



UNDERSTANDING THE BLUE ECONOMY

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ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa		
COP	Conference of Parties		
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa		
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization		
GDP	Gross Domestic Product		
FPAs	Fisheries Partnership Arrangements		
SADC	Southern African Development Community		
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals		
SRO-EA	Sun-Regional Office for Eastern African		
UN	United Nations		
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development		

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Understanding the Blue Economy





The preparation of the “**Rio+20**” United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) was held in Rio de Janeiro, for the period 20-22 June 2012 on development and refinement of the institutional framework for Sustainable Development and Advancement of the “Green Economy”¹ concept it was during this conference that strong opposition was presented to the Rio+20 preparatory process by coastal and island developing countries who felt the Green Economy approach did not apply to their economic situations and development agenda. This led to the advocacy and proposition of the concept of the “**Blue Economy**” approach which has a focus on the relevance of the oceans and seas. The coastal and island developing countries have advocated for the recognition of the Blue Economy and the relevance it plays in development. These countries argue the fact that the Blue Economy offers an approach to sustainable development better suited for their circumstances, constraints and challenges. The Blue Economy encompasses various sectors including Transport, Fisheries and Aquaculture, as well as Tourism. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization FAO, fish provides more than 4.2 billion people with more than 15% of their animal protein intake (FAO, 2014) and about 90% of International trade transportation is done by sea, thus oceans, seas, lakes and rivers play an important role in economic and social development.²

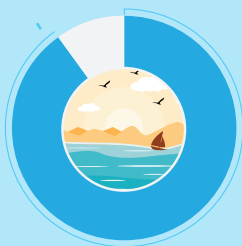
ACCORDING TO



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\$4.2Billion

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1. Green economy is the Rio+20 initiative which aims to improve human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities (UNEP, 2013). It endorses the principles of low carbon, resource efficiency and social inclusion.
2. Africa's Blue Economy: A policy handbook

Africa has not been left behind in harnessing the concept of the 'Blue Economy'; the African Union (AU) is playing a crucial role in the development and implementation of the Blue Economy policy and strategy in the African region. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Sun-Regional office for Eastern African (SRO-EA), held its 19th session of the intergovernmental committee of experts in Madagascar to discuss on how African countries can mainstream the Blue Economy into their National and Regional development plans where applicable. At this meeting, a *policy handbook on Africa's Blue Economy* was adopted; *this policy handbook is a step-by-step guide on how African states can mainstream the Blue Economy for the continent's sustainable development*. In the African context, the Blue Economy covers aquatic and marine spaces, including **oceans, seas, coasts, lakes, rivers** and **underground water**. It comprises a range of productive sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, transport, energy, research and under water mining related activities.

Neighbouring countries to
Zambia that have **access**
to the **oceans**.

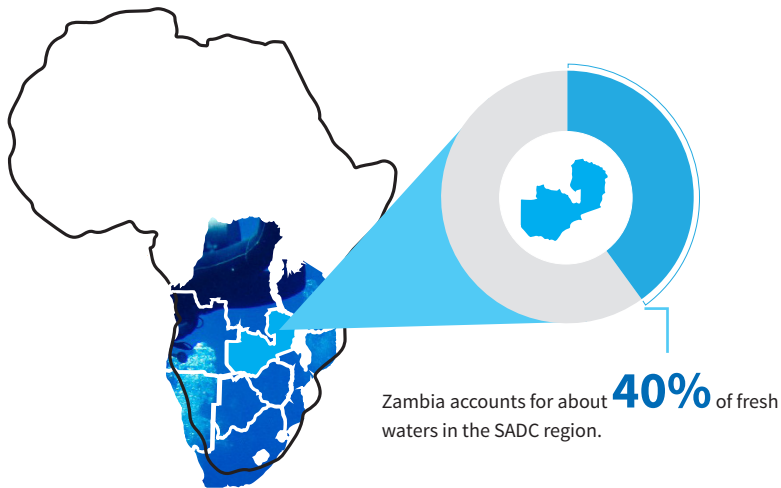


Policy Handbook to guide
Africa's Blue Economy
initiative

It is against this background that Zambia needs to mainstream this concept of the Blue Economy in its policies, national and sub-national plans; in order to benefit from its abundant water resources and those of its neighbouring countries with access to the oceans.

CONCEPT OF BLUE ECONOMY – THE ZAMBIAN CONTEXT

Despite being a landlocked country, **Zambia accounts for about 40% of fresh waters in the SADC region**. Although fresh water is regarded as a renewable resource (can be replenished by rains), there is need for sustainable water resource management practices. Water is a critical resource for sustained livelihood; it cuts across social and economic sectors such as nutrition, agriculture, tourism and energy. The concept of the Blue Economy in Zambia provides an opportunity for the country to exploit the potential that exists in sectors such as aquaculture, fisheries, tourism, power generation and renewable energy.



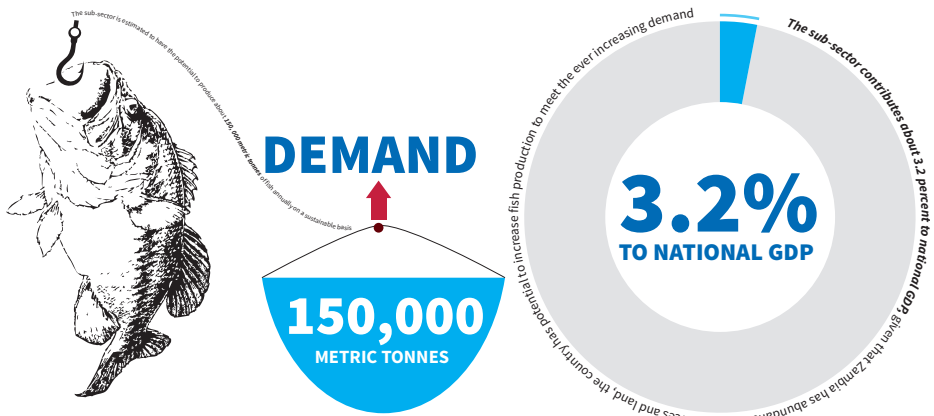
OPPORTUNITIES OF THE “ZAMBIAN” BLUE ECONOMY

The Blue Economy can be used as a mechanism to support sustainable development in Zambia; it is a mechanism that has come at a time when Zambia has an agenda to attain middle income status by 2030³ with the support of various policies and plans both at national and sub-national level. In addition, Zambia is a signatory to global and regional protocols and agendas, among them the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), COP 21 on climate change and the African Union Agenda 2063 which provides for various opportunities on how the country can benefit from the Blue Economy. In order for Zambia to harness and benefit from the Blue economy, it has to develop a clear roadmap within its various policies and plans with a clear focus on the following;

3. Vision 2030

1. ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

To reduce vulnerability from reliance on copper and increase the proportion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) derived from the water/marine sector, Zambia has to harness the most important sectors contained in the Blue Economy such as harvesting of aquatic resources which include fishing and aquaculture. Fisheries offer immense potential for diversification, gainful employment and poverty reduction. The fisheries sub-sector also provides business opportunities in aquaculture and related industries in the value chain. The fisheries sub-sector plays an important role in the economy of the country through the provision of employment, income generation, and contributing to food and nutrition security. **The sub-sector contributes about 3.2 percent to national GDP** and given that Zambia has abundant water resources and land, the country has potential to increase fish production to meet the ever increasing demand for fish protein. This demand for fish provides an opportunity for Zambia to expand its fish production and productivity which will have a multiplier effect on employment and business opportunities to many Zambians. The sub-sector is estimated to have the potential to produce about **150, 000 metric tonnes** of fish annually on a sustainable basis⁴.



Aquaculture is a relatively new enterprise in Zambia, and is faced with low production and productivity for up to 13% of the total fish production in the country. This has forced the government to embark on an aquaculture development and promotion initiative. It is through this initiative that the country can harness the guidelines provided for in Africa's Blue Economy Policy Handbook to maximise the benefits of the subsector and related activities in the value chain.

4. Second agricultural policy

2. COMMERCE AND TRADE IN AND AROUND THE OCEAN AND RIVERS

Through the Blue Economy, Zambia can be able to boost its trade through the oceans and rivers which are important sectors of the Blue Economy. As a member of the United Nations (UN), Zambia can benefit from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to boost its commerce and trade using the ocean and rivers despite being a landlocked country. The Convention provides “*rights of access to the sea and transit to what it defines as land-locked states*”. It further states that “*coastal states can facilitate these rights through effective transit agreements with landlocked states in order to reduce the costs of trade and increase their participation and benefits from the Blue Economy*”.

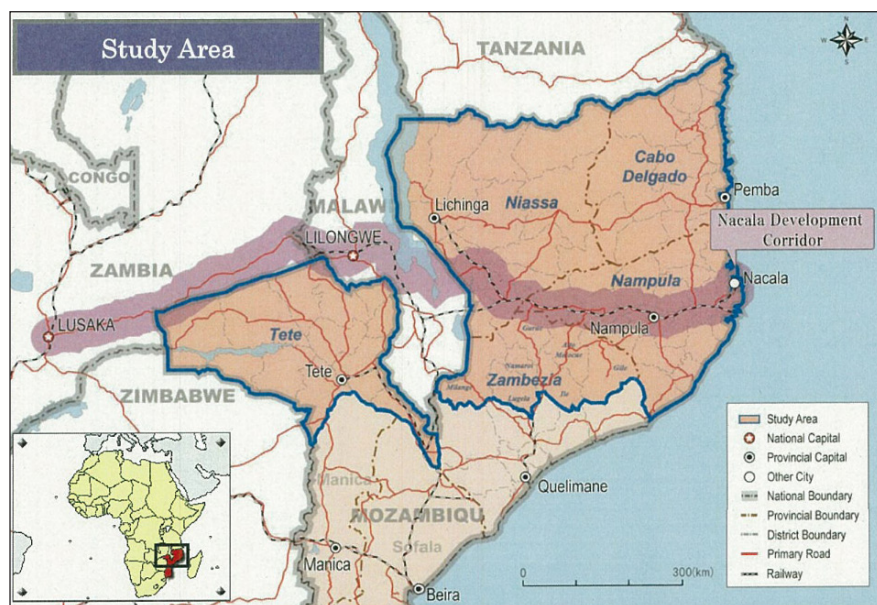
LANDLOCKED AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The landlocked countries in Africa are: **Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.**



In addition, the Blue Economy is at the centre of the AU's Agenda 2063, at which it was unanimously declared to be **“Africa’s future”** and recognized as a catalyst for socio-economic transformation. In July 2015, the African Union launched the African Decade of Seas and Oceans 2015–2025 to rally action on the Blue Economy and an Integrated Marine Strategy. The Marine Strategy describes the Blue Economy as the **“New Frontier of African Renaissance”**, by providing an opportunity through which both coastal and landlocked countries could yield mutual benefits for the provision of efficient and co-ordinated services to each other and access to the resources.

Through the Marine Strategy by the AU, Zambia’s trade prospects in the 7th National Development Plan on developing trade corridors will help the country in achieving maximum benefits from international trade. *Examples of these important corridors that Zambia can use to have access to the sea is the Dar-es-Salaam corridor which runs from Mpulungu harbour in Northern Zambia to Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania to transport goods to the great lakes region of East Africa and beyond.* The other important corridor that Zambia can use to benefit from this convention and the Blue Economy is the Nacala corridor; which is a corridor from Zambia through Malawi into Mozambique. **The Nacala Corridor is over 1,000 kilometres and serves Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique** in fostering economic growth and regional integration through reliable, efficient and seamless transport infrastructure. The corridor is connected to a developed deep waters port which has been supporting industrial, agricultural export since 1970s. Therefore, these and other corridors are important aspects of the Blue Economy where Zambia can accrue maximum trade benefits.



Source: PEDEC (Project for Economic Development Strategies for the Nacala Corridor), 2014

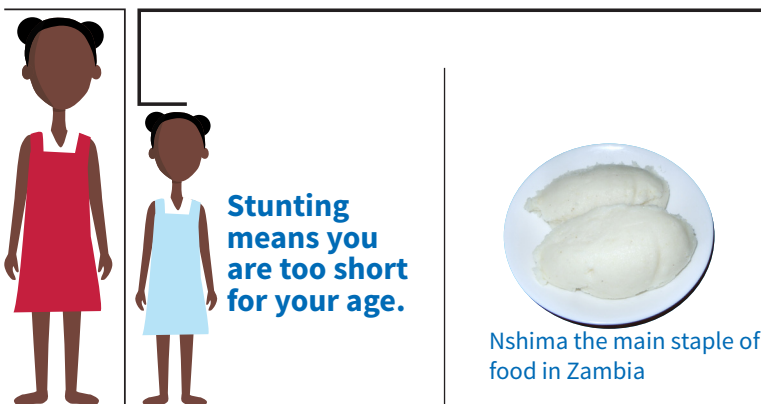
3. CREATION OF JOBS

Unemployment levels in Zambia especially among the youths are high, and there exists an opportunity for enhanced job creation through the Blue Economy within its various sectors such as Tourism and Aquaculture. For example, the fisheries industry in the aquaculture sector, anticipates that there will be jobs generated in fish processing and marketing (participation), which will foster economic and social development of coastal and landlocked countries (transformation). Tourism has been recognised as an economic sector with the potential to contribute to national development and stimulation of economic growth through employment creation and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The Africa Blue Economy Policy Handbook provides for social inclusion in harnessing the concept of the Blue Economy especially for women and other marginalised groups, in relation to economic development, these groups have limited access to employment and financial opportunities. In various Blue Economy sectors, women are directly and heavily involved in post-harvest activities such as marketing and processing. The Blue Economy inclusion notion provides an opportunity for Zambia to include more women in employment and other economic activities. However the effective labour force participation could be the engine that drives the future of the Blue Economy (Africa Blue Economy Policy Handbook).

4. FOOD SECURITY

Despite various interventions by government to improve food security and nutrition such as National Agricultural Policies, National Nutritional Policy and the call for crop diversification through the E-voucher system, the Zambian food system has lagged behind in ensuring food security and proper nutrition. It is a common occurrence that almost half of the Zambian population are hungry at certain times of the year and 40% of children under the age of five suffer from stunted growth which is a manifestation of under nutrition (Central Statistics Office, 2014). However, Zambia is currently implementing



the Second Agricultural Policy which aims at improving the agricultural sector and nutrition. It is through this policy that opportunities exist for improved nutrition through the promotion of diversified diets and the reduction of diets heavily reliant on maize and maize products. One of such opportunities is the promotion of fish protein accounts for 40% of the population's protein intake.

In recent years there has been a decline in fish stocks in the country and an increase in net fish import, due to unsustainable fishing practices and effects of climate change. With the emergence of the Blue Economy, Zambia has an opportunity to replenish its rivers with fish stocks from other countries through existing fishing agreements such as the Fisheries Partnership Arrangements (FPAs), Bilateral Intergovernmental Agreements and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF).

40%

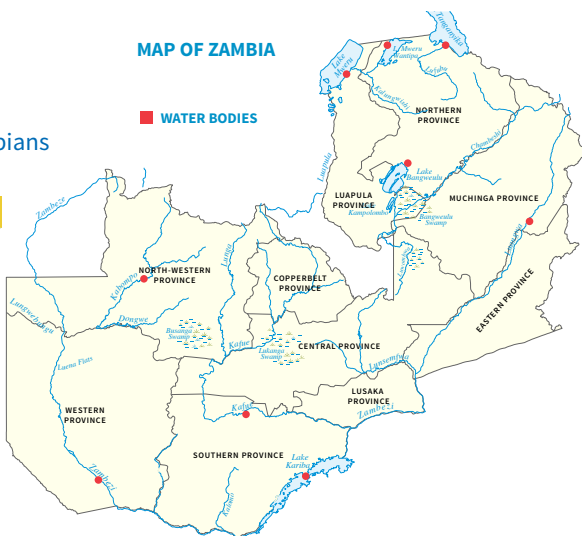
Protein intake among Zambians comes from fish

ZAMBIA'S MAJOR WATER BODIES

Mweru-Wantipa
Northern Province
Lake Tanganyika
Northern Province
Itezhi-Tezhi
Central Province
Lake Bangweulu
Luapula Province
Lake Mweru
Luapula Province
Lukanga Swamps
Central Province
Kafue River
Southern Province
Zambezi River
Western Province
Lake Kariba
Southern Province

MAP OF ZAMBIA

■ WATER BODIES



5. MANAGING AND PROTECTING THE BLUE ECONOMY SECTORS

Oceans, seas, rivers and lakes cover three quarters of the earth's surface, which always creates the false impression that they are limitless resources. This has led to massive overexploitation and degradation of seas, oceans and rivers which has an impact that goes far beyond their shores. The Blue Economy provides for a sustainable and responsible manner in which these resources can be used for the present and preserved for future generations. This aspect of the Blue Economy is provided for in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 14 which refers to ***“conserve and sustainably use the ocean and marine resources for sustainable development”***.

The Blue Economy is interlinked with most of the SDG's in various ways. Blue Economy sectors mainly aquatic and marine resources play a critical role in supporting an array of economic sectors that provide livelihoods and employment opportunities to end poverty (SDG 4 and 8) and SDG 13 which aims at taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. Climate change protocols such as COP21 which is an outcome of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has provided for an establishment of a Green Development Fund that offers an avenue through which States that are signatories to the COP21 can address their perspective development priorities on climate change issues. Benefits that Zambia can accrue from the green development fund are the production of green energy using the Blue Economy resources of rivers and seas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. CREATION AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

In order to benefit from the various opportunities of the sectors of the Blue Economy, Zambia needs to strengthen partnerships which build on existing aquatic and ocean mechanisms that govern the use of seas and oceans such as the United Nation Convention on the law of the sea and the 'Africa for Africa' partnership driven by the AU Agenda 2063.

2. MAIN-STREAMING OF CLIMATE CHANGE INTO THE BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVE

Climate change and environmental mismanagement are a growing threat to the condition and sustainability of the aquatic and marine resources within which the Blue Economy is based. In order to manage the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, Zambia should strive in main-streaming climate change and environmental sustainability into the Blue Economy national initiative as provided for in Regional, Continental and National relevant legislations such as those contained in the COP 21 and Kyoto Protocol⁵. This can be done by the development and actualization of a framework that promotes climate change policies and environmental sustainable infrastructure such as the use of renewable energy technologies.

3. FORMULATION OF A BLUE ECONOMY NATIONAL STRATEGY

In order for Zambia to accrue the benefits that exist in the Blue Economy, there is need to harness and implement the relevant international and regional instruments and protocols related to the Blue Economy by harmonizing their provisions into national legislations. Beyond the mainstreaming of these policies, Zambia can utilize opportunities that come with the establishment of an entity which would advance the adoption of the Blue Economy provisions into national and sectoral development initiatives. To this effect, a national strategy must be created.

5. The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction target, such as reduction in carbon emission.

4. INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY PROTOTYPES

The realization of the full potential of the Blue Economy requires the full participation of all societal groups with different initiatives. This inclusion should mostly be enforced with the full participation of women and youth in the Blue Economy related activities such as fishing, aquaculture and its entire value chain, as well as in Tourism. The inclusion of the youth and women in the development and implementation of the Blue Economy national strategies will contribute to the realization of SDGs related to employment, reduction in poverty and inequality. This inclusion can be through the promotion of equitable benefit sharing throughout the Blue Economy value chain and marketing linkages emerging from it.

CONCLUSION

The integration of the Blue Economy in Zambia's national development initiatives will enable the country enjoy the opportunities that are brought with the implementation of the principles of the Blue Economy. The Blue Economy initiative emphasises the role of regional and sub regional integration in improving development outcomes. With this principle, Zambia will be able to accrue benefits from various initiatives of these regional and sub regional organizations such as SADC, COMESA, AU and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). These organizations have a critical role to play in supporting the Blue Economy and its sectors and are currently working towards the reinforcement of the opportunities of the south-south and triangular cooperation. These are provided for in the Blue Economy principles and are a useful tool for Zambia to address challenges of a landlocked country. Lastly, the success of the Blue Economy is premised on research and development as well as technological advancement especially in understanding climate change impacts on marine resources. This will enable Zambia to benefit from technological advancement, research and development from countries that are already enjoying advancement in science and technology. It is for this reason that Zambia should embrace the Blue Economy principles included in the 7th National Development Plan such as, the development of trade corridors, economic diversification and job creation.

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Unlocking Zambia's Potential

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