



African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

June 2019

Development of the AUDA-NEPAD Blue Economy Programme Messages from Stakeholders

The world's aquatic ecosystem is under stress from a range of factors including over-exploitation, pollution, declining biodiversity, expansion of invasive species, climate change and ocean acidification. It therefore becomes critical for Africa as a continent, to sustainably develop its blue economy.

The development of sustainable blue economies for Africa's countries will also maximise the benefits and services from aquatic environments; develop national equity by developing inclusive growth and creating decent jobs for all, and assist countries to participate in the international governance of maritime environments.

Africa's blue economy stakeholders convened in Magaliesburg, South Africa, between 3 and 5 June, 2019, to provide input towards the development of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) Blue Economy programme. The programme is being developed in order to guide the Agency's support to African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities in this important sector.

This document is a brief on what some of the stakeholders had to say on considerations for developing the Blue Economy programme.

Message from Dr Hamady Diop



- AUDA-NEPAD's Head of Natural Resource Governance, Food Security & Nutrition

The development of a cohesive Blue Economy programme at the Agency will be very targeted in terms of the value and support it will bring to African Union Member States.

It will be very clear on what the Agency is doing now and should continue to do; what the Agency is doing now and should not be doing, and; its niche in the ecosystem of various entities working in this space.

The impact areas of the programme will be on wealth creation, inclusive prosperity, transformative capacities and environmental sustainability.



The Lomé Charter defines the Blue Ocean/Ocean Economy as:

"Sustainable economic development of oceans using such techniques as regional development to integrate the use of seas and oceans, coasts, lakes, rivers, and underground water for economic purposes, including, but without being limited to fisheries, mining, energy, aquaculture and maritime transport, while protecting the sea to improve social wellbeing."



The development of sustainable blue economies for African countries can potentially provide an important pathway to galvanise the achievement of continental and global aspirations, such as those outlined in Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want*, the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy, the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter), the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Simplicie Nouala

- African Union Commission,
Department of Rural Development
and Agriculture

I have two messages on the development of the Blue Economy Programme for the AUDA-NEPAD:

- We should not try to reinvent the wheel but instead our focus should be on building on what currently exists. Our discussions at the stakeholder engagement have brought out best practices, experiences and lessons that can be taken on board.
- We need to develop a very pragmatic programme that can be implemented within a short period of time. African Union Member States need to see what it is we are doing. We therefore need to firstly focus on the low hanging fruit and demonstrate that the programme will be results-oriented and focus on impact.



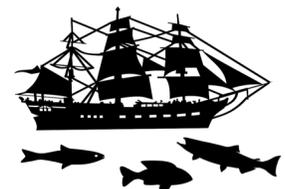
Symerre Grey-Johnson

- AUDA-NEPAD

Africa's Agenda 2063 captures not only the continent's aspirations for the future, but also identifies key flagship programmes which can boost economic growth and development, and lead to the rapid transformation of the continent. This is where the Blue

Economy's contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development plays an indispensable role. It goes without saying then, that Africa needs more innovative financing, the deployment of new and relevant technologies, enhanced capacity, good governance and investment in its Blue Economy, in order to create opportunities its citizenry.

From the very start, existing frameworks that have relevance on the Blue Economy need to be used as the basis for developing the programme with a requisite business plan that is long-term, backed by resources in order for us to transform the continent. Once this is in place, the programme's intervention areas or projects can then be developed, which have at their core, a clear understanding of the water, energy and food security nexus.



A number of African countries and Regional Economic Communities have already embarked on their national and regional blue economy journeys.

These are supported through partnerships with various stakeholders, including development partners, the research community, NGOs, the private sector and many others.



Olufunmilayo Folorunso

- African Ship Owners Association

Since I come from a maritime transportation background, I would like to point out that this sector has been a blind spot for Africa. In Africa we have been building ports without thinking about our ships - Africa has developed ports that were not built for African ships.

Therefore, what we are looking forward to, in the development of the AUDA-

NEPAD Blue Economy Programme, is the use of our maritime transportation agenda to address issues of unemployment - that is, job creation and wealth creation.



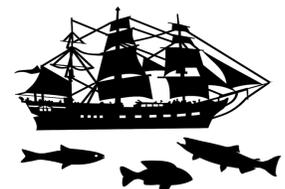
Nyiko Khoza

- AUDA-NEPAD

It goes without saying that the Blue Economy can play a major role in Africa's structural transformation, sustainable economic progress, and social development and AU Member States stand to gain if they can mainstream the blue economy into their national development plans, strategies and policies. As such in developing the Blue Economy Programme of AUDA-NEPAD, it would be essential to consider how this new programme can assist Member States

in their capacity to mainstream the blue economy into their overarching national strategies. This can be done by amongst others, aggregating and sharing best practice on the continent from countries that are making significant gains in the sector, such as Seychelles, South Africa and Mozambique.

Furthermore, in scaling up blue economy activities in various Member States over and above public sector investment/involvement, I think that it would also be important to consider how the Blue Economy Programme can facilitate private sector involvement in the various areas of the Blue Economy. In this regard, a framework that would allow for high-level coordination between the public and private sectors to unlock blue economy investment would be a win. In so doing, it would be useful to draw on the experiences of Grow Africa in the implementation of its business model aimed at facilitating the private sector investment in the agriculture sector.



The impact areas of the AUDA-NEPAD programme on the Blue Economy will be on:

- Wealth creation
- Inclusive prosperity
- Transformative capacities; and
- Environmental sustainability.



Abel Sorry

- Seychelles Department of Blue Economy, Office of the Vice President

We have been presented with a great opportunity to initiate the AUDA-NEPAD programme for the Blue Economy. This is in essence a reflection of how us Africans are endowed with great potential. We should be working together to bring Africa forward and be independent of the chains that prevent us from flourishing economically.

We must not forget however, our obligations and responsibilities to bring the benefits of the Blue Economy to our people who should be the reason why we want wealth and prosperity for our continent and not forgetting the environment that we should protect for ourselves and generations to come.



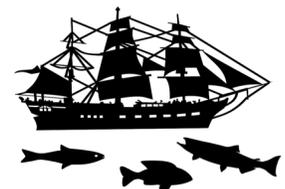
Pamla Gopaul

- AUDA-NEPAD

As AUDA-NEPAD prioritises the development of its Blue Economy strategy and programme, there is a fundamental need to define our understanding of Africa's prosperity and progress, and the need to promote innovative thinking and practices to enhance human and ecological well-being. AUDA-NEPAD realises the enormous untapped opportunity to develop Africa's blue economy, which

in turn will help reduce poverty; create employment, growth and trade, in line with the African Continental Free Trade Area; and strengthen food and energy security.

This important workshop provided the platform to engage with stakeholders and Member States in order to strengthen our next steps to developing a blue economy programme. There is a need to build consensus for policy development, through the narrative of innovative multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder processes towards changing the paradigms for sustainable development and the well-being in Africa, in line with Agenda 2063, through a results based M&E process. There is also a need to accelerate participation of many more African countries, to brainstorm opportunities, share emerging good practices among African stakeholders, at national, regional and multilateral levels and raise private sector awareness by creating new initiatives to attract private and public participation to impact Africa's blue economy.



The growing commitment by many African nations towards developing their blue economies in a responsible and integrated manner was clearly evidenced through their pledges delivered at the recent Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, held in Nairobi from 26-28 November 2018. The diversity of commitments made and examples shared, are evidence that there is no “one size fits all” approach or pathway towards developing a blue economy.



Oluwatoyin Osundiran

- Women In Maritime Africa

The focus of WIMAfrica is empowering and engaging women in maritime. This is part of the criticality of the transformation process. The emphasis of this is evident through the International Maritime Organisation declaration of 2019 as the year of ‘Empowering Women in Maritime.’

My messages are:

- AUDA-NEPAD should collaborate with WIMAfrica in the development of its Blue Economy Programme.
- WIMAfrica provides a wealth of expertise, of which would be most beneficial to AUDA-NEPAD through a memorandum of understanding.



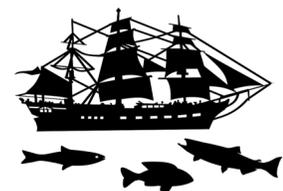
Martin van der Knaap

- FAO

The projected fish import and export quantities in 2025, as compared to 2015, indicate that in sub-Saharan Africa fish exports will diminish and imports increase.

The projected situation in 2063 may look worse as the population will continue to grow, so will the demand for fish. In order to avoid that forthcoming projects may become “business-as-usual” there may be a need for a paradigm shift.

The issue of youth employment is also paramount - success stories in this domain as well as in aquaculture should be “upscaled” through assistance to SMEs using e.g. AqualInvest and other funding sources. With respect to improved fisheries management and combating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing, Member States that have not yet endorsed or ratified the Port State Measures Agreement, should be encouraged to do so, forming a barrier to IUU vessels and other illegal practices (including human trafficking, drug trafficking, child labour, etc.).



In 2018, African leaders at the Nairobi Sustainable Blue Economy Conference directed the African Union to work with relevant stakeholders to develop a blue print of Africa's Blue Economy Strategy that will guide sustainable development and utilisation of oceanic, fisheries and aquaculture resources in Africa.



Bernice McClean

- AUDA-NEPAD

The development of a Blue Economy programme for the AUDA-NEPAD presents significant opportunities for realising highly innovative and impactful benefits from Africa's marine and inland waters. The process is guided by the continental Blue Economy strategy being developed by the African Union Commission and is enriched through valuable interactions with a diverse array of stakeholders and

partners.

The journey we have embarked on is supported by AU Member States' funds and therefore represents a purely African-driven agenda. While we are mindful of the great responsibility that this important process represents, the AUDA-NEPAD team is energised to realise tangible outcomes for the continent.



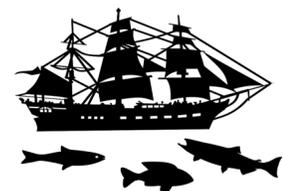
Emmanuel Kaunda

- Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources / NEPAD-SANBIO Fish Node

My message is that we should not forget the science policy interface, as the development of this programme should be evidence-based.

We need science and technology for the development of Africa's Blue Economy.

Let us also include capacity enhancement which is often forgotten. Adequate capacity is necessary for the translation of decisions into action.



At the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in 2018, the decision was taken to transform the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency into the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), the technical body of the AU. With a new mandate, the AUDA-NEPAD will :

- i. Coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063;
- ii. Strengthen capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies; advance knowledge-based advisory support, undertake the full range of resource mobilisation and serve as the continent's technical interface with all of Africa's development stakeholders and development partners.



Hellen Moepi

- University of the Western Cape

I am currently exploring formality and informality of cross border fish trade in the Southern Africa region for my PhD studies. I am extremely excited to see how the Blue Economy could utilise trade to fully unlock the potential of African economies through investing in transportation to move goods across the continent and also ensuring that even remote areas have access to food, especially fish as a source

of protein. Furthermore, the African Continental Free Trade Area policy provides an environment in which AUDA-NEPAD could tap into and facilitate implementation to ensure blue trade at all levels.



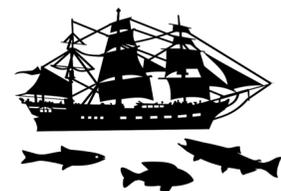
Durand Naidoo

- Linsen Nambi

The Blue Economy has identified the Agenda 2063 Aspirations of Wealth Creation, Inclusive Prosperity, Transformative Capacities and Environmental Sustainability as high impact areas. These areas can be served through job creation, which serves to reduce unemployment and inequality, as when people have job security, they feel included and represented in society. This increases consumer confidence, as people

spend more, which increases business confidence, which creates growth. The maritime industry has been successful in creating employment in other emerging markets and has the potential to create a new industry with new jobs in Africa.

The Blue Economy can also incorporate the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), which has a vital role to play in creating meaningful African Ship Owners. There are very few African ship owners. Therefore, by creating shipping alliances, it will grow the African merchant fleet and develop port and marine infrastructure across the continent. This development will improve port facilities for fishing vessels, increase patrols for illegal fishing and pollution at sea. The tourism industry will also benefit, through cruise liners being able to access safe and secure ports.



The Stakeholder Consultation Workshop for the Development of an AUDA-NEPAD Blue Economy Strategy and Programme in June, 2019, had the following objectives:

- i) Sharing of experiences and the identification of best practices;
- ii) Consulting with stakeholders on the basics of a Blue Economy strategic framework for the AUDA-NEPAD;
- iii) Identifying specific priorities to be included in the strategy for implementation through the Blue Economy programme of the AUDA-NEPAD; and
- iv) Initiating a network for ongoing exchange and partnership.



Eshete Dejen

- Intergovernmental Authority on Development

A result based M&E component is crucial to consider at the very beginning of this new programme, in order to measure the impact that we will bring in the lives of people in our communities.

Moreover, the collection of baseline information on the contribution of each sector of the Blue Economy needs to be systematically documented. It is our

expectation that AUDA-NEPAD will develop an M&E framework for the Blue Economy that is aligned with Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. There is also need for one reporting framework with a clear responsible / oversight unit, as is the case with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.



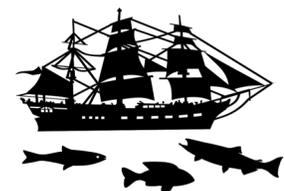
Reuben Gisore

- African Organisation for Standardisation

Africa is well-endowed with natural resources which form key elements of the blue economy.

For the continent to create wealth and achieve inclusive prosperity, we need to have a well-structured comprehensive blue economy blue-print which incorporates

transformative capacity development and skill-sets with coherent standards and certification regimes acting as market linkages.





The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the Strategic Plan for Africa: Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want*, describes the key goal Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth (Goal 6) under Aspiration 1: A Prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. The priority areas outlined within this Goal 6 include:

- i. Marine resources and Energy; and
- ii. Ports Operations and Marine Transport.



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June 3, 2019: The picture above captures some of the participants of the consultative workshop on the development of AUDA-NEPAD's Blue Economy programme, in Magaliesburg, South Africa



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