

# AFRICA INTERMODAL 2024

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**By**

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An Integrated, Prosperous  
and Peaceful Africa



# African Union Blue Economy ID in Africa : geographical features

- **38 coastal countries**
- **6 small island developing states (SIDS) that depend on marine resources**
- **30 000 Km coastline including more than 100 ports**
- **over 13 million km<sup>2</sup> of maritime zones (EEZ)**
- **24 000 km<sup>2</sup> of lakes**
- **freshwater ecosystem : 64% of the land covered by water bodies including vast hydrographic basins such as Congo, Nile, Zambezi, Niger, Orange, Chad, Victoria, Tanganyika, Malawi ...**

- Africa's blue economy contributes only an **estimated 1.3% of the global ocean economy**, highlighting significant untapped opportunities despite the vast potential
- Today Blue Economy sector in Africa represent **296 billions USD & 49 millions jobs** projected to become 405 billions USD & 57 millions jobs by 2030
- Blue economy is vital for economic diversification, food security, livelihood, trade, income and climate resilience

## Target Sectors in Africa's Blue Economy : Traditional

- **Fisheries and Aquaculture:** Generates over \$24 billion annually, employs 12.3 million people, and contributes to food security; yet Africa fishery is still not feeding the continent
- **Maritime Transport:** 90% of Africa's trade moves by sea with development needs in modernizing ports, integrating technology, and improving hinterland connectivity
- **Tourism:** Africa's coastline spans over 30,000 km with untapped opportunities for eco-tourism and cultural tourism

## Target Sectors in Africa's Blue Economy : Emmerging

- **Renewable Aquatic Energy:** Potential in wind, tidal, and wave energy
- **Marine and Freshwater Biotechnology:** Opportunities in biodiversity conservation, pharmaceuticals, biofuels and biosecurity products
- **Riverbed and seabed minerals:** Opportunities in strategic and rare minerals for new technologies industry
- **Inland watercourse transport:** neglected but opportunities to enhance transport and develop intra and regional trade corridors

**AGENDA 2063 : Africa We want**

- **Goal 1.6 : Blue & ocean economy for accelerated economic growth**

**Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS 2050)**

**Lome Charter on Maritime Safety and Security and Sustainable Development (2016)**

**Africa Infrastructure Development Programme (PIDA)**

**Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**

**Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES)**

- **Fishery and Aquaculture**
- **Transport and shipping**
- **Tourism**
- **Energy and Extractive industries (Minerals, Oil & Gaz)**
- **Governance, Coordination and Innovation**

## **African Union Commission**

**Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE)**

**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD)**

**Directorate for Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE)**

- **Blue Economy Division**
- **Sustainable Environment Division**

**Mandate:** *Provide policy guidance and promote policy coherence on the continent in the pursuit of Agenda 2063 and to ensure regional integration as well as promoting Africa's role in the blue economy globally*

**Specifically by :**

- support the development of policies and policy frameworks, which are then domesticated by AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- fostering peer-to-peer exchanges, harmonization of policies, and the development of common positions among AU Member States
- Enhance coordination and collaboration to develop blue economy value chains



## **Blue Economy Strategies developed**

- Inland countries (Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, CAR, ...)
- Coastal countries (Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Tanzania, Cameroon, Liberia, ...)

## **Blue Future Ministerial Conference: Moroni June 2023 :**

- Moroni Declaration on Blue Economy and Climate Action in Africa for Island and Coastal States
- Great Blue Wall Initiative

## **Guidelines to fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing on Africa's blue economy, food security, marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries management**

- platform to foster collaboration and partnerships, exchange knowledge and experiences and share innovative approaches established

**Early warning for blue economy :** Situation room (national, regional and continental)

**Women in Blue Economy**

# Key Challenges for Blue Economy in Africa

- **Environmental Degradation: Pollution and habitat loss**
- **Governance Gaps: Limited regional harmonization of policies, weak enforcement mechanisms for maritime laws, lack of specific legal frameworks, lack of knowledge**
- **Capacity Deficits: Lack of infrastructure and skilled workforce**
- **Climate Change: Coastal erosion and extreme weather events (drought, flood, storm, etc.)**
- **Expertise and Financial limitations: Capacity building and Financing**
- **Beaching : Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**

## Main Opportunities

- **Regional Integration:** AfCFTA provides a platform to strengthen trade and investment in the maritime sector
- **Global Partnerships & Funding:** Growing interest in blue economy investments (existence of the BERG)
- **Jobs creation and Gender :** Blue economy sectors could generate millions of jobs, with significant potential for youth and women's participation
- **Research and Innovation:** Use of satellite surveillance and renewable technologies, digitalization, online marketing and trade, etc.

# AUC's Strategic Actions and Leadership

- **Policy Development:** Adoption of Africa's Blue Economy Strategy, aligning national plans with continental priorities
- **Regular consultations** with SIDS, Coastal and Inland States to ensure inclusive approaches
- **Blue Economy Reference Group (BERG):** Comprising development partners to coordinate actions and pool resources; Private sector involvement to come
- Regional workshops and **dialogues** to identify needs, develop projects and address gaps
- **Capacity building:** Initiatives to strengthen the technical capacities of member states in blue economy governance, planning, and innovation
- Promoting **gender-inclusive approaches** through training and policy frameworks
- **Partnering and networking** : Private Sector, local communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSO)
- **Emerging Flagship Programs:** Great Blue Wall Initiative, Blue Belt Initiative, National Fairs and Exhibitions, etc.

## **Call to Action**

- **Strengthen collaboration among African States, RECs, and international partners**
- **Invest in enabling environment and infrastructures for the Blue Sector**
- **Invest in capacity-building, research, technology transfer, and innovative financing**
- **Include Private Sector and Non State Actors (NSA) in policy design, implementation and monitoring**
- **Private sector to invest in traditional and emerging blue value chains**
- **Leverage Africa's unique strengths to position the continent as a leader in global blue economy initiatives**
- **Relevant stakeholders to join the AUC and its partners in scaling up efforts, mobilizing resources, and advancing a shared vision for Africa's prosperous blue future**

**Shoukran  
Asante Sana  
Merci**



Agenda  
**2063**  
The Africa we Want

