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Green Economy in a Blue World

Full Report



GREEN economy in a Blue World



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP coordinates United Nations environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. It was founded as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in June 1972. Its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Achieving food security for all – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives – is at the core of all FAO activities, including for fisheries and aquaculture. FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. Fisheries and aquaculture have the capacity – if supported and developed responsibly – to contribute significantly to improving the well-being of poor and disadvantaged communities. The vision of FAO for these sectors is a world in which responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources makes an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation. The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, in particular, aims to strengthen global governance and the managerial and technical capacities of members and to lead consensus-building towards improved conservation and utilisation of aquatic resources.

International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

IMO is the United Nations (UN) specialised agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships. International shipping is the carrier of world trade, transporting around ninety percent of global commerce. Being an international industry shipping needs a global regulatory framework in which to operate. IMO, with its 170 Member States, provides this framework and has adopted 52 treaties regulating virtually every technical aspect of ship design and operation, the most important of which – concerning the safety of life at sea and the protection of the environment – today apply on ninety-nine percent of the world's merchant fleet. IMO adopts international shipping regulations but it is the responsibility of Governments to implement those regulations. IMO has developed an Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) designed to assist Governments which lack the technical knowledge and resources needed to operate a shipping industry safely and efficiently.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is the United Nations' global development network, an organisation advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 177 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and its wide range of partners. Through its Ocean and Coastal Governance Programme, UNDP is working in cooperation with many other UN agencies, the Global Environment Facility, international financial institutions, regional fisheries organisations and others to improve oceans management and sustain livelihoods at the local, national, regional and global scales through effective oceans governance.

IUCN Global Marine Programme

Founded in 1948, The World Conservation Union brings together States, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership: over 1000 members in all, spread across some 140 countries. As a Union, IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

WorldFish Center

The WorldFish Center an organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture. It is an international, non-profit research organization that focuses on the opportunities provided by fisheries and aquaculture to reduce poverty, hunger and vulnerability in developing countries. The WorldFish Center is one of the 15 members of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a global partnership that unites the organizations engaged in research for sustainable development with the funders of this work. The funders include developing and industrialized country governments, foundations, international and regional organizations.

GRID-Arendal

GRID-Arendal is a collaborating centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Established in 1989 by the Government of Norway as a Norwegian Foundation, its mission is to communicate environmental information to policy-makers and facilitate environmental decision-making for change. This is achieved by organizing and transforming available environmental data into credible, science-based information products, delivered through innovative communication tools and capacity-building services targeting relevant stakeholders.

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www.unep.org/greeneconomy and www.unep.org/regionalseas

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FOREWORD

A worldwide transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient Green Economy will not be possible unless the seas and oceans are a key part of these urgently needed transformations.

The marine environment provides humanity with a myriad of services ranging from food security and climate regulation to nutrient cycling and storm protection. These in turn underpin lives and livelihoods in sectors from tourism to fisheries.

Yet despite this importance, the last three to four decades have seen increasing degradation of oceans as a result of, for example, pollution from land-based sources, overfishing and increasingly, climate change.

This in turn, is threatening the livelihoods of millions of people around the world who depend on these critical ecosystems for their primary source of protein and for job security both directly and indirectly.

With a growing population, set to rise from seven billion today to over nine billion by 2050, these pressures and impacts are likely to intensify unless the world becomes more intelligent about managing these essential resources.

The Green Economy in a Blue World report analyzes how key sectors that are interlinked with the marine and coastal environment – the blue world – can make the transition towards a Green Economy.

The report covers the impacts and opportunities linked with shipping and fisheries to tourism,

marine-based renewable energies and agriculture.

The findings underline that a shift to sustainability in terms of improved human well-being and social equity can lead to healthier and more economically productive oceans that can simultaneously benefit coastal communities and ocean-linked industries.

Many countries are already acting to chart a fresh future for their seas and oceans and adopting the kinds of smart public policies needed to unlock the investments and creative strategies necessary.

The upcoming Rio+20 Summit is an opportunity to scale-up and accelerate these transitions under the twin themes of a Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and an institutional framework for sustainable development.

Both the marine and the terrestrial environments are more than just an economy – they are part of humanity’s cultural and spiritual dimensions. However, through a better understanding of the enormous economic losses being sustained and the enormous opportunities from investing and re-investing in marine ecosystems, perhaps the balance can be tipped away from degradation and destruction to sustainable management for this generation and the ones to come.



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Christian Neumann (GRID-Arendal) has served as the lead editor, has handled most of the peer review process and has written the conclusions; Christina Cavaliere, also GRID-Arendal, has been the editor of the tourism chapter.

Partner organizations

This report is an inter-agency collaboration of the following organizations:

- United Nations Environment Programme
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Maritime Organization
- United Nations Development Programme
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- WorldFish Center
- GRID-Arendal

Please refer to individual chapters for authors, contributors and reviewers.

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