

Harnessing regional integration for advancing a sustainable blue and circular economy in Africa

Location: Manta Room, [La Baleine](#), Palais des Expositions, Nice, France.

Date: 13 June 2025

Time: 12.45 – 13.30 (12.45 - 1.30pm)

Duration: 45 minutes

Organized by: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Financial Services Deepening Africa (FSD Africa)

Background: The adoption of blue and circular economy models is crucial for Africa's sustainable development, offering a pathway to economic growth, environmental preservation, and job creation. While countries are at varying stages of development, the African Union Commission forecasts that the African blue economy can grow from \$296 billion in 2018 to \$576 billion by 2063, driven by population growth, integration and sustainable strategies. Meanwhile, the circular economy — which emphasizes resource efficiency, waste reduction, and material reuse — could unlock \$4.5 trillion globally by 2030, with Africa poised to benefit significantly due to its growing urbanization and young workforce.

Objective: By promoting cross-border cooperation, this UNOC-3 side event will aim to demonstrate how integrated regional strategies can unlock Africa's Blue and Circular economies, addressing critical challenges while showcasing solutions and partnerships vital for the continent's environmental sustainability and inclusive socio-economic development.

Panelists:

Moderator: *Nassim Oulmane*, Chief of Natural Resources, Green and Blue Economy Section, UNECA

- *George Mba Asseko*, Head of Blue Economy Division, African Union Commission
- *Raj Mohabeer*, Officer in Charge, Indian Ocean Commission
- *Theresa Reisch*, Senior Nature Finance Advisor, FSD Africa/Africa Natural Capital Alliance
- *Herland Cerveaux*, Ocean Hub Africa

Provisional agenda:

Time	Presentation	Speaker
5min	Introduction	Nassim Oulmane
5min	The African Union's leadership in fostering regional action for blue and circular economy at the continental level	George Mba Asseko
5min	Bringing Island States together to address common circular and blue economy priorities	Raj Mohabeer
5min	Building a Blue Finance Hub to pool resources for blue economy in Islands States and beyond	Theresa Reisch
5min	Support, connect and invest in African-led ocean impact entrepreneurship	Herland Cerveaux
15 min	Question and Answer	Everyone
5min	Closing	Nassim Oulmane

Partners: African Union Commission (AUC), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), African Natural Capital Alliance (ANCA), Captain Fanplastic, Ocean Hub Africa.

