



BLUE ECONOMY: SEA SUSTAINABILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global framework for economic growth and sustainable use of resources by 2030. Blue economy by numbers, the United Nations Environment Program estimates that half the world's population lives within 60 kilometers of the sea. They also estimate that three quarters of all large cities are located along the coast. According to the International Maritime Organization, the sea facilitates global trade by: up to 70% by value and up to 90% by volume. The blue economy relates to the sustainable use and conservation of marine and aquatic resources, including: Seas, oceans, lakes, and rivers. Blue economy relates directly to SDG14 and indirectly to many others such as SDG1, SDG2, SDG3, SDG13, and SDG15.

BLUE ECONOMY INCLUDES MANY ACTIVITIES such as fishing, tourism, maritime transport, exploration of natural resources such as gas and oil, as well as emerging activities such as fish farming, extractive activity of seabed minerals and marine biotechnology, as well as other activities. It aims to develop and promote economic growth, fight poverty and improve the quality of life based on the various wealth of the sea with striving for its sustainability and preservation. The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that blue economy industries assure the livelihoods of 660 to 820 million people worldwide. It estimates that women account for about 15% of people directly engaged in fisheries. The World Bank estimates that oceans absorb about 25% of the extra carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere by burning fossil

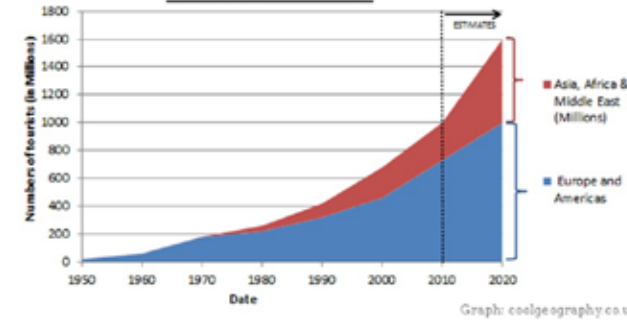
fuels. Oil and gas remain major sources of world energy with roughly 30% of production being offshore.

However, there are regulatory challenges including: lack of shared prosperity weak legal, policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks weak inclusion of those most affected in decision-making processes lack of consideration for ecosystem service values to support sustainable policy decisions. To overcome these challenges and seize growth opportunities, we must allocate more resources to sustainable investment.

ONE OF THE MAIN ADVANTAGES OF THE "BLUE ECONOMY" is the fact that it is a clean and efficient economy that relies on low carbon emissions in various activities. The main motive is to reduce carbon emissions, reduce pollution and make good use of energy resources. Besides the good exploitation of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity and other environmental services provided by the ecosystem.

THE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION can be a major source of new employment opportunities and economic growth. It is considered a new incubator for sustainable growth in Egypt due to the large maritime area extending over four thousand kilometers between the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, as well as the lakes and the Suez Canal. In this frame, Egypt participated in the European Initiative "Sustainable Development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean", among which objectives includes the preservation of the Mediterranean biodiversity; especially with the ecological reports that convey that It has lost about 50% of its biological diversity over the past 50 years.

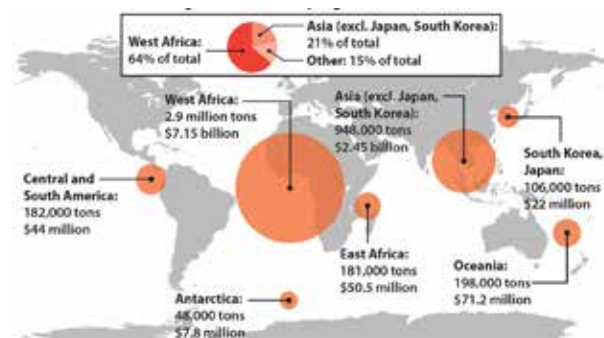
A graph revealing approximate tourist arrivals in millions



https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/western-mediterranean-actions-sustainable-development-blue-economy_en

EGYPT HAS TAKEN GREAT STRIDES IN THE AREA OF DEVELOPMENT associated with the blue economy, since some of Egypt's coastal tourist destinations are considered among the most successful destinations in Sharm El-Sheikh, Hurghada and Marsa Alam having special attractiveness at the global level and generates a large income that contributes significantly to Egypt's national economy. On the other hand, Egypt has adopted a special policy related to the development of fish farming and has established one of the most successful systems in different parts of the country, including the Ghalion Farms in Kafr El Sheikh, which is the real object of integration in this industry. The Development Project of Suez Canal represents a driving force and an integrated example of the Blue Economy, exploiting the potential of the unique marine environment of the Suez Canal, which combines the ecological value of both Seas to create a logistics area with many marine and maritime activities.

https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Events/DakAgri2015/Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_in_the_Context_of_Blue_Economy.pdf



NAFCOAST

NEWSLETTER 1

DECEMBER 2018



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Northern African Countries have long coastal shoreline that is wealthy of natural resources that attract local community and governments to development. Currently there are more than 140 cities distributed on this coastline that accommodate more than 170 Million inhabitants. There is a growing need to maximize the value and benefit of the coastal resources for societal benefits and socio-economic development. This could be through accurate mapping and efficient quantification of the coastal ecosystems and its economic value and at the same time assess the vulnerability status of these ecosystems to both natural and environmental threats.

This project is aiming at developing an operational tool for coastal ecosystems mapping, monitoring and assessment of the North African countries based on time series information that could be easily achieved by earth observation rather than other localized or limited coverage source. The

project will also build synergy and integration for operational services in the northern African region.

However, the overall objective of this project is to strengthen existing northern Africa's capacity to produce and share up-to-date high resolution data and information on the coastal zones in order to develop appropriate services on the coastal ecosystems for social and economic development; there are sounding specific objectives such as:

- To support decision makers in policies and technical services.
- To support stakeholder with timely information on the coastal zones ecosystems.
- To map the coastal ecosystems including physical and biological ecosystems.
- To develop the technical capacity in earth observation use in coastal and marine thematic area among the consor tia and regional stakeholders.



KICK OFF MEETING



“THIS PROJECT IS AIMING AT DEVELOPING AN OPERATIONAL TOOL FOR COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS MAPPING, MONITORING & ASSESSMENT OF THE NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES”



The kick-off meeting of the NafCOAST consortium took place in Cairo, Egypt on 8-9 November 2018. The meeting has been started with a welcome speech from Prof. Mahmoud Hussein, Chairman of NARSS (the lead institute). A brief of the project activities, priority services, data and models needed for the targeted deliverable has been highlighted by Prof. Islam Abou El-Magad, the project PI followed by a presentation from each partner about his perspective and role towards the implementation process. The meeting ended with concrete agenda for the project period. Details and outcomes are to be soon in a special booklet on web.

PROJECT NEWS

- ☐ The technical training “introduction and advanced image processing for partners to ensure high level of obtaining.
- ☐ Information and services from satellite data” will be held on 23/2/2019 to 28/2/2019 in Cairo.
- ☐ Project Geoportal will be launched by the middle of January 2019.
- ☐ Stakeholders Meeting will be held on Tunisia on the first week of April 2019.

EVENTS

1ST FORUM

1

2

EUMETSAT



1ST GMES AND AFRICA FORUM

The 1st GMES and Africa Forum was held in Libreville, Gabon, from 19-23 November 2018. NafCOAST was represented by NARSS, UCD, and Cartologic



13TH EUMETSAT FORUM

NafCOAST was presented in the 13th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 24-28 September 2018

GERMANY

3

4

ISPRA



EUMETSAT TRAINING, GERMANY

The Copernicus and GMES & Africa Expert Exchange workshop was held in Darmstadt, Germany from 13-15 November 2018.



E-STATION TRAINING – JRC ISPRA

The eStation 2.0 on-the-job training was held in Ispra, Italy, from 1 -12 October 2018. The main goal is to work together with staff from RICs on the practical implementation of environmental monitoring services, in the framework of GMES&Africa program.

“THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROJECT IS TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING NORTHERN AFRICA’S CAPACITY TO PRODUCE AND SHARE UP-TO-DATE HIGH RESOLUTION DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE COASTAL ZONES”