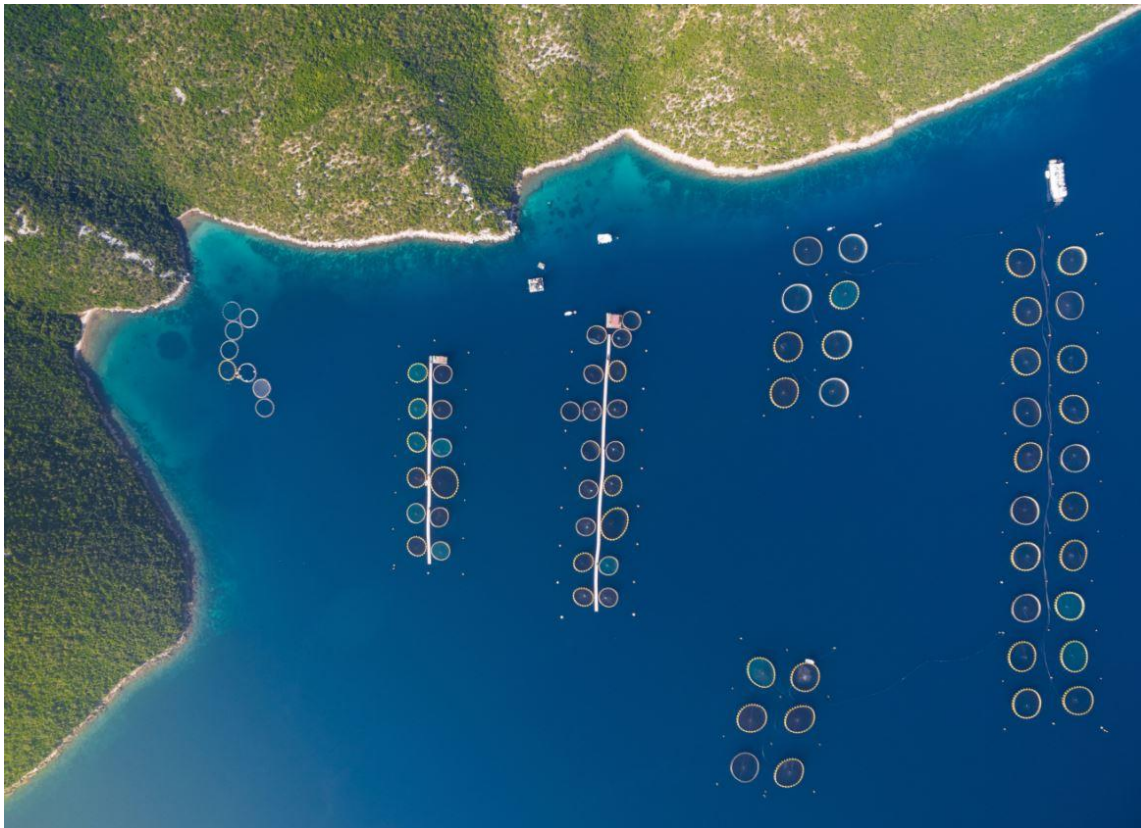


SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

NAIROBI, KENYA, NOVEMBER 26TH-28TH, 2018



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SIDE EVENT - SUMMARY REPORT

THE MODEL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN - THE REGIONAL DIMENSIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY

THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

The first ever global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, co-hosted by Kenya, Canada and Japan, was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26-28 November 2018. The conference had over 18,000 registered participants from 184 countries, including seven Heads of State and Government, 84 ministers, and leaders from a wide range of public and private sectors, NGOs, civil society organizations, and ordinary citizens.

<http://www.blueeconomyconference.go.ke/>

MAIN OUTCOMES

The conference exceeded expectations given the level of engagement as well as meaningful [commitments](#) expressed by governments, public, private and civil society sector partners.

Leaders' Commitments included pledges on:

- Marine protection, €40 million to protect corals and reefs and €60 million for the protection of marine areas in African countries (EU);
- Plastics and waste management, US\$100 million earmarked for better oceans management and against dumping, and US\$200 million over the next four years for the development of initiatives to combat marine litter and microplastics (Norway);
- Maritime safety and security, €250 million for naval vessel replacement and the purchase of two marine patrol aircraft (Ireland);
- €40 million to support aquaculture value chains in African countries (ACP-EU);
- Infrastructure, 600 projects leading to an investment of US\$120 billion (India - Sagarmala Programme);
- Biodiversity and climate change, a US\$10 million investment in the Pacific Initiative for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience together with the EU, New Zealand and Australia (Canada);
- Technical assistance and capacity-building, US\$20 million in increased technical assistance and capacity development in small-island developing States (Canada); and,
- Private sector support, US\$150 million by the Government of Canada and the private sector to build a knowledge-based ocean economy (Canada).

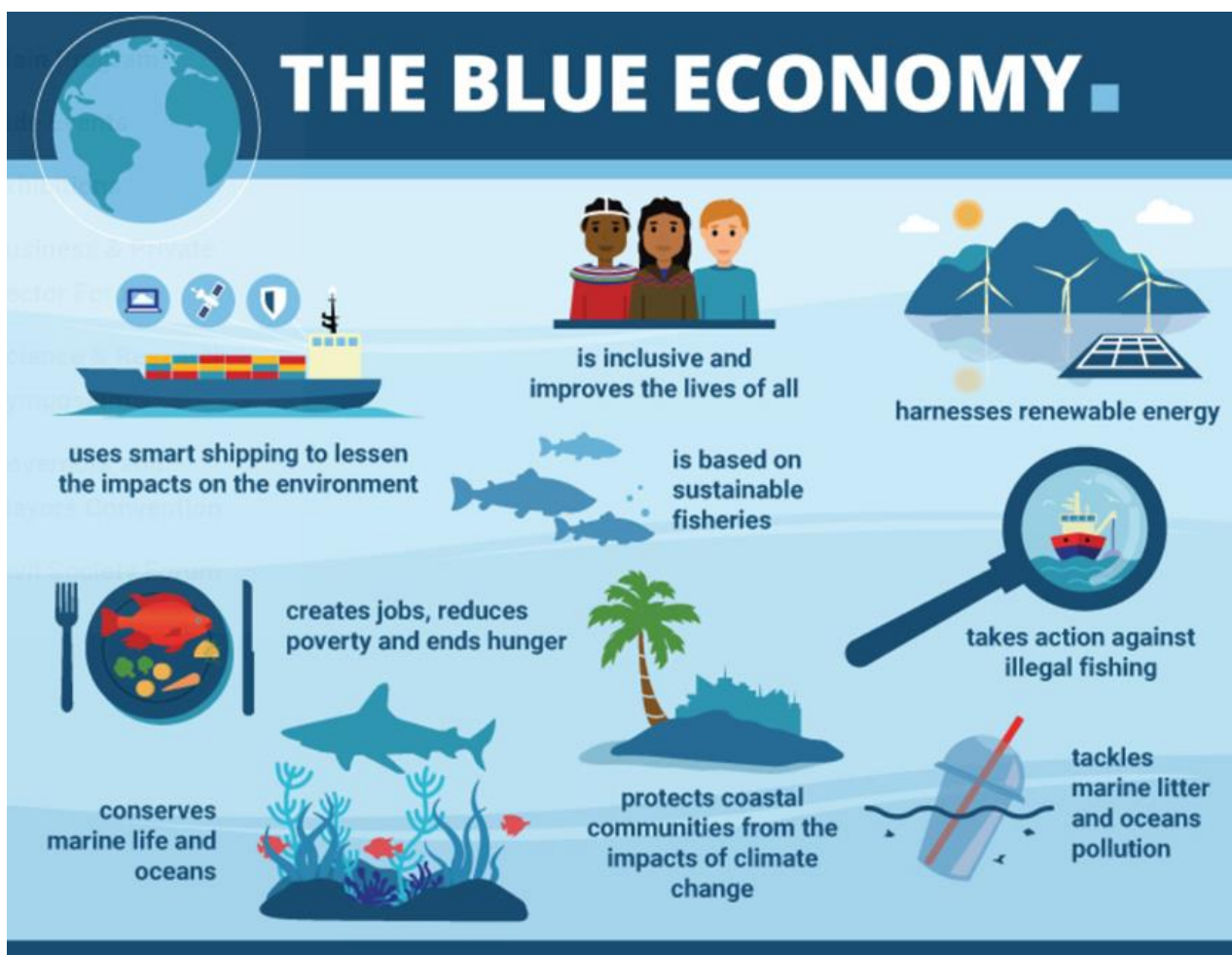
The strong representation from across the Mediterranean region was notable as was the recognition of the need for a new approach to the Blue Economy.

The conference was opened by the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta (see tweets below).



Many news outlets noted the inclusive and strong engagement of governments across the globe with Canada's Prime Minister calling it an example of 'multilateralism at its best' (see tweet below).





Blue Economy Infographics from the Conference (top). The main conference room (bottom)
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THE SIDE EVENT: THE MODEL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN - THE REGIONAL DIMENSION OF A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY

In the framework of the Conference, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat and its Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Centre (UN Environment/MAP) joined hands with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative to organize a side-event entitled “The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: the Model of the Mediterranean”. Held on 28 November 2018, from 09:00 to 11:00 in Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC - Tent C), the side event was opened by the Ag Director of the Ecosystem Division, Ms. Monika Macdevette, who also facilitated the discussion.

The side event aimed to foster improved models of regional cooperation to promote the achievement of a truly sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region. It built on Blue Economy concept implementation in the Mediterranean region and countries, both from the perspective of policy (governance and institutional framework) and from an operational point of view (partnerships, best practices), with a specific focus on Fisheries Co-Management Models and Sustainable Tourism.

Beyond advocacy, communication and experience sharing, the main goals of the discussion were:

1. to strengthen coordinated partnerships among Mediterranean decision-makers and stakeholders from various categories; and,
2. to promote the exchange of best practices at the global and regional levels.

Below are captured key points raised by the speakers and the discussion:

- Blue economy sectors are an important engine in the Mediterranean regional economy, with great potential for innovation and inclusive sustainable development. However, the challenges are great in political, social and environmental terms. It is of paramount importance to gather all economic sectors and concerned decision-makers, at all levels from regional to local, for building an economy that is inclusive, generates jobs/income opportunities, and supports development of coastal communities.
- There is a need to better know the consequences that the economic activities have on the Mediterranean resources and it is of paramount importance to address them fully. Tourism is by far the top economic marine sector in the Mediterranean basin, but the current model risks to compromise the value of the natural capital on which it is based. The fisheries sector is also very important in the region: small scale fisheries represent a source of livelihood for coastal communities.
- There is a strong political will in the Mediterranean to drive the much-needed change in the development model of the region towards a more sustainable and inclusive one. While the Blue Economy is key for improving the livelihoods of the Mediterranean communities, it has to be regulated and controlled by an effective participatory governance given limitations that must be imposed to the ocean

exploitation. This governance framework exists in the Mediterranean, where the institutional and legal basis is robust, in particular in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. The enforcement, compliance and implementation however must be strengthened.

- Ecosystem-based (and participatory) Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) are very important incentives to foster an Inclusive and Sustainable Blue Economy. The Mediterranean countries adopted in 2008 the ICZM Protocol that needs to be fully ratified and implemented regionally.
- Partnership is key, for instance between intergovernmental organizations such as UN Environment/MAP and the Union for the Mediterranean, as well as with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (FAO-General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) and NGOs such as WWF or IUCN. There was a strong convergence of priorities among the organizations gathered in the side event. Partnership with private and financial sector (businesses, banks) is also crucial for achieving a real Blue Economy. The construction of multi-stakeholder synergies and active collaborations across the Mediterranean are strongly needed.
- The regional dimension of Blue Economy is key for the Mediterranean basin: this is the dimension in which the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda translate into action at national and local level. For this reason, cooperation among partners working at all levels is a priority.



Gaetano Leone (Coordinator, UN Environment/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat)



Panelists participating to the side event (top). Paolo Lombardi, Director of WWF Mediterranean addressing the audience (bottom)



Attendees of the Side event (top). Mr John Tanzer, Head of WWF Ocean Practice (bottom)

NEXT STEPS

All partners of the Side Event agreed on the need to further collaborate to foster the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region. Various activities have been proposed, including:

- Organization of further regional joint events to address Blue Economy developments in the region, to be held during relevant regional meetings and conferences. Specifically, coordination will be needed for the organization of Blue Economy related activities leading to the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (COP 21), which will be held in Naples, Italy, from 2-5 December 2019.
- Organization of joint thematic workshops and initiatives aiming to address specific priority issues related to the Blue Economy and promote exchange of best practices. A first workshop will be organized by WWF Mediterranean in the summer aiming to address the issue of the practical implementation of the Sustainable Finance Principles in the Mediterranean region.

All partners committed to improve coordination efforts to achieve more effective regional actions towards the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region.

ANNEX I: INTRODUCTION OF THE SIDE EVENT

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Since ancient times, the Mediterranean Sea has played a key role in the economy of its coastal communities and States. Today, more than ever, the Blue Economy sectors are an important engine for the region's economy, with enormous potential for innovation and for sustainable and inclusive prosperity¹. Ocean-related activities in the Mediterranean Sea represent the fifth largest economy in the region, 20% of the world's annual "Global Marine Product" in an area which makes up only 1% of the world's ocean².

The health of the Mediterranean however is failing due to local stresses, such as habitat destruction, overfishing, and pollution, as well as global forces, such as an unprecedented rise in ocean temperature and acidity. The economic opportunities provided by the Mediterranean Sea are therefore accompanied by an increasing need for new management models that are respectful of its ecosystems, are able to maintain and increase their value over time, and benefit local communities around the Mediterranean. Sustainable conversion of economic sectors that have often adversely affected the health of ecosystems, such as fisheries and coastal tourism, as well as the development of new clean and technologically advanced activities – e.g. renewable energy –, represent important opportunities for innovation and employment for the benefit of the people from all Mediterranean countries. Close co-operation between Mediterranean countries and their stakeholders in the context of existing multi-stakeholder governance frameworks is a condition for realising a common objective: the sustainable use and conservation of our main common resource, the Mediterranean Sea.

International institutions and non-governmental actors such as UN Environment and its Mediterranean Action Plan (UN Environment/MAP), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the European Union (EU), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) and WWF are already working together to coordinate their strategies towards the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the region. A stronger collective effort is necessary to reach the final goal, to further involve governments, businesses, research and education institutions and the civil society, to improve co-operation and think and act in new ways: outside of the sectoral silos, beyond the ministry walls, and across the borders between economic sectors, countries, and issue areas. Now is the time to have everyone on board, pulling in the same direction toward a sustainable future for the ocean and for future generations.

Addressing the need to decouple development and the linear economy, a Sustainable and Inclusive Mediterranean Blue Economy is a low polluting and resource-efficient economy that promotes sustainable development whilst improving human well-being and social equity, generating economic value and employment, and significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, through strong partnerships between maritime sectors, policymakers and all stakeholders towards the sustainable and equitable use of marine and coastal areas and their resources³.

¹ Union for the Mediterranean. 2017. *Blue economy in the Mediterranean*.

² Randone. et al. 2017. *Reviving the Economy of the Mediterranean Sea: Actions for a Sustainable Future*. WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, Rome, Italy.

³ UNEP/MAP. 2016. *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025*

The blue economy allows preserving Mediterranean healthy marine and coastal ecosystems and ensures the continuous delivery of goods and services for present and future generations⁴.

A sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean should:

- Ensure that blue economy investment delivers long-term social and economic benefits while protecting and restoring the diversity, productivity and resilience of marine ecosystems;
- Be based on strong and effective governance that is inclusive, accountable and transparent;
- Be based on active and effective stakeholder participation;
- Promote sustainable use in marine areas through a far-sighted, anticipatory and preventive spatial planning;
- Accounts for ecosystem services and promotes investment in natural capital;
- Reduce the cumulative impacts of human activities on the marine ecosystem;
- Achieve zero carbon net emissions and enhances carbon sinks;
- Be based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows
- Be managed through the implementation of the ecosystem approach and ensure the Good Environmental Status of marine ecosystems

The current and potential future value of the Mediterranean Blue Economy is immense. Only a collective commitment to sustainable development will allow us to approach the challenge at the scale needed.

⁴ Plan Bleu. 2017. *Concept Note of the Conference “Measuring, monitoring and promoting a Blue Economy for a sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region”*, Marseille 30-31 May 2017, p 6.

ANNEX II: SIDE EVENT LEAFLET



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



The model of the Mediterranean

The regional dimension of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy



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Ocean-related activities in the Mediterranean Sea represent the fifth largest economy in the region and 20% of the world's annual "Global Marine Product" (GMP) in an area which makes up only 1% of the world's oceans¹. Today, more than ever, Blue Economy sectors are important engines for the region's economy, with enormous potential for innovation and sustainable and inclusive prosperity².

However, the health of the Mediterranean is failing due to local stresses, such as habitat destruction, overfishing and pollution. The economic opportunities provided by the Mediterranean Sea are closely linked to an increasing need for new management models which respect its ecosystems and are able to maintain and increase their value over time, benefiting local communities.

Continuous dialogue and close co-operation between Mediterranean countries and multi-stakeholder governance frameworks are key conditions to reach a common goal: the conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of the Mediterranean Sea.

The UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention, the Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre, the European Union, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) and WWF are coordinating their strategies and working towards improved cooperation with governments, local authorities, businesses, universities and civil society.

Beyond ministry walls, and across borders between economic sectors and countries, now is the time to have everyone moving together towards a sustainable and inclusive future for the ocean and for the coming generations.

A sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy

A sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy should³:

- ensure that Blue Economy investments deliver long-term social and economic benefits while protecting and restoring the diversity, productivity and resilience of marine ecosystems
- be based on participatory and effective governance that is inclusive, accountable and transparent
- promote sustainable use in marine areas through far-sighted, anticipatory and preventive spatial planning to ensure Good Environmental Status, through the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach
- be based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows and promote innovation and research in all Blue Economy sectors to achieve zero carbon net emissions
- enable the creation of employment opportunities for blue jobs in the marine and maritime sectors.

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¹ Randone, et al. 2017. Reviving the Economy of the Mediterranean Sea: Actions for a Sustainable Future. WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, Rome, Italy.

² Union for the Mediterranean. 2017. Blue Economy in the Mediterranean.

³ Plan Bleu. 2017. Towards a Blue Economy for a sustainable Mediterranean: indicators and recommendations. See also the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (UNEP/MAP, 2016).

Sustainable Blue Economy Conference: Side event

28 November 2018, 09:00-11:00am

Kenyatta International Conference Center (Tent C)

Side event organizer: UN Environment

Partners:

- UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat (MAP)
- Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Mediterranean Marine Initiative of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (Plan Bleu)

Opening speech and moderator: UN Environment Deputy Executive Director, Joyce Msuya

Keynote speaker: Leader of the WWF International Oceans Practice, John Tanzer, to provide a global framework for sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy and to introduce the Mediterranean context

Panel:

- MAP Coordinator, Acting Director and Regional Representative for UN Environment Europe Office, Gaetano Leone
- UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Environment and Water, Miguel García-Herraiz Roobaert
- WWF Mediterranean Director, Paolo Lombardi
- Plan Bleu Director, Elen Lemaitre-Curri

The side event aims to foster improved models of regional cooperation to promote the achievement of a truly sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy. It will build on Blue Economy concept implementation in the Mediterranean region and countries, both from the perspective of policy (governance and institutional framework) and from an operational point of view (partnerships, best practices), with a specific focus on Fisheries Co-Management Models and Sustainable Tourism.

Beyond advocacy, communication and experience sharing, the main expected outcomes are:

1. to establish and strengthen coordinated partnerships among Mediterranean decision makers and stakeholders from various categories
2. to develop new initiatives and collaboration and to promote the exchange of best practices at the global and regional levels.



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