

TRADE AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

3-7 October, 2022

9 am – noon EST Daily; 2 pm – 5 pm GMT Daily

Short Course facilitated by

Dr Jan Yves Remy and Dr Andrea Wilkinson



Trade and the Blue Economy

Course Description

The course will explore the origins of the blue economy and the manner in which it is regulated under international, regional and national governance frameworks – including the gaps in regulation/implementation that will allow continued erosion of the natural ocean capital – with a particular emphasis on how the trade context affects and is affected by the Blue Economy agenda. Using case studies, it will also consider how the blue economy and its sustainable development has been and is best integrated into national and regional development plans, identifying best practice and ultimately exploring how best the Blue Economy can yield substantial opportunities and benefits to small island development states, like those of CARICOM.



Rationale

The “blue economy” or “oceans economy” comprises economic activities that directly take place in the ocean and seas or use outputs from the sea for consumption or as a source of income. At its core, however, is the idea of sustainable use of ocean resources. The blue economy has its origins in the “green economy” concept endorsed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and has been embraced by many island and coastal nations as a mechanism to realise sustainable growth. The concept stems from the realisation that, with the extensive marine areas many small island developing states are endowed, the future resource base for such countries is predominantly marine. It also embodies economic and trade activities that integrate the conservation and sustainable use and management of biodiversity. In this regard, the blue economy also supports sustainable livelihoods and food security for island and coastal communities.



Furthermore, Caribbean countries are surrounded by the sea and have jurisdiction over vast amounts of ocean areas that, in many cases, far exceed the land area of the countries themselves. The Caribbean’s significant per capita marine resource base means that the “blue economy” offers the prospect of sustained, environmentally-sound, socially inclusive economic growth and presents many possibilities for trade activities that integrate conservation policies and sustainable approaches to the exploitation of this resource. Reflecting this importance, a number of national, regional, and international policy institutions have established programmes designed to assist governments in understanding and sustainably developing the oceans. For example, in 2013 OECS Heads of Government adopted the Eastern Caribbean Regional Oceans Policy and Action Plan. This regional policy provides a framework that guides the planning and development of marine activities in the Eastern Caribbean region in a rational and sustainable manner.

It is evident that the marine environment can play a significant role in the overall economy of Caribbean countries. With this in mind, this course will seek to offer policy makers, business persons, University students, academics, and the general public the opportunity to understand and think of ways to sustainably develop the Blue Economy in a way that yields maximum trade advantages to the region, while ensuring that the ocean ecosystem services/resource is available to future generations.

Goals of the course:

- Facilitate participants' understanding and tracing of the origins of the blue economy and their exploration of its links to the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Examine the relevant legal and governance frameworks under which the blue economy currently operates/is governed.
- Facilitate participants' exploration of the linkages between the blue economy and trade (at international and regional levels).
- Foster participants' appreciation of the commercial and business opportunities provided for developing countries to sustainably develop the blue economy and share in its resources.

Specific Learning Outcomes/ Objectives

On successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the blue economy, including its current value, and how it is currently regulated internationally and regionally.
- Explain how the blue economy can be successfully developed at the national and regional levels
- Develop the contours of a policy/strategy for the successful development of a particular sub-sector tools of the blue economy.
- Assess the policy and regulatory dimensions that countries must address in order to sustainably develop the blue economy.
- Identify successful national and regional strategies (best practice) for sustainable development of the blue economy (with a particular focus on SIDs and Caribbean economies).



Course Content

- Situating the blue economy in the SDGs: The emergence of SGD 14
- What is the blue/oceans economy?
- Basic principles of the law of the sea under UNCLOS; [how] does the blue economy intersect with the trade agenda
- Measuring the economic and trade value of the blue economy (different methodologies)
- The blue economy governance (traditional oceans governance vs economic and investment governance)
- The trade angle: Key Ocean economy and trade sectors and basic applicable principles under the WTO and UNCTAD work programmes
- The Oceans Economy and SIDS particularities
- Going deeper: best practices of oceans economic strategies and plans
- Special sectoral coverage: Fisheries, renewable energy, transport/ maritime, Blue BioTrade, and coastal and maritime tourism
- Commercial Aspects: Dollars and Sense Issues: EEZ issues etc
- Policy Planning: Developing a strategy for a Caribbean Blue Economy

Teaching Methodologies (including mode of delivery)

The course will be delivered one week and will be entirely online using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous tools and active learning strategies. These include:

Synchronous tools – Zoom

Asynchronous tools - discussion forums

Active learning strategies – presentations, case studies

Reading List

- The Caribbean Blue Economy: Regional Perspectives Edited by Peter Clegg, Robin Mahon, Patrick Mc Conney and Hazel A. Oxenford (Routledge, 2020). Financing the Blue Economy as a regional economic driver: A Caribbean Development Opportunity (Caribbean Development Bank, 2018) Available at: [Financing the Blue Economy: A Caribbean Development Opportunity by Caribbean Development Bank - Issuu](#)
- Toward a Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean Report No.: AUS16344 SEPTEMBER 2016 Available at: [\(PDF\) Toward a Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean | Pawan Patil - Academia.edu](#)
- UNCTAD Oceans Economy and Fisheries Programme. Available at: [Oceans Economy and Fisheries | UNCTAD](#)

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- UNCTAD’s sector definition, indicators and data source for oceans-based sectors for the Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies Project
 - Commonwealth Secretariat. The Blue Economy: From Concept to Reality in the Caribbean Region. Discussion paper for the Caribbean Regional Dialogue with the G20 Development Working Group: Available at: [Microsoft Word - Blue Economy - CLEAN 150328.docx \(blueresources.co.uk\)](#)
 - UNCTAD. The oceans economy: Opportunities and challenges for small island developing states. UNCTAD/DIT/TED/2014/5 (New York & Geneva: United Nations, 2014). p. 2. Available at: [The Oceans Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island Developing States \(unctad.org\)](#)
 - OECS Green-Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan: See for instance: <https://www.caribbeanwideneews.com/2019/08/01/green-blue-economy-strategy-and-action-plan/>
 - The Ocean Economy: trends, impacts and opportunities for a post COVID-19 Blue Recovery in developing countries by David Vivas Eugui, Diana Barrowclough and Claudia Contreras: [The South Centre | Research Paper 137, October 2021](#)
 - UNCTAD Maritime Transport documents: Review of Maritime Transport (<http://unctad.org/RMT>); Maritime country profiles (<https://unctadstat.unctad.org/CountryProfile/MaritimeProfile/en-GB/052/index.html>); Maritime clusters and decarbonization: <https://unctad.org/news/decarbonizing-maritime-sector-mobilizing-coordinated-action-industry-using-ecosystems-approach>
 - [Blue Justice | Too Big To Ignore](#)
 - WTO Fisheries Agreement: available here: <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/MIN22/33.pdf&Open=True>
 - WTO Report: Implementing the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing and Least-Developed Country Members: available here: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/rulesneg_e/fish_e/implementfishagreement22_e.htm
 - Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (2020). “We Are Large Ocean States”: Blue economy and ocean governance in the Eastern Caribbean. OECS Commission, Morne Fortune, Castries, Saint Lucia. See [OECS Publishes Blue Economy Case Study](#)
 - World Bank and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2017. The Potential of the Blue Economy: Increasing Long-term Benefits of the Sustainable Use of Marine Resources for Small Island Developing States and Coastal Least Developed Countries. World Bank, Washington DC. See [The Potential of the Blue Economy: Increasing Long-term Benefits of the Sustainable Use of Marine Resources for Small Island Developing States and Coastal Least Developed Countries \(worldbank.org\)](#)

