a secured access to the resources", she said. In other words, for the governments to be willing to invest in building capacity to service that industry, the case has to be made first. "I've worked enough with finance and investment departments to understand they don't appreciate fisheries. But only because we haven't made the case for it", she concluded.

Questions from the floor

"Agriculture and fisheries are the least subscribed study programmes. Can you share with us models that worked elsewhere? And how can youth trained on fisheries and aquaculture get money to start a venture? What are good practices in these areas?"

According to **Jacqueline Alder**, some youth don't necessarily want to go to university, but want to become entrepreneurs. "In Kenya, we've provided training and a kit to be able to establish a small aquaculture venture. It's been operating for 18 months, and 997 graduates from this training programme have established businesses and are selling fish on the market. This project got funding to provide the aquaculture kits", she explained. Most important for her is to figure out an innovative financial mechanism to be able to sustain that training/kitting for those young small entrepreneurs. "Perhaps we can work out a proposal to be presented at the Kenyan conference at the end of the year to see how we can find these financial mechanisms", she said.

Dr Hamady Diop said that NEPAD has already partnered with the FAO. He gave the example of the smoking project for women. NEPAD and FAO are also partnering on youth employment with the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, developed in Angola and Equatorial Guinea. "In the trust fund, every six months we take a cohort of 50 students and take them to a vocational training school and develop a tailor-designed curriculum. So if they need skills in entrepreneurship, we train them in entrepreneurship. At the end of the training, we bring the students together and they pitch their business plan in front of a jury and the top ones get rewarded and receive seed funding to start", he explained. More than 2,000 students were successfully trained on that programme and more people are coming in to join. However, there is a remaining problem on the continent: How to connect those training to the financial system? "The banks are asking almost 30% on startups and none of them can afford it. We have to find a way to de-risk the startups and help the bank to be able to invest in those startups. The way to do it is to demonstrate that they can succeed", he said. He regrets, however, the tendency to think that in the continent everything is negative. In fact, there are a lot of good stories. "There are a lot of good practices; we need to find a way to upscale them and outscale them. But for that to happen we need to document them. And that's the problem we

have, we don't document enough the good practices so that we can share them", he said.

According to **Dr Jeremy Prince** that issue is also an indicator of the lack of economic health in the fisheries. Fishing communities are pretty conservative. They like to follow traditions. If you interviewed those children, you'd find that it's their parents who tell them not to become fishers.

Nadia Mensah Acogny asked if we should make the industry look a bit sexier. Should we put out the success stories to attract young people?

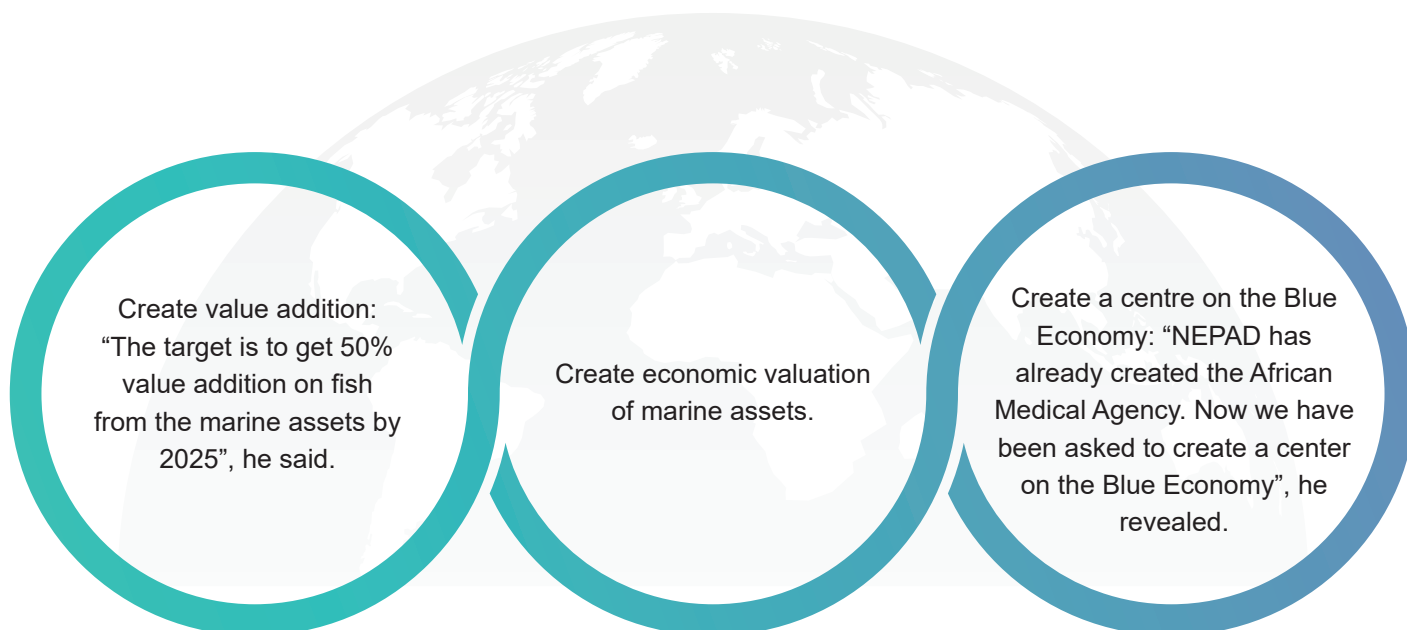
According to **Dr Jeremy Prince**, the first thing to do is to manage the fisheries. Fishermen are very practical people. They know what the future is. And if they have to develop new fishing techniques or fish new fish that they didn't fish before because all the fish are gone, they know that's happening. You need to manage and find profitability.

According to **Dr Hamady Diop**, all international instruments in terms of fish management are based on the biological reference points. They tell you for any fish to be sustainable, the level of fishing you need. "In the last decade, the narrative is shifting to creating rank. Among the most highly bankable projects the World Bank invested in are fisheries", he revealed. The West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme started nine years ago with a few countries represented at the beginning. Now, it has expanded to nine countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana). "It is so successful that they are going to a second phase. Some of them are grants but most of them are loans. So the banks came and looked at fisheries as an asset. Countries use it to improve their fisheries management practices. Most of the discussions we've had since this morning, you can find them in the management plans. Management plans involve the communities as in Liberia and Sierra Leone and there are plans to improve the governance of fisheries", he added.

Nadia Mensah Acogny asked for the participants' action plans:

For **Jacqueline Alder** any interventions or any action plans for the Blue Economy should include the voice of women and youth to find the solutions needed to make it sustainable in Africa. "When you cut out 50% of the population (women), you cut out 50% of the ideas", she stated.

For **Dr Hamady Diop**, there are a few action points in Agenda 2063 that are guiding him and his institution (NEPAD) as a representative of the Africa Union:



For **Dr Jeremy Prince**, the main intervention/collaboration should be reserved to small-scale fisheries. His recommendations are:

1

Focus on getting the small-scale fisheries onto a sustainable basis: "I believe in securing exclusive access rights for the fishing communities so that they have the right to keep other fishermen out of their fishing grounds and limiting the number, so the number of fishermen doesn't continue to escalate", he said.

2

Unleashing their potential by building their capacities and letting them start actively co-managing themselves.

Mark Eddo took the floor in order to sum up the debates and give the five key recommendations that came out of all the day's debates. "What I will recall from this afternoon's discussions is that we need tougher laws on enforcement. Public-private partnerships are vital and we need the government to have the will to tackle the problem. We also need political leadership to have the appetite to tackle the problem. There should be a closer collaboration between global policy-makers and those with boots on the ground and, finally, good governance and legislative frameworks and strong sanctioning were in demand", he said.

He then presented the five recommendations that emerged from ABEF 2018:

5 Recommendations

1

The need for implementation: “There are already lots of policies, but they are not being implemented. We need policies that will bring a sustainable and inclusive economic development”, he said.

2

The need to integrate the Blue Economy into national and regional development plan: “New fields of cooperation will have to be found and implemented in Africa as far as the Blue Economy is concerned”, he said.

3

The need for relevant data: “We are often flying blind when it comes to the Blue Economy; we don’t know what’s out there. We need to start becoming obsessed about statistics and data. You can only produce better policies if you know what you’re dealing with, if you measure, especially as far as things like climate change are concerned”, he said.

4

The need for innovative financing in order to start developing the Blue Economy at a larger scale and getting the private sector involved. “Not just where the money is coming from, but the type of money. It’s important to understand what exists at the moment. As David Luke mentioned, taking elements of the Blue Economy and putting them in the line of sight of policy-makers. With the case of financing, you look at policy-makers who already looking at financing development infrastructure programmes. How do you connect the Blue Economy with existing financing and where the money is going at the moment? It’s about how financing connects with financing”, he said.

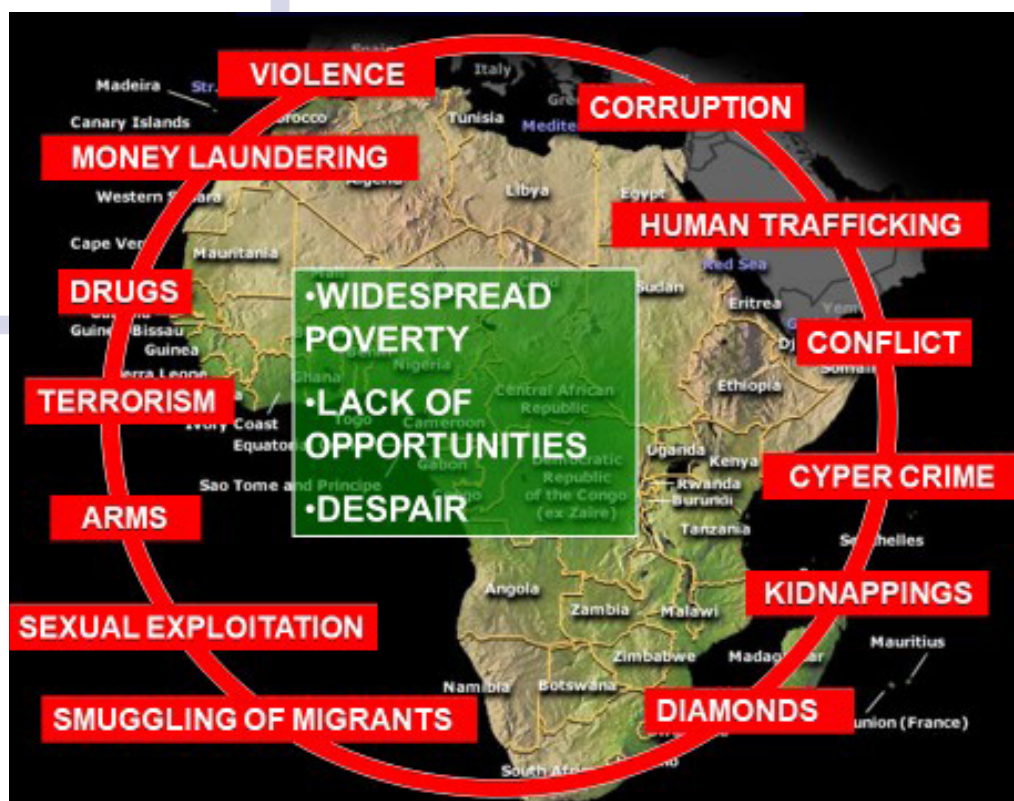
5

The need for education and capacity-building was brought up in every single panel. “Someone asked a very good question: How are you going to transfer skills from foreign companies, organisations and security in this matter to the local indigenous people who’ll take that over and do it themselves? Where is the transfer of knowledge happening? There is a need for education especially because this is the world’s youngest continent population. Get communities more greatly involved”, he said.

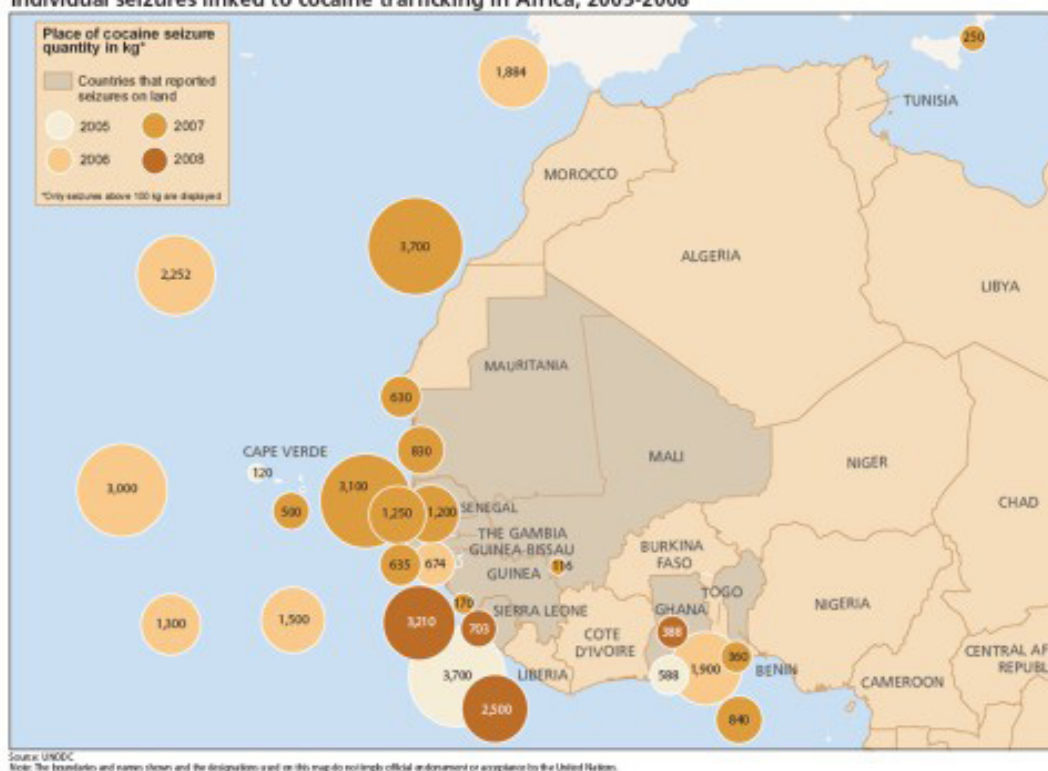


A N N E X

Is Africa under attack?



Individual seizures linked to cocaine trafficking in Africa, 2005-2008



Source: Presentation at Coalition for Dialogue in Africa Seminar on Transnational Trafficking and Instability in Africa

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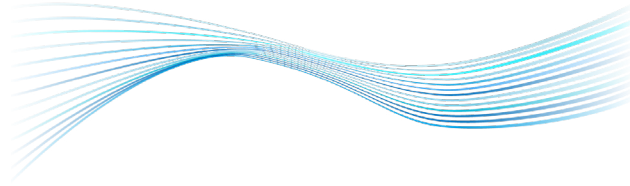
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