

Innovations in the Blue Economy



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The Blue Economy Concept

Initially

- **Scope:** marine waters.
- **Leitmotifs:** sustainability, equity and inter-generational
- **Aims:** conservation

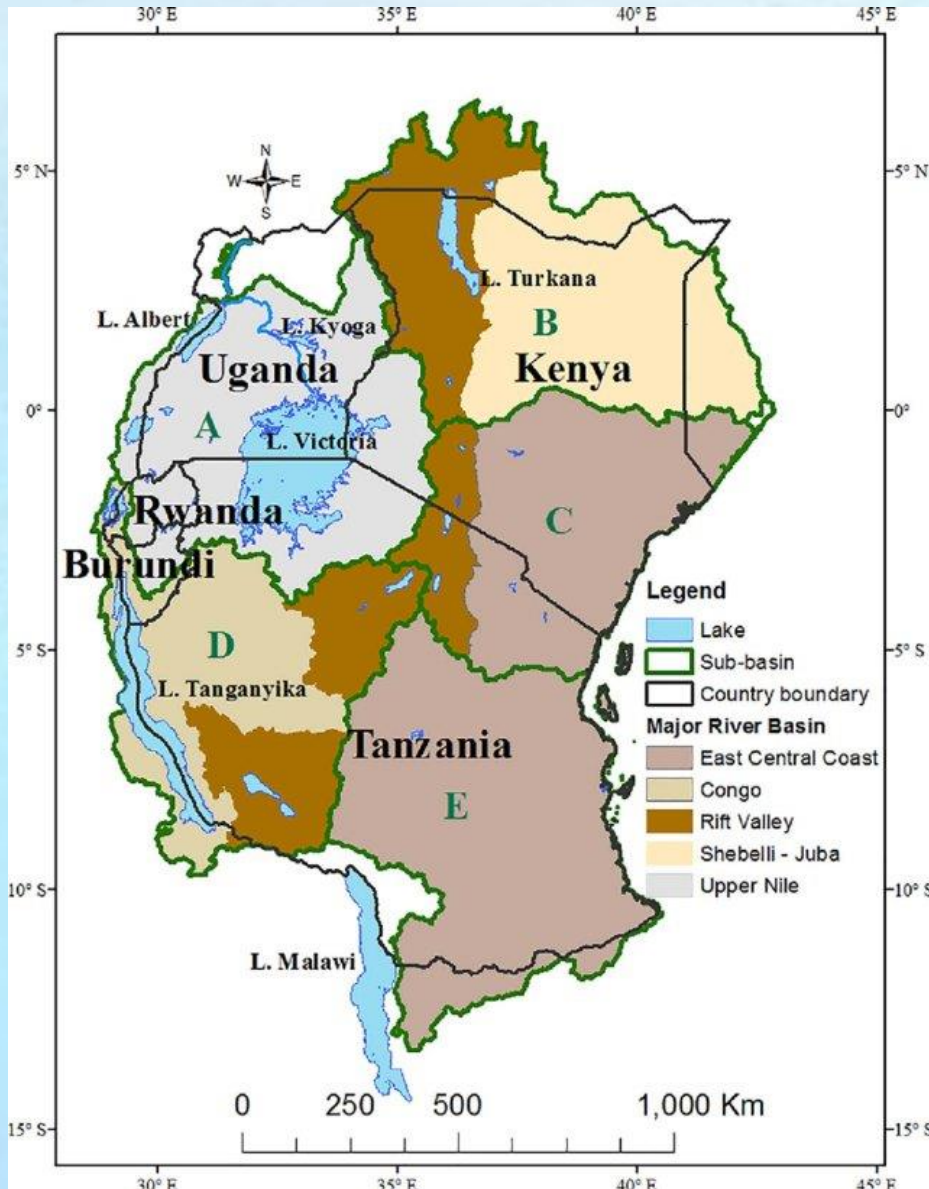
Now

- **Scope:** oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, underground water, wetlands
- **Leitmotifs:** circularity, sustainability, equity, inter-generational
- **Aims:** sustainable use + conservation

Key ideas of Blue Economy

- Blue Economy is more of a framework for integrated, inclusive and sustainable development
- Allows organization of conservation and sustainable use activities of blue economy resources in a complementary manner
- Allows to harmonize the intervention of multiple stakeholders on these aquatic ecosystems
- Allows to coordinate a multisectoral approach
- Allows for transboundary planning of shared resources
- Appeals to all social, economic, and ecological activities linked to aquatic ecosystems

Blue Economy in Eastern Africa



Great Rivers in East Africa:

- Kenya: Tana, Athi, Ewaso, Sondu, Mara
- Tanzania: Ruvuma, Rufiji, Ruvu;
- Uganda: Sezibwa
- DRC: Ebola, Sankuru, Lualaba, Lomami, Lulonga, Lopori, Maringa, Tshuapa, Uele
- Burundi: Rurubu
- Rwanda: Nvabarongo
- Madagascar: Ihosy, Mania, Onilahy
- Mara (Kenya-Tanzania)
- Jubba, Shebelle (Somalia-Ethiopia)
- Nile (Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Egypt)
- Congo (Angola, DRC, Congo)
- Kasai (Angola, DRC, Congo)
- Kwango (Angola, DRC)

Lakes in East Africa:

- Lake Albert (Uganda-DRC)
- Lake Edward (Uganda-DRC)
- Lake Kivu (DRC-Rwanda)
- Lake Malawi (Malawi-Mozambique- Tanzania)
- Lake Tanganyika (Tanzania-DRC, Burundi-Zambia)
- Lake Turkana (Kenya-Ethiopia)
- Lake Victoria (Kenya-Uganda-Tanzania)
- Uganda: Lake Kyoga
- Lake Mweru (DRC-Zambia)
- Lake Rukwa (Tanzania)

Blue Economy in Eastern Africa

Key Figures:



WWF 2017: The total “ocean asset base” of the Western Indian Ocean region is at least US\$333.8 billion.



Although the fishing sector accounts for a relatively small share of regional exports (5% overall, but as high as 18% and 56% in Mauritius and Seychelles respectively (UNCTAD, 2022)), the sector still provides employment to almost four million East Africans (FAO, 2022).



Amongst the EAC countries, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Tanzania (Zanzibar) are the only ones with a national coordinating unit or ministry with the mandate to coordinate blue economy activity across departments or agencies. Kenya and Tanzania (Zanzibar) are the only countries which have adopted MSP processes to help manage spatial-temporal issues. Rwanda and Tanzania (Zanzibar) are the only member states with mechanisms for blue accounting, and none of the countries have blue financing mechanisms in place.

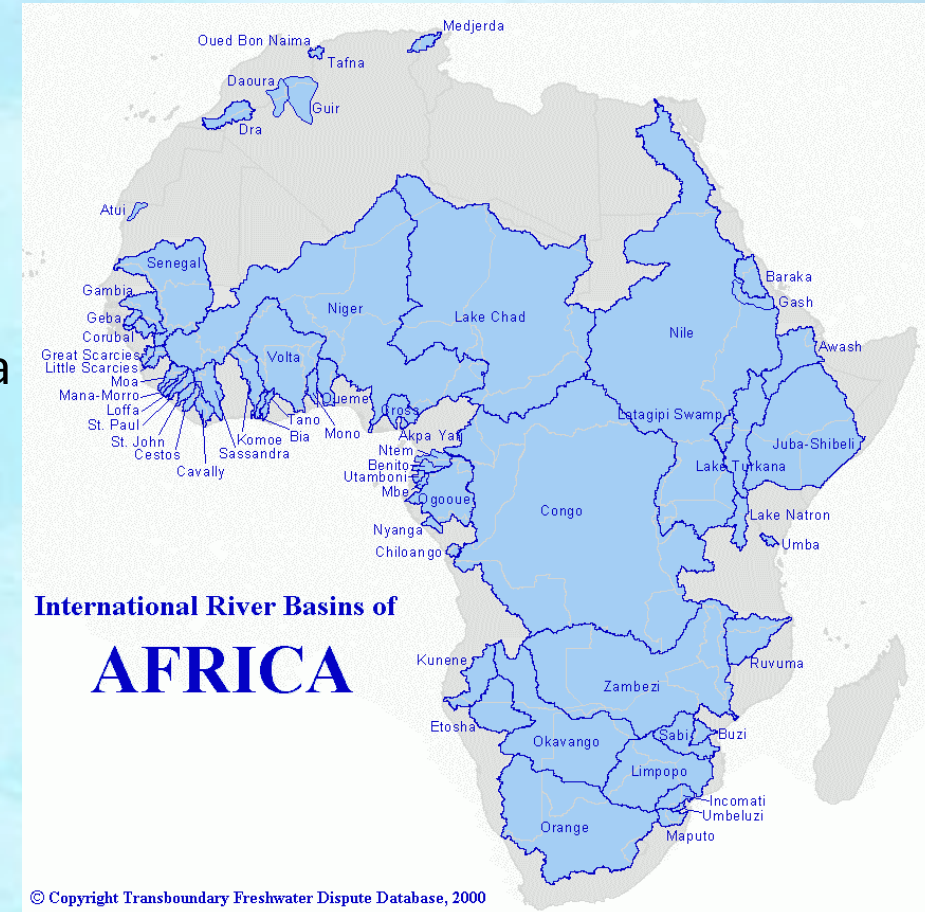
Blue Economy in Central Africa

Lakes in Central Africa:

- Lake Tanganyika: (DRC), Tanzania, Burundi, and Zambia.
- Lake Chad: Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon.
- Lake Albert: Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Lake Edward: DRC and Uganda
- Lake Kivu: Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Lake Mweru: Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Lac Mai-Ndombe: Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Lac Tumba: Democratic Republic of the Congo,
- Lac FwaA Democratic Republic of the Congo

Great rivers in Central Africa:

- DRC/ Congo/ CAR: Congo River
- DRC/ Congo/ CAR: Ubangi River
- DRC/ Congo/ CAR: Sangha River
- DRC/ Angola: Kasai River
- DRC/ Congo/ CAR: Oubangui River
- DRC: Lualaba River
- DRC: Ruki River
- Chad/ CAR: Chari River
- Chad/ Cameroon: Logone River
- DRC/ Angola: Kwango River



Blue Economy in Central Africa

Key Figures:



In Central Africa, water resources are abundant and water availability per capita is relatively high. For example, the DRC alone accounts for 13% of the world's hydropower potential, and Congo and Gabon are among the top ten countries in terms of renewable water resources per capita.



Central African countries have relatively few holistic national policies and instruments developed to support the blue economy ecosystem, but this is changing. For example, UNECA is supporting Cameroon, which has just started to develop a national strategy for the blue economy with AU-IBAR. Congo and Sao Tome and Principe have led the sub-region in developing blue economy strategies.



However, much remains to be done. Only Gabon has successfully used an innovative financing instrument to fund blue economy projects (Blue Bonds with the support of The Nature Conservancy).



As a member of ECCAS, Rwanda is the only country to apply analytical tools to assess blue resources (water accounts).

UNECA's Blue Economy Activation

1. 2016: Africa Blue Economy Policy Handbook
2. 2020: Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit
3. 2022: The cost of maritime insecurity in the WIO
4. 2022-2024: Domestication of the BEVTK in Tanzania Mainland, Zanzibar, Djibouti, Seychelles, Ethiopia and ongoing in Rwanda
5. 2023-2024: EAC Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan
6. 2023: Situational Analysis of Blue Economy and Circular Economy MSMEs in Seychelles & Market Access Study for its products
7. 2024: Bootcamp training to blue economy and circular economy MSMEs in Seychelles to access business finance

UNECA's Blue Economy Activation

8. Formulation of the Ethiopia Blue Economy Action Plan
9. Ongoing: Business Information Platform for Blue Economy and Circular Economy in Seychelles
10. Ongoing-Support to the RCOC and RMIFC on a study for sustainable financing mechanism for the Western Indian Ocean Maritime Security Architecture
11. Ongoing- Website for communications and visibility of the RCOC and RMIFC activities
12. Ongoing-Development of the online version of the BEVTK
13. MOU between UNECA and IORA on Blue Economy
14. Policy Brief on Harnessing the Blue in Central Africa: Opportunities and Challenges for Blue Growth. Due for publication by end of 2024.

Recommendations from the Blue Economy EGM on 2nd October 2024



Aligned to the efforts of the AU, UNECA recommends that countries establish their respective high level national Blue Economy Coordination and Monitoring Body.



Central African countries need to diversify in blue economy activities. It is recommended to explore beyond oil and gas, and also develop a more structured, sustainable and profitable fisheries sector which will contribute to social development.



Sustainable and climate resilient blue economy requires integration of circular practices.



Countries are encouraged to apply available tools such as the Natural Capital Accounting and the Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit for an improved accounting, planning and development of the blue economy.

Recommendations from the Blue Economy EGM on 2nd October 2024



Selected African countries have experience in sovereign bonds as well as private bonds to raise finance for blue economy projects. Best practice sharing on the process and requirement for the same within Africa is encouraged.



Integration in the carbon market is of great potential for African countries as it is demand-driven given the obligations of industrialised countries, and the comparative conducive landscape of Africa to adopt less polluting innovations.



Blue Economy entrepreneurship highlights the inclusivity of the domain as it fosters empowerment across gender, age, communities etc. The sector has potential to contribute to social development in Africa.

THANK YOU