

GROUP C

OPPORTUNITIES AND POSSIBLE PATHWAYS FOR ADVANCEMENT OF BLUE ECONOMY AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

National:

1. Mozambique: Establishment of the Ministry of Sea, Inland Water and Fisheries that can start the blue economy discussions.
2. Mozambique: National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) is a platform that ensures that development action in natural resources is coordinated.
3. Mozambique: 5 year programme provides for integration of both blue and green economy in all the sectors.
4. Seychelles: Establishment of the Department of Blue Economy to coordinate all activities by all sectors on the ocean resources management. The other departments still maintain their core activities. The challenge is to direct all these programmes to drive national economy e.g. exploration of gas/oil by a specific dept but has to link to the Department of Blue Economy (coordination, synergising and operationalizing)
5. Seychelles: Opportunity to undertake research to identify resources available (natural products, etc.) and what resources can be exploited e.g. the various values of oceans as highlighted in the Ocean Health index.
6. Mauritius has initiated ocean economy.
7. The institutional development for blue economy provides an opportunity for a better understanding of the suite of benefits from marine resources that can fast track development of national economies.
8. Opportunities to develop policy, legislative and institutional frameworks (including capacity building) that is holistic. This will lead to expanded government capacities that will also open up job opportunities and improvement of infrastructure.

Regional:

1. Blue economy will enhance our understanding of the value of our ocean resources beyond GDP
2. Designing communication messages on blue economy in a language that is understandable to policy makers e.g. impact on the national economies and livelihoods. The Nairobi Convention provides the opportunity through COPs where we can regularly communicate to Ministers.
3. SIDS economies are largely ocean based and a valuable opportunity for development of blue economy in the WIO region.

4. The Nairobi Convention to facilitate coordination on blue economy among regional organizations RECs, RFMOs (SWIOFC, SIOFPA) who should be brought on board in the process for a harmonized approach in blue economy and to move together and to assist countries to build capacity for the realization of blue economy.
5. The Nairobi Convention to catalyse multisectoral dialogue including economists, fisheries organisations, extractive industries, etc

POSSIBLE STEPS FOR NATIONAL BLUE ECONOMY POLICY DEVELOPMENT

1. Mozambique: Green Economy Action Plan to be revised to reflect dimensions of blue economy.
2. Sectoral reforms to provide for blue economy to develop at the national level
3. Blue economy should inform the development of the environmental framework
4. The Nairobi Convention to facilitate a regional participatory assessment of the status of blue economy in the WIO region to identify country needs including capacity needs for countries.