

Introduction: oceans and the blue economy

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What is UNCTAD doing?

Supporting developing countries:

- Identify the opportunities and challenges that the growing global ocean economy can bring
 - Ocean trade classification and statistics
 - Intergovernmental forums
 - Oceans and blue bioeconomy research and analysis
 - ❑ Oceans economy
 - ❑ Sustainable fisheries
 - ❑ Regional analysis
 - ❑ Marine plastic pollution
 - ❑ Maritime transportation
- Support national trade and other competent authorities to design and create an enabling policy and regulatory environment that promotes the development and emergence of sustainable ocean economic sectors through the definition and implementation of national and regional oceans economy and trade strategies
 - Projects on ocean economy trade strategies, regional oceans economies, joint action plans on fisheries subsidies

<https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/oceans-economy>

Forward looking insights from ongoing work

New and emerging multilateral norms relevant to the oceans and blue bioeconomy

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement
- Treaty on Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Global Plastics Pollution Treaty

Drivers for the oceans economy and the blue bioeconomy

- Oceans-based economics
 - ❑ Food and non-food production and consumption of ocean resources
 - ❑ Value development, addition and trade in ocean products (seaweed, marine low carbon technology) and services (coastal and maritime tourism, blue carbon sinks)
- Climate change (ocean warming, deoxygenation, acidification, sea level rise, extreme weather events)
- Marine plastics pollution
- Oceans-based energy (tidal, wave, current)
- Marine areas protection and conservation

Forward looking insights from ongoing work

Recommendations

Cluster I

Supporting a sustainable oceans and blue bioeconomy transition

- i. Supporting and enhancing intergovernmental dialogue
- ii. Following up on Oceans Conference commitments and other agreements (e.g. WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, MPSAs, BBNJ, Plastics)
- iii. UNCTAD as a soft law and capacity building trade and development body

Cluster II

Addressing challenges to national capacity to implement sustainable oceans and blue bioeconomy transitions

- i. Creating enabling conditions
- ii. Financing and technology transfer
- iii. Reflecting equity for developing countries
- iv. Value chain/business development/supply chain management, enhancing managerial skills)
- v. Information on sustainable trade of the ocean and blue bioeconomy

Forward looking insights from ongoing work



Expert reflections: oceans and the blue economy

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State of play: oceans and blue economy

- BBT value chain assessment of the conch industry in Grenada , St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines set the basis of additional work in the blue economy
- Also is a great basis for countries/regions to take a proactive stance with regard to the sustainable management of key blue economy resources/species
- There is a need to recognize the true potential of the blue economy and its contribution to or potential contribution to the economies of SIDS.
- Focus on the value chains to identify opportunities and challenges, there is a need for further work/collaborations of this type
- Key “trending” discussions
 - Advancing compliance to international trade in key blue economy resources.

Recommendations going forward

- The UNCTAD/CITES/OECS partnership was a good model to not only assess a value chain, but also to develop practical solutions.
- Therefore a focus on understanding the needs and facilitating the development and implementation of solutions by the stakeholder is key.
- Upcoming Collaboration
 - Blue BioTrade value chain assessment for sea moss (Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia)
- Possible Areas of Future Collaboration
 - Sub-regional management plan for conch (St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada)