



**COAST REGION**  
**Youth &**  
**BLUE ECONOMY**  
**MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS FORUM**

**PRIDEINN SHANZU BEACH RESORT**

**DECEMBER 2019**

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**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## COAST REGION YOUTH AND BLUE ECONOMY MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS FORUM



## Content Table

### ii Acronyms & Abbreviations

### iii Executive Summary

#### Introduction

- 1 Context
- 2 Overall Objective
- 2 Specific Objectives

#### SESSION I

- 3 Keynote Addresses

#### SESSION 2

- 5 State of Youth and the Blue Economy in Kenya
- 7 Addressing Youth Engagement in the Blue Economy on Matters of Policy Framework
- 8 Employment, Entrepreneurship and Opportunities for Youth in the Blue Economy

#### SESSION 3

- 9 Blue Economy from Coastal Youth and Women Lenses

#### SESSION 4

- 13 Working Group 1: Youth Economic Empowerment & Capacity Building
- 15 Working Group 2: Commercialization: Tourism, Bioprospecting & Fishing
- 17 Working Group 3: Sustainable & Inclusive Education & Research
- 19 Working Group 4: Climate Action, Pollution & Waste Management
- 21 Working Group 5: Sustainable Maritime Transport, Logistics & Security
- 23 Working Group 6: Policy & Regulatory Framework both on Blue Economy and Youth participation
- 24 Summary of Recommendations

#### Conclusion

- 27 Bibliography

#### Appendix

- 28 Appendix A: List of Participating Speakers, Panellists, Moderators & Exhibitionist
- 29 Appendix B: List of Participating Organizations & Institutions
- 30 Appendix C: The FlipFlopi Dhow



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## Acronyms & Abbreviation

<b>BMA</b>	Bandari Maritime Academy
<b>BMU</b>	Beach Management Units
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organization
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>ITF</b>	International Transport Federation
<b>JABEIC</b>	Jumuiya Agribusiness and Blue Economy Investment Conference
<b>KEMFSED</b>	Kenya Marine Fisheries & Socio-Economic Development Project
<b>KES</b>	Kenya Shillings
<b>KFS</b>	Kenya Ferry Services
<b>KICD</b>	Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development
<b>KIE</b>	Kenya Institute of Education
<b>KMA</b>	Kenya Maritime Authority
<b>KMFRI</b>	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
<b>KNEC</b>	Kenya National Examination Council
<b>KNSL</b>	Kenya National Shipping Line
<b>KPA</b>	Kenya Ports Authority
<b>MSC</b>	Mediterranean Shipping Company
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environment Management Authority
<b>NG-CDF</b>	National Government Constituency Development Fund
<b>SBEC</b>	Sustainable Blue Economy Conference
<b>SME</b>	Small and Micro Enterprises
<b>TUM</b>	Technical University of Mombasa
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>WOMESA</b>	Women in Maritime in Eastern and Southern Africa

## Executive Summary

The Coast Region Youth and Blue Economy Multi- Stakeholder Forum held on December 2019 brought together over 80 participants drawn from over 50 State and Non-State Blue Economy actors. The event was graced by Madam Nancy Karigithu, the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Shipping & Maritime Affairs as the Chief Guest of Honour.

The forum purposed to not only build the capacity of youth organizations working in the Blue Economy but also identify and build partnerships that strengthen youth engagement in the Blue Economy with a view of increasing youth access to information and opportunities in the Blue Economy. To this end, the forum was divided into six sessions with the first two dedicated to Keynote addresses and a presentation on the State of Youth and Blue Economy in Kenya respectively.

The third session saw youth groups from the six counties in the Coast Region make presentations on their respective initiative. The central theme from the presentation was on aquaculture where the presenters from Taita Taveta and Mombasa intrigued the audience on how they rely on local kitchen waste as feed for the fish ponds. The Tana River presentation showcased how the establishment of fish markets, good packaging of the products and sustainable fishing practices improved the livelihood of youths in the community. In addition, the presentation from Kwale County highlighted how unplanned development along the beach, establishment of beach hotel sea walls, recreational activities, vegetation clearing and sand harvesting have led to significant erosion of the beach along the Diani shoreline for the past 20 years. Similarly, the presentation from Lamu highlighted the need for sustainable fishing as well as marine conservation to secure resources for posterity.

Panel discussions saw the youths engage panellists from Mombasa & Kwale County Government, KMA, BMA, WOMESA, ITF, TUM, MSC, Seafarers Union, and East Africa Deep Fishing Ltd. Coast Region Youth participation in the various Blue Economy sectors was below par due to various challenges such as access to adequate information, inadequate educational/ skill level, and underdeveloped training institutes.

During the forum, the participants had an opportunity to address the emerging issues from the panel discussion through a working group session. Participants were divided into six core working groups depending on their professional and academic background. The insights from the working group are captured in the incumbent report.

Suffice to say that the multi-stakeholder forum concluded that the youth can be effective agents of change as they possess the energy, knowledge, and talent that can be harnessed. Nevertheless, for the above to be realized, there is need for a paradigm shift in how key Blue Economy related institutions engage the youth.

# Introduction

The East Asia Seas Conference of 2012 defined Blue Economy as a sustainable ocean-based economic model that is largely dependent on coastal and marine ecosystems and resources, but one that employs environmentally-sound and innovative infrastructure, technologies and practices, including institutional and financing arrangements, for meeting the goals of:

- (a) Sustainable and inclusive development;
- (b) Protecting the coasts and oceans, and reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities;
- (c) Addressing water, energy and food security;
- (d) Protecting the health, livelihoods and welfare of the people in the coastal zone;
- (e) Fostering an ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

## Context

Kenya in partnership with the Canadian Government and other partners hosted the Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya on 26-28 November 2018. The conference, brought together 18,810 participants from 184 countries engaging in 300+ events with 200+ speakers. These included; 7 Heads of State and Government(s), 84 Ministers, a number of Heads of International Organizations, Mayors and Governors, the business and private sector, community leaders, the civil society, and women and youth organizations. The theme of the conference was 'the Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' broken down into nine distinct but mutually reinforcing sub-themes. The deliberations of the conference were intended to catalyse unlocking of the full potential of the ocean, seas, lakes and rivers and accelerate economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication.

The Youth Congress, in the run-up to this conference, in partnership with Canadian High Commission and UN-Habitat hosted Youth and the Blue Economy Conference at the United Nations, Nairobi Kenya on 23rd November 2018 that brought together more than 300 delegates from across the country and the region. The theme of the conference was "Enhancing youth participation and access to opportunities in Blue Economy". The conference developed and presented the Youth 'DeclarACTION' on Blue Economy to the Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference and other stakeholders. The Youth Congress subsequently, in partnership with Canadian High Commission and UN -Habitat, hosted 'Pathway to the Blue Economy' on 23-24 May 2019 with the theme "Harnessing economic opportunities for urban youth through innovation". Also The Youth Congress conducted a fact finding and developed a report- from the four counties; Homabay, Kisumu, Kilifi and Mombasa counties to map-out youth initiatives on Blue Economy.

The Global SBEC made recommendations to be implemented to tap into the opportunities in the Blue Economy for economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication, the need to assess the frameworks laid down and the status of the implementation of the recommendation on access to opportunity for youth and women. The conferences by The Youth Congress and their partnership equality have documented youth concerns, demands and aspiration to maximize on opportunities in the Blue Economy that need deliberations and partnerships for the implementations.

There is notable attention, interest and programs on Blue Economy at counties e.g. Mombasa and Kisumu ports, Lake Region Economic Bloc-Lake Region Economic Blueprint and Jumuia ya Kaunti za Pwani. Though this is commendable, the program has not harnessed the creativity, innovativeness, energy, dynamism of young men and women. Lack of access to information and frameworks for youth engagement limit youth contribution and benefit in Blue Economy. Unemployment, poverty and radicalization are still high in these areas. This calls for collaboration among the stakeholder to address the issue.



Part of the delegates with Mrs Nancy Kagirithi, Principal Secretary, State Department of Marine and shipping affairs

## Overall Objective

Enhancing Youth Participation in Blue Economy Initiative by Engaging County Leadership and Supporting Youth-led Ideas in Kenya.

## Specific Objectives

- (a) To strengthen engagement with county governments and Regional Economic Bloc to enhance youth participation in blue economy;
- (b) To increase informed participation and access to opportunities for youth and women on the Blue Economy for development;
- (c) To build capacity of local youth and women organisations working on Blue Economy for economic empowerment and;
- (d) To identify and build partnerships and joint action with like-minded organization and other stakeholders to advance youth and women agenda on Blue Economy.

# SESSION I

## Keynote Addresses

“There is need to unlock Blue Economy to create jobs for the youth. Although there has been notable attention, interest and programmes on Blue Economy in Kisumu ports, Lake Region Economic Bloc-Lake Region Economic Blueprint and Jumuia ya Kaunti za Pwani, there is little good to write home about. The Youth Congress and partners is committed to enhance Youth participation in Blue Economy”

**Raphael Obonyo**

*Convener, The Youth Congress*



The Mombasa County Government is open to partnerships with youth organizations in the blue economy, because we recognize the role young people play in economic growth. Such are the partnerships that the County seeks to use as it puts in place foundations for realizing the Mombasa Vision 2035

**Justina Mwikya.**

*Chief Officer for Youth, Gender & Sports*



“Skills development, that is a function of the government is critical for youth to take advantage of the immense opportunities in the Blue Economy”

**Nancy Karigithu**

*Principal Secretary, State Department of Marine and shipping affairs*



Finally, the conversation has come just in time and at the right place where the heart of Blue Economy is - Coast Region.

Young people are still not aware of what this blue economy has in store for them; we seek to change this and create that much needed space for young people to thrive for sustainable development.

The Youth Congress pledges to champion the devolution of the Blue Economy knowledge.

**Gloria Elizabeth**

*Coordinator, Coast Region  
The Youth Congress Network*

“With the staggering numbers of unemployed youth in the Coast Region, harnessing blue economy offers a myriad of opportunities. The County government is committed to support young people and to enable them access opportunities in the vast blue economy sector”

**Hassan Ali Joho**

*Governor, Mombasa County*



## Summary of issues

Youth play a central role in the actualization of the growth and development of the Blue Economy in Kenya. Participating in Blue Economy forums presents an opportunity for the youth towards creating solutions on the prevalent problems in the society with an approach of enhancing participation in the sustainable exploitation of coastal and marine resources. With the above in mind, there is need for adequate feasibility studies to quantify the opportunities available on the Blue Economy and whether they are viable and profitable.

The strategic location of Kenya in the maritime geographical map makes it very possible for the country to be a super logistics hub in the maritime industry. As a result, jobs created by such a hub will be done by the youths with hands-on skills.

## SESSION 2

### State of Youth and the Blue Economy in Kenya

The session was in the form of a presentation by Dr. Elisha Mrabu of KMFRI.

Youth play a central role in the actualization of the growth and development of the Blue Economy in Kenya. Participating in Blue Economy forums presents an opportunity for the youth towards creating solutions on the prevalent problems in the society with an approach of enhancing participation in the sustainable exploitation of coastal and marine resources. With the above in mind, there is need for adequate feasibility studies to quantify the opportunities available on the Blue Economy and whether they are viable and profitable.

The strategic location of Kenya in the maritime geographical map makes it very possible for the country to be a super logistics hub in the maritime industry. As a result, jobs created by such a hub will be done by the youths with hands-on skills.

Youth have actively taken part in efforts to do with climate action as an angle towards participating in the Blue Economy. For example, the **Mikoko Pamoja Project** and the **Vanga Blue Carbon Projects** focuses on carbon trading and involve the youths in the community adjacent to the mangrove ecosystem to conserve their mangroves and in turn, earn from the project. The money accrued from the projects (approx. KES 1 million and KES 3 million respectively) helps to support community projects hence improving the living standards and alleviating poverty. The community works closely with KMFRI who in turn quantifies the amount of carbon a mangrove ecosystem can hold in one hectare, then it is pledged and priced to the world. The local people at Gazi commit to maintain the integrity of mangroves for them to benefit from the carbon

trade. As a result, those who emit carbon voluntarily pay for their emissions through carbon credits and the money goes to the community which conserves the mangroves.

There is need for the Youth to understand what the Blue Economy entails; instead of approaching the blue economy on a broad scale, the youths should figure out how they can scale down the blue economy. Such a scaling down approach entails the Youth seeking to invest into the Blue Economy with as little as KES 20.00 as opposed for waiting for KES 100,000.00.

The County Government of Mombasa has taken the lead role in enabling the Youths in engaging in fishing expeditions in the ocean by the provision of 28 high-density fibreglass boats.

Youth successful participation in the Blue Economy is hinged on their ability to apply their skill sets and not necessarily possession of a university certificate. Parents need to appreciate their chil-

dren's talents and not force them into taking courses in a university for the sake of it. In this regard, there is need to enhance and support technical and vocational training (plumbing, carpentry and electrical etc.) to help the youth since these skills are what the shipping industries are looking for.

The National Government has identified 13 sectors in the Blue Economy that have 87 job descriptions. For instance, seaweed farming is easy to establish and highly demanded in the global market. Youths need to step up and grab these opportunities, be aggressive in seeking of relevant information from the Maritime offices which can position them to benefit from blue economy. Youths to volunteer as a way to position themselves to get jobs in the shipping and maritime industry. Moreover, youths need to cultivate self-discipline and embrace self-development as the genesis of positioning themselves to tap job opportunities in the maritime and shipping industry.

**Over three billion people depend on marine & coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods.**





### Addressing Youth Engagement in the Blue Economy on Matters of Policy Framework

The session was in the form of a panel discussion comprising of Madam Justina Mwikya (Mombasa County Chief Officer for Youth, Gender & Sports), Madam Grace Sheti (Representative of Kwale County Government), Mr. Geoffrey Mwangi (Chairman of the Board of KMA), Madam Fiona Mbandi (Chairlady of WOMESA), Madam Betty Makena (Representative of ITF), and Mr. Ismail Mboya (Lecturer at the TUM). The session was moderated by Mr. Evans Gachie.

Below were the key messages from the session.

- Enhancing proper understanding on the opportunities in the blue economy entails engaging individuals who are make crucial decisions that could have an impact to the youths and women as far as the blue economy is concerned;
- In Kwale, extensive tourism ventures, annual cultural activities and beach sport events organized by the county government readily engage the youths making them tap into the blue economy;
- The County Government of Kwale also provides funding opportunities for various groups that are ready to undertake projects and businesses in line with the blue economy such as the Kibuyuni Sea Weed Group;
- TVET training programs, where women and youths are nurtured, mentored and absorbed in the job market or supported to start their own businesses in the line of blue economy are an integral educational policy that enhances awareness on the Blue Economy;
- The establishment of Bandari Maritime Academy and linking it up with international agencies provides splendid opportunities for the youths;
- The Kenya Maritime Authority is looking towards the establishment of a maritime fund which will support entrepreneurs in the field of maritime ventures such as procurement of boats;
- The Kenya Maritime Authority was found to be ineffective in its framework of consultations with the common Wananchi in the coastal strip of Kenya;
- WOMESA purposes to enable inclusivity of women in the blue economy, in line with maritime ventures through capacity building, mentorship and empowerment programs and;
- There is need for the institutions of higher learning to offer courses in the Blue Economy so as to empower and position the youths and women in the right position to take up the opportunities in the blue economy.

### Employment, Entrepreneurship and Opportunities for Youth in the Blue Economy

The session was in the form of a panel discussion comprising of Captain Ali Ahmed (Representative of the Board of BMA & MSC), Mr. Daudi Hajj (Chairperson of Seafarer Union), and Madam Naomi Tororei (Managing Director of East Africa Deep Fishing Ltd.).

The session was moderated by Madam Gloria Elizabeth.

Below were the key messages from the session.

- Key stakeholders in the blue economy need to work in collaboration in order to take deliberate measures geared towards including the youths and women in blue economy;
- Many youth in Kenya who want to venture into nautical studies and other professional fields in the maritime industry have been blocked out since they do not have sufficient sea time experience;
- Lack of a fishing institute in Kenya was detrimental to the growth of the fishing industry as fishermen rely on outdated fishing equipment which results to yields which cannot match the prospects of the blue economy;
- The opportunities in deep fishing cannot be tapped by Kenyan youth and women since they are not trained to handle deep sea fishing ventures;
- Youth need to be proactive on education and skill development geared towards blue economy for them benefit from the opportunities;
- Youths wishing to work in a ship must endeavour to go through BMA since it is the institution that is recognized nationally and internationally in maritime studies and;
- Seminars and such forums need to provide feedback after a certain duration to the audience involved so as to be able to track the progress of the issues that were deliberated upon.



# SESSION 3

## Blue Economy from Coastal Youth and Women Lenses

Presentations were made by Mr. Mohamed M. Ali (Kikozi Programme Group), Mr. Swaleh M. Said (Delta Fishers Co-Operative Society Ltd.), Ms. Patricia C. Mwashighadi (Mwatate Sub-County Youth C.B.O), Ms. Pamela Odhiambo (Research Partners For Africa), and Ms. Sada Swaleh Gowa (Shining Farmers).

The session was moderated by Mr. Charles Waweru.

Understanding the current status of the youth and women in the coastal region from the perspective of blue economy requires the demonstration of undergoing projects and activities in line with the Blue Economy. Presentations were made in the forum to show some of the youth initiatives along the coastal strip which are in line with the Blue Economy.

### Lamu County – Kikozi Programme Group

The organization sensitizes the community on sustainable fishing practices which do not destroy the coral reefs in Lamu. The program also provides savings and credit facilities to youth which enable other youths such as the Lamu boat operators to develop themselves in terms of starting and running small and medium enterprises. The organization also facilitates ecotourism ventures associated with the mangrove ecosystem in Lamu such as apiculture and boat riding and kayaking in the mangrove channels.

One key challenge facing the organization is the destruction of fishing grounds and insufficient fishing fleets in Lamu. Lack of alternative sources of livelihoods in Lamu has forced the communities to cut mangroves for their livelihood. Nevertheless, the group has identified opportunities in line with Blue Economy such as water sports, ecotourism, cultural exhibitions, and boat riding. As a result, the organization endeavours to support small scale fisher folks through improving the fishing gears and creating linkage to the fish market by enhancing fish value chain.



### Tana River County – Delta Fishers Cooperative Society Ltd.



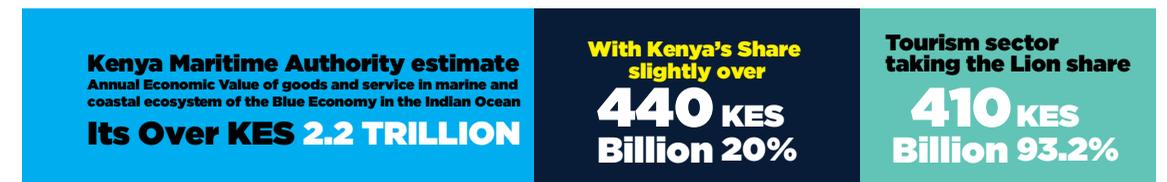
The main aim of the organization is to improve the living standards of its members through market establishment of marine fish, octopus, shrimps and tiger prawns, good packaging of the products and enabling efficient and sustainable fishing practices in the Tana Delta.

### Taita Taveta County – Mwatate Sub-County Youth CBO



The organization does civic education, aquaculture, waste management and tourism. Despite the fact that Taita Taveta does not have the ocean, youth groups taps into the Blue Economy through Lake Jipe, Lake Chala, dams, and rivers which has diverse aquatic resources.

Specifically, the group has mudfish projects in the dams as well as agribusiness aquafarming in Lake Chala and Lake Jipe, fish ponds for tilapia. The group uses locally available foods from algae and organic waste to feed the fish in their ponds. The group also engage schools in planting trees to protect the environment.





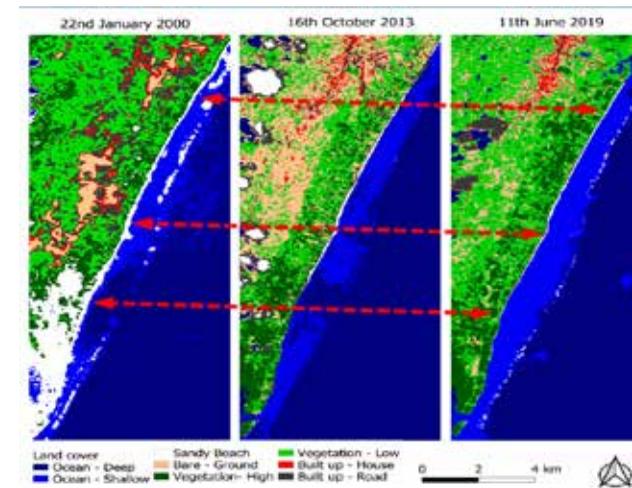
### **Kwale County – Research Partners for Africa**

The organization focus on smart and practical research to inform sustainable management of coastal and marine resources hence contributing to the blue economy. The presentation focused on beach degradation on the Diani shoreline as a result of human activities from 1999 to 2019.

The study found that unplanned development along the beach, land use changes (establishment of beach hotels and sea walls), recreational activities, vegetation clearing (exposing the shoreline to natural sand erosion) and sand harvesting have led to significant erosion of the beach along Diani shoreline for the past 20 years.

### **Mombasa County – Shining Farmers**

Youth group composed of ladies working in Likoni sub-county, Shining Farmers, presented on their start-up. The group engages in mudfish aquaculture. The main challenge facing the group is adequate financing to upscale their project. Moreover, the group called for capacity building on aquaculture with a view of spreading the knowledge beyond Likoni.



Beach degradation on the Diani Shoreline as a result of human activities from (1999-2019)



Aquafarming by Mwatate Sub-County Youth CBO



## **Building Youth and Women Voices on Matters of the Blue Economy**

The forum convened a working group session based on the thematic areas of the Blue Economy below. Each working group presented their deliberations at the end of the session.

- (a) Aquaculture
- (b) Bioprospecting
- (c) Carbon Sequestration
- (d) Coastal Tourism
- (e) Conservation
- (f) Fishing
- (g) Maritime Biotechnology
- (h) Marine Tourism
- (i) Maritime Transport
- (j) Mineral Resources Extraction
- (k) Policy Making
- (l) Renewable Energy
- (m) Security & Inspection
- (n) Ship Building & Repair
- (o) Waste Management

# SESSION 4

## Working Group 1

### Youth Economic Empowerment & Capacity Building

#### Background

The focus of the session was primarily on creating sustainable, environmentally-friendly jobs in the blue economy sectors towards poverty eradication. Issues that featured in the discussions include: appropriate training for careers in the blue economy sectors; and, mainstreaming women and youth in blue economy sectors.

#### Objective of the Working Group

1. Identify untapped opportunities for youth which can be leveraged to sustainably provide decent work and create wealth within the blue economy;
2. Discuss challenges and make proposals for attracting the right labour force for highly qualified technical positions in the blue economy and;
3. Identifying the existing gaps in knowledge and skills and ways of bridging them.

#### Challenges

1. Bureaucracy, corruption, and nepotism stifles youth participation in the general Kenyan economy;
2. Inadequate publishing of County and National Government Blue Economy related programs and events on designated websites;
3. Youths' admission into County and National Government Blue Economy related programs and events such as #SBEC2018 and #JBEIC is often challenging if not impossible especially for youths who are not connected to the system;
4. Youths lacked adequate guidance on matters of the Blue Economy including the thematic areas, dynamics, and how best one may indulge themselves in the economy;
5. Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) lacks the capacity (youth officers) to reach out to interested youths from across the Coast Region;
6. Youths from around the Coast Region such as those from Mtongwe Village cited lack of adequate awareness on modern fish farming techniques that would yield better results;
7. Youths from the region are interested in the Blue Economy but lack access to guidance, skills training;
8. Peer pressure on Coast Region youths inhibits their focus on nurturing aspirations, talents, and skills on matters of Blue Economy;
9. Some youths are still interested in white collar jobs due to their perception that careers in the Blue Economy are either too costly and technical to learn or that the return on their skills investment is too little;
10. Youths from the Coast Region may be skilled in certain areas of the Blue Economy albeit lack verifiable and certified documents to prove competency;
11. Youths from the region often lack job specialization and instead like to be Jack of all trades thus losing out on the benefits of job specialization;
12. Potential Blue Economy employers stipulate stringent job experience for consideration for employment into their firms;
13. High cost of Occupational Safety & Health certification hinders youths from poor economic backgrounds from venturing into careers in the Blue Economy;
14. Available opportunities on various areas of the Blue Economy are not published on easily accessible platform hence hindering interested youths from participation;

15. Youth aspiring to join the shipping industry need good presentation and communication skills within the broader framework of possessing a good spoken and written English. Those speaking extra foreign languages such as German, Chinese, French and Spanish have an added advantage to be absorbed in the job market especially at Mediterranean Shipping Company;
16. Absence of outreach programs that highlight the benefits and dynamism of the Blue Economy inhibits potential youths from future engagements and;
17. Interested youths lack adequate financing to take up entrepreneurial endeavours in the Blue Economy sectors.

#### Moving Forward

1. County and National Government need to undertake comprehensive civic education, within the framework of outreach programs, on the thematic areas, benefits and dynamism of the Blue Economy;
2. Stakeholders (both public and private) in various fields of the Blue Economy should organize workshops at the Ward level for dissemination of skills to youths engaged in various areas of the Blue Economy. For example:
  - (a) Wavuvi Association could undertake a workshop, in conjunction with private fishing companies, with a view of imparting sustainable fishing techniques on the youth and;
  - (b) Kenya Maritime Authority, Seafarers Union, and WOMESA, could undertake a workshop on Occupational Safety & Health certification pro bono for youths interested in sea faring Blue Economy opportunities;
3. Increased facilitation for the setting up of fish ponds at the grassroots village for youth communities interested in aquaculture;
4. Creation of a Special Purpose Fund for financing entrepreneurial youths into areas of the Blue Economy;
5. County and National Governments need to enhance the publication and access to information on opportunities on the Blue Economy;
6. County and National Government needs to enhance the Eat More Fish Campaign launched by H.E President Uhuru on 19th November 2019 with a view of generating a market for fish products in the country;
7. County and National Governments need to publish information on programs and events on Blue Economy related activities on designated websites and;
8. Youth need to consider volunteering and internships in CBOs and SMEs as a means of building their knowledge, skills and experience with a view of becoming "market ready".

#### Commitments

1. The County Government purposed to provide an additional 50 high-density fibreglass boats to the youths and BMUs to enhance their capacity to engage in fishing;
2. The County Government of Mombasa purposed to provide cold storage facilities to mitigate the risks of post-harvest losses due to high temperatures;
3. The County Government of Mombasa purposed to develop policies on water transport with a view of creating an enabling environment for economic opportunities for the youth;
4. The County Government of Mombasa purposed to strengthening the social enterprises (in mangrove conservation and waste management initiatives) to increase the youth participation in the Blue Economy and;
5. The British Council and the Aga Khan Foundation are targeting to mentor and support 250,000 coast-based youths who are active in social enterprises;

## Working Group 2

### Commercialization: Tourism, Bioprospecting & Fishing

#### Background

As the world continues to focus on the development of the Blue Economy for sustainable growth, coastal and lake facing cities continue to attract more population, tourism activities as well as other infrastructural developments. The session focused on how the youth can fully participate in the commercialization of the Blue Economy.

#### Objective of the Working Group

1. To share ideas on sustainable planning for youth participation in tourism and fishing;
2. To discuss effects of development of coastal cities on youth how to involve them in the planning process and;
3. To discuss practical solutions to the current sector challenges.

#### Challenges

1. Youths shun fishing as an economic activity due to an urban mentality that the economic activity is unsustainable;
2. Youths lack access to research findings on how to best gain from modern fishing and bioprospecting techniques;
3. Youths engaged in fishing activities use archaic fishing gear that yield little results;
4. Youths currently engaging in fishing activities use small sized fishing boats that lack the capacity for deep sea fishing and are prone to capsizing;
5. Peer pressure moves youths into participation into negative marine tourism activities such as beach boys & girls as it is seen as a shortcut to success;
6. Youths need facilitation to learn foreign language to enhance participation in marine tourism;
7. High capital investment required for youth seeking to engage in marine tourism transport in the form of floating boats and;
8. Foreign trawlers are accused of unsustainable fishing practices with Kenya Maritime Authority silent on the same.

#### Moving Forward

1. Wasini and Funzi Island provide adequate infrastructure for youths to engage in marine tourism;
2. Opening of new tourism routes for tourist floating boats such as from Mombasa to Wasini would create job opportunities and;
3. Stakeholders such as the Wavuvi Association and Kenya Fisheries Service need to consider setting up of a fish training institute to impart modern and sustainable fishing practices on interested youth.

#### Commitments

1. The World Bank, through the State Department of Fisheries & Blue Economy and Kenya Fisheries Service, purposed to grant KES 4.96 billion to the County Governments of Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, and Lamu for the purposes of supporting the Kenya Marine Fisheries & Socio-Economic Development Project (KEMFSED) whose purposes is to enable the region obtain the maximum and sustainable economic benefit from coastal and marine resources.



Delegates deliberating on Tourism, Bioprospecting & Fishing

**Kenya's Indian Ocean marine asset base has a revenue potential of about**

**240 Billion  
KES Per Annum**

## Working Group 3

### Sustainable & Inclusive Education & Research

#### Background

Education and research play a critical role in generating knowledge, information, technologies, and innovation. The development of a sustainable Blue Economy requires evidence-based science to inform policy and strategy formulation and implementation. In this regard, the youth with interests in Blue Economy education and research needs to be adequately guided by educational and research stakeholders with a view of both acquiring and developing knowledge on the same. Understanding the modulus operandi of these stakeholders is essential for the youth.

From an educational point of view, KMA enforces national and international maritime training and certification for both land and sea-based courses within Kenya. In response to the shortcomings that the Authority observed in the existing maritime training programs in the country characterized by un-harmonized content that vary in time, relevance, and coverage, KMA developed the Maritime Transport Logistics (MTL) curricula at Certificate and Diploma level. A National Seafarers Training Curriculum developed in partnership with the KICD, KIE, KNEC, and TVET is in place to train maritime workers.

The premier public research institution responsible for research into marine life is KMFRI. The mandate of the state corporation is to undertake research in marine and freshwater fisheries, aquaculture, environmental and ecological studies, and marine research including chemical and physical oceanography, to provide scientific data and information for sustainable exploitation, management and conservation of Kenya's fisheries and other aquatic resources, and contribute to National strategies of food security, poverty alleviation, clean environment and creation of employment as provided for under Vision 2030.

#### Objective of the Working Group

1. Discuss ways to bridge knowledge and information gaps on the Blue Economy;
2. Review the contribution of academia and research in sustainable Blue Economy;
3. Share emerging challenges hindering the growth and development of sustainable and inclusive education and research into the Blue Economy;
4. Establish possible areas synergies in education and research with regards to sustainable Blue Economy and;
5. Establish networks, partnerships and collaborative programs between youth initiatives and State and Non-State Blue Economy actors.

#### Challenges

1. General public lacks adequate knowledge on the marine environment thereby are more prone to pollute and engage in unsustainable economic activities;
2. Youths are not entirely familiar with the instructive courses that one needs to pursue at centres of higher education for entry into certain careers of the Blue Economy;
3. Dredging along the Kenya Coastline results in silting that in turn hampers underwater marine research;
4. Youths are unable to engage research findings from KMFRI projects as the reports lack substantive findings that can make impactful outcomes. Reason behind KMFRI's research outcomes is inadequate and delayed funds from the National Government;

5. Youths graduating from various Blue Economy related courses lack industry-oriented knowledge that allows them to interact at a work setting comprehensively;
6. Youths find the Blue Economy related centres of education as too bureaucratic hence un conducive for learning;
7. Youths have questioned the pedagogy of Blue Economy related courses in some of the institutions in the Coast Region;
8. Educational and regulatory institutions such as the National Environment Management Authority are known for their notoriety in failing to respond to e-mails and tweets on matters revolving their mandate;
9. Research institutions fail to go back to the site where data was collected and inform the community on the research findings thus making the local communities unfriendly to future research initiatives in the same location;
10. Youth CBOs wishing to undertake research projects find it difficult to secure partners and finances;
11. County Governments fail to engage research institutions on Blue Economy related research projects from the launch of the project and instead only engage the researcher upon conclusion of projects;
12. Youths often request for financial compensation whenever researchers engage them at the village level and
13. Youths in certain parts of the Coast Region were found to be uninterested in the research outcomes and instead cash handouts during the project data collection phase.

#### Moving Forward

1. Need to nurture interest on Blue Economy on the youth from early childhood years thereby ensuring interest and basic knowledge on the same is developed and acquired;
2. National Government need to ensure timely disbursement of funds to research institutions such as KMFRI to enhance the research methodology of projects;
3. Research institutions need to develop robust strategy for resource mobilization that does not focus on National Government financing;
4. Research institutions need to publish completed research projects on matters to do with the Blue Economy and;
5. Project research outcomes need to be packaged in such a manner that the local communities can interact with its contents;
6. Departments of the County Governments responsible for Blue Economy activities need to work towards enhanced collaborations between the devolved units and research institution.

#### Commitments

1. The County Government of Mombasa is seeking collaboration with KMFRI to undertake marine spatial ventures to understand the suitability lenses of the Mombasa ocean resources with the aim of restoring areas which have been degraded while understanding the potential areas for exploitation;
2. The Bandari Maritime Academy purposes to aid graduates secure sea time upon completion of their theoretical training;

## Working Group 4

### Climate Action, Pollution & Waste Management

#### Background

The world's aquatic ecosystems provide a wide range of resources and services. They contribute to the livelihoods of humankind and socio-economic development around the world. It is from this that the session brought together youths to address challenges affecting maximum utilization of aquatic ecosystems while safe-guarding the environment.

Climate crisis has a very significant impact on the progress of the Blue Economy by increasing the cost of food production and reducing biodiversity. Therefore, protecting and conserving the environment should be part and parcel of the blue economy initiatives, especially when everyone in Kenya wants invest in the Blue Economy.

The reality of climate change is evident through the irregular rainfall patterns and high heat intensities. Furthermore, the main driver of climate crisis to be human activities such as combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation.

Marine pollution through plastics is a major concern. However, if we approach the problem as an opportunity to tap into the blue economy, then we will find solutions and benefit.

In a nutshell, human activities contribute to climate change and pollution of marine and other aquatic resources. This shrinks the potential of blue economy resources to contribute to economic growth and regulation of the environment.

#### Objective of the Working Group

1. To create understanding on how blue growth and blue economy approaches can be used to promote sustainable use of aquatic life through youth engagement;
2. To map out strategies for the youth in the effectively supporting ocean-related education and raising awareness of the natural and cultural significance of marine life;
3. Discuss the impact of climate change and pollution on the blue economy resources;
4. Propose concrete actions the youth can use to mitigate marine and aquatic pollution and
5. Explore ways the youth may collaborate with stakeholders in promoting productive and healthy Blue Economy resources.

#### Challenges

1. Sections of the Kenya coastline that function as public beaches (such as those in Mombasa and Watamu) are heavily polluted with plastics and other forms of litter discarded after human activities thus jeopardizing the maritime & costal tourism that is heavily depended by youths;
2. High coastal temperature increases the risk of fisheries' post-harvest losses thus reducing the economic empowerment of youths engaged in fishing;
3. High coastal temperatures results in coral bleaching of the fish habitat thus jeopardizing fish harvest for youths engaging in fishing activities in the affected areas;
4. Proposed Lamu coal plant may have undesirable impact on the Lamu marine ecosystem and would inevitably jeopardize the maritime & costal tourism that is heavily depended by youths;

5. Reclamation of ocean land such as at Kibarani threatens the marine ecosystem as well jeopardises turning Mombasa island into a peninsula thereby making the island loose its protected island status with the United Nations as well as jeopardizing the maritime & costal tourism that is heavily depended by youths;
6. Corrupt County and National Government officials are known to issue title deeds and permits for construction of buildings in close proximity to the Indian Ocean resulting in destruction of marine ecosystems and jeopardizing maritime & costal tourism that is heavily depended by youths;
7. Climate change factors such as sea level rise, increased storminess, altered precipitation regime and increasing temperature are negatively impacting the mangrove ecosystem along the Kenya Coastline and thus present an existential crisis for youths relying on the mangrove forest as a source of economic empowerment and;
8. Unprotected mangrove forest in coastline such as that at English Point Marina are being illegally deforested thus affecting the communities relying on the ecosystem for economic empowerment.

#### Moving Forward

1. County and National Government need to undertake extensive civic education on the need for waste management at the Kenyan coastline;
2. High post-harvest losses of fish can be combated through innovations from KM-FRI where solar energy is used to dry harvested fish in Lamu and Kipini to lengthen the shelf life of fish harvested;
3. Stakeholders need to engage the youths in mangrove tree planting along the coastline that would in turn aide in protecting coastlines from flood-causing storm waves;
4. Youth CBOs need to be trained on mangrove tree planting and other marine ecosystem conservation techniques;
5. Cancellation of proposed Lamu coal power plant;
6. County and National Governments need to consider stringent policies that would protect the coastline from plastics and other forms of litter discarded after human activities;
7. Youth needs to increase the frequency of beach clean-ups both at an institutional and individual level to protect the coastline and in turn reap economic benefits from its tourist attraction capabilities;
8. County and National Government need to consider financing youth CBOs on undertaking extensive beach clean-up activities;
9. Plastics collected from coastline can be recycled and turned into a marine vessel such as FlipFlopi (measuring 10 metres in length and 7 tonnes in weight) and used as a means of sensitization on the need to stop polluting the ocean environment;
10. Youth need to galvanize and advocate for the ban of single use plastic bottles along the coastline;
11. Youths need to create more awareness on ocean pollution through making of videos and sharing them through social media and as well as television broadcast houses and;
12. Stakeholders need to sensitize companies that use single use plastic bottles on the need to cease its manufacturer and instead switch to glass bottles as is the case at Pride Inn Shanzu Beach Resort.

#### Commitments

1. Youth CSOs pledged to enhance their beach clean-up initiatives through partnerships across youth networks and State actors and;
2. Youth initiatives led by Big Ship CBO pledged to champion planting of mangroves along the coastline.

## Working Group 5

### Sustainable Maritime Transport, Logistics & Security

#### Background

In recognition of the immense contribution from maritime transport in the global economy, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development places the role of seaborne trade as a catalyst for sustainable and inclusive development. Youth participation is central to the long term success of the sector. The session endeavored to address how the youth can best participate in the sector.

Moreover, a safe and secure maritime domain is essential for international sea borne trade, job and wealth creation as well as sustainable utilization of blue economy resources.

#### Objective of the Working Group

1. Map out opportunities for the youth in maritime transport, logistics and security;
2. Develop measures for integrating the youth into mainstream maritime transport sectors;

#### Challenges

1. Inadequate conceptual understanding of the dynamics and demands of maritime transport to youths from the Coast Region;
2. Inadequate provision of facilities and skills training to youths in maritime transport & security as evidenced by challenges in undertaking maritime search, rescue, and salvage;
3. High capital investment required for setting up a maritime transport & logistics firm implies interested youths might be locked out from establishing entrepreneurial ventures on the same;
4. Nepotism and corruption locks out trained and deserving youths from gaining employment in the sector;
5. Youths were denied an opportunity to enlist with the recently established Kenya Coast Guard Services during its formation;
6. Inadequate investment by County Governments in the training and provision of youthful lifeguards at public beaches (such as Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach) and public marine vessels (such as those operated by the Kenya Ferry Services);
7. Inadequate navigational skills renders youths operating passenger dinghies in places such as Funzi & Wasini Island are open to dangers of getting lost at sea due to strong tides;
8. Youths operating passenger dinghies to Funzi & Wasini Island lack adequate finance for the continued repair and maintenance of the boats for commercial purposes and;
9. Youths working as coxswain on dinghies operating at Funzi & Wasini Island lack institutional training and certification that would add value to their years of apprenticeship training on the skills.

#### Moving Forward

1. Development of proposals to respective NG-CDF committees to consider provision of bursary for youths seeking education in maritime transport & logistics;
2. Maritime transport and logistics State and Non-State actors need to enhance provision of internship to youth graduates in the respective field;
3. National Governments needs to enhance transparency on the recruitment of youths in the Kenya Coast Guard Services;

#### Commitments

1. WOMESA committed to provide guidance and relevant information for the youths who have hands-on skills and would like to be on board in the ships and;
2. KMA to increase awareness and availability of seafarer training.



Delegates deliberating on Sustainable Maritime Transport, Logistics & Security

**Kenya- Somalia**  
Maritime boundary dispute is approximately  
**100,000 sq km**  
Purported to have a  
**total capacity**

**100**  
**Billion**  
Barrels Oil deposits

## Working Group 6

### Policy & Regulatory Framework both on Blue Economy and Youth participation

#### Background

With the growing rate of unemployment amongst the youth population, there is need to identify institutional policy gaps with a view of developing recommendations towards how best to address challenges to youth engagement in the Blue Economy industry. In this regard, there is need for a robust legal framework that creates an enabling environment for effective youth participation in the Blue Economy sustainably.

#### Objective of the Working Group

1. Exchange ideas on how to grow a people-centred sustainable blue economy including through policy frameworks and;
2. Discuss legal and institutional frameworks needed to address challenges to youth engagement in the Blue Economy industry.

#### Challenges

1. Lack of an national career interest database for youths either in the Blue Economy or those who wish to pursue a career on the same implies that resource allocation into the sector is based on speculative data;
2. High cost of registration of a marine vessel, (US\$ 1,000.00) hinders capacity of youths and youth groups to own boats to venture out seeking opportunities on the Blue Economy;
3. Youths are not familiar with the National Government initiative of sponsoring youths to undertake courses on the Blue Economy;
4. Blue Economy related boards such as Kenya Maritime Authority, Kenya Ports Authority, and Kenya Ferry Services lack adequate representation by youths;
5. Youths are not represented at the Blue Economy Implementation/ Standing Committee hence denying youths the opportunity to offer insights on how best the National and County Governments can relate with the youths vis-à-vis the Blue Economy;
6. High regulatory fees on the management and maintenance of marine vessels hinders capacity of youths and youth groups to own boats to venture out seeking opportunities on the Blue Economy;
7. Inadequate engagement with the youths on Blue Economy regulatory matter such as the re-establishment of the Kenya National Shipping Line;
8. Vague government framework on the provision on internship opportunities for youths at Blue Economy related agencies such as Kenya Maritime Authority, Kenya Ports Authority, and Kenya Ferry Services;
9. Lack of transparency on the resource allocation on the revamping of interest in various sectors of the Blue Economy;
10. Kenya lacks a special purpose fund that goes towards aiding youths interested in engaging in entrepreneurial areas of the Blue Economy;
11. Need for clear operational policy for the Kenya Navy and Kenya Coast Guard Service on how to engage with Kenyan fishermen and boat operators stranded within Kenyan waters. The said agencies are accused of neglecting stranded Kenyan youths who get lost during economic pursuits in the deep sea;
12. Inadequate financing of government sponsored exchange programs for youths in the Blue Economy and;
13. The Kenya National Shipping Line is yet to fully undertake its mandate thereby denying interest youths an opportunity to try its potential opportunities.

#### Moving Forward

1. Government policy on equipping TVETs with Blue Economy courses needs to be complemented with adequate awareness to the youths on what they stand to gain from undertaking courses on the Blue Economy;
2. Establishment of Blue Economy Careers' Centre, modelled like the Huduma Centres, for generation and dissemination of Blue Economy related information;
3. Need to make it conducive for the private investment sector such as banks to develop special purpose financial products for youths to pursue their interest in the Blue Economy;
4. National Government needs to ensure the Kenya Coast Guard Service is adequately equipped and staffed in a professional manner to enable it discharge its legal mandate and;
5. National Government needs to operationalize the Kenya National Shipping Line and ensure it is effective in rolling out its mandate as per the Merchant Shipping Act 2019.

#### Commitments

1. WOMESA committed to provide guidance and relevant information for the youths who have hands-on skills and would like to be on board in the ships;

## Summary of Recommendations

1. County and National Government and Non-State actors need to undertake comprehensive civic education, within the framework of outreach programs and enhanced access to information, on the thematic areas, benefits and dynamism of the Blue Economy;
2. Creation of a Special Purpose Fund (through a Public-Private Partnership) for financing innovative and entrepreneurial youths into areas of the Blue Economy;
3. Youth need to consider volunteering and internships in CBOs and SMEs as a means of building their knowledge, skills and experience with a view of becoming "market ready";
4. The National Government needs to increase investment into Blue Economy infrastructure and educational training institutions through Public-Private Partnerships;
5. National Government need to ensure timely disbursement of funds to research institutions such as KMFRI to enhance the research methodology of projects;
6. Research institutions need to publish completed research projects (in such a manner that the local communities can interact with its contents) on matters to do with the Blue Economy;
7. Stakeholders need to increase their engagement the youths in conservation efforts, such as beach clean-ups and mangrove tree planting along the coastline, that would in turn aide in protecting coastlines from flood-causing storm waves;
8. County and National Governments need to consider stringent policies that would protect the coastline from plastics and other forms of litter discarded after human activities;
9. Youths need to create more awareness on ocean pollution through making of videos and sharing them through social media and as well as television broadcast houses;
10. Maritime transport and logistics State and Non-State actors need to enhance provision of internship to youth graduates in the respective field;
11. Government policy on equipping TVETs with Blue Economy courses needs to be complemented with adequate awareness to the youths on what they stand to gain from undertaking courses on the Blue Economy and;
12. Establishment of Blue Economy Careers' Centre, modelled like the Huduma Centres, for generation and dissemination of Blue Economy related information.



PARADISE  
CONVENTION CENTRE

# ***Participants***

## Conclusion

The youth forum was the first one ever in the Coast Region, addressing blue economy as far as women and the youths are concerned. Young people are on the move as far as changing lives in the society is concerned. Youths need to continue building one another in terms of the positives and creating positive impact in the society. Youths are vibrant to the extent that they are even helping the government in doing most of community related activities such as waste management and sanitation. Despite the fact that young people have opportunities, youths have to be responsible if they want to create a positive impact in their lives. Moreover, young people should refrain from the attitude of complaining on what is not working. Instead, young people should aim at solving the problems which are prevalent in the society.

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## Appendix

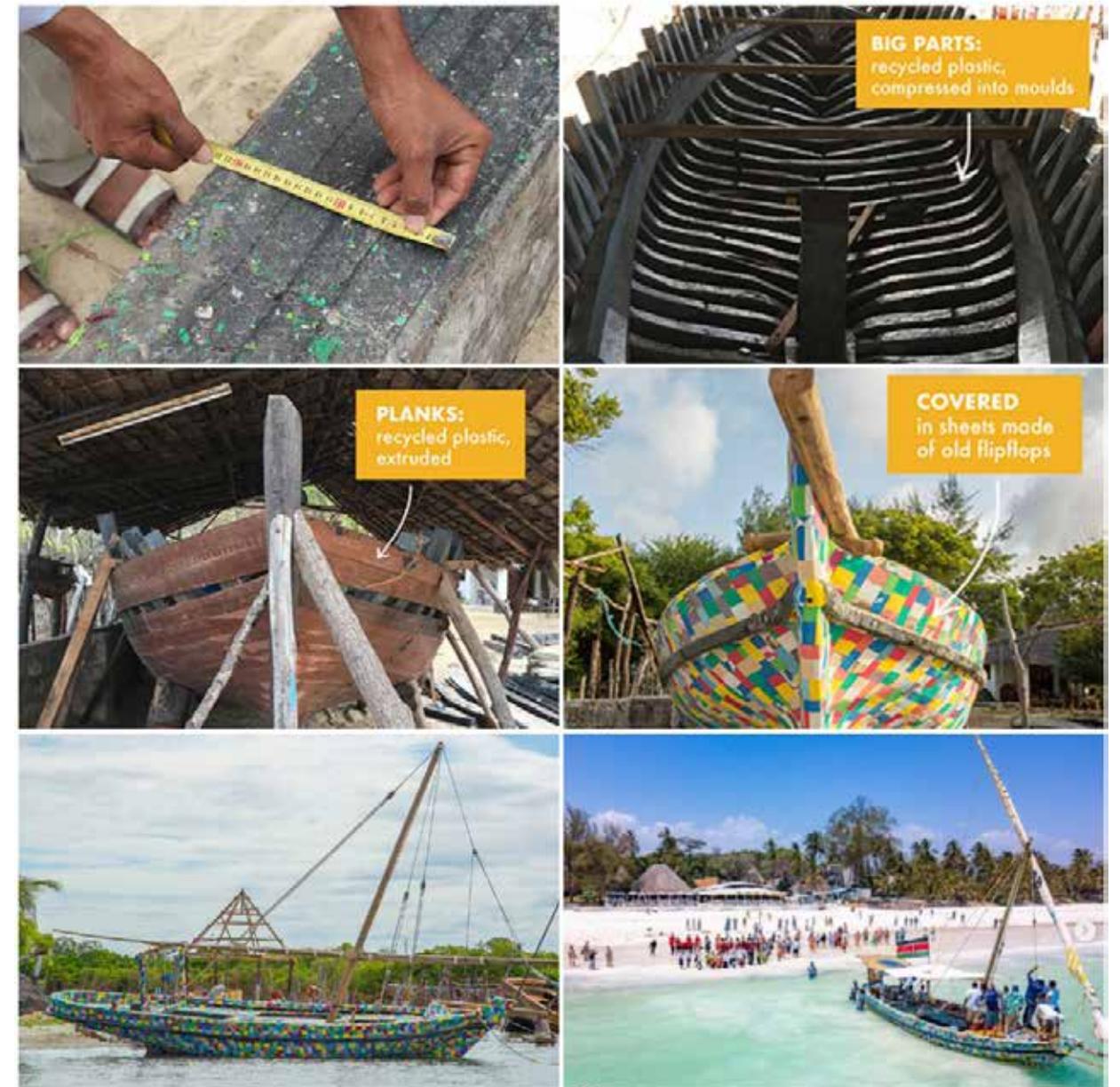
### Appendix A: List of Participating Speakers, Panellists, Moderators & Exhibitionist

Name of Participant	Institutional Affiliation
PS Madam Nancy Karigithu	State Department for Shipping & Maritime Affairs
Mr. Raphael Obonyo	Convener – The Youth Congress
Ms. Justina Mwikya	Chief Officer – Youth, Gender & Sports (Mombasa County)
Mr. Goeffrey N. Mwango	Chairman of B.O.D. – Kenya Maritime Authority
Madam Fiona Mbandi	Chairperson – WOMESA
Dr. Elisha Mrabu	Research Scientist – Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute
Mr. Ismail Mboya	Lecturer - Technical University of Mombasa
Mr. Daudi Hajj	Chairperson – Seafarers Union
Madam Naomi Tororei	Managing Director – East Africa Deep Fishing Ltd.
Madam Betty Makena	Representative – International Transport Federation
Captain Ali Ahmed	Representative - Mediterranean Shipping Company
Madam Grace Sheti	Representative – Kwale County Government
Madam Gloria Elizabeth	The Youth Congress
Mr. Charles Waweru	The Youth Congress
Mr. Evans Gachie	Program Director – Coast Citizen's Council
Mr. Levis Sirikwa	Aquablue Kenya
Mr. Mohamed M. Ali	Kikozi Programme Group – Lamu County
Mr. Swaleh M. Said	Delta Fishers Co-Operative Society Ltd. – Tana River County
Ms. Patricia C. Mwashighadi	Mwatate Sub-County Youth C.B.O – Taita Taveta County
Ms. Pamela Odhiambo	Research Partners For Africa – Kwale County
Ms. Sada Swaleh Gowa	Shining Farmers – Mombasa County

## Appendix B: List of Participating Organizations & Institutions

Name of Organization	Area of Operation
The Youth Congress	Kenya
State Department for Shipping & Maritime Affairs	Kenya
County Government of Mombasa	Mombasa County
County Government of Kilifi	Kilifi County
County Government of Kwale	Kwale County
Kenya Maritime Authority	Kenya
Kenya Ports Authority	Kenya
Kenya Ferry Service	Kenya
Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute	Kenya
Kenya Revenue Authority	Kenya
Wavuvi Association	Kenya
Mombasa County Senator's Office	Mombasa County
Changamwe Constituency Office	Mombasa County
Technical University Of Mombasa	Kenya
Moi University	Kenya
Bandari Maritime Academy	Kenya
Kenya Coast National Polytechnic	Kenya
WOMESA	East Africa
Seafarers Union	Kenya
National Museum Of Kenya	Kenya
Family Bank Limited	Kenya
Big Ship CBO	Coast Region
Raise Officials Kenya	Mombasa County
AnalyticaKE	Coast Region
Kikozi Program Group	Lamu County
Delta Fishers Co-Operative Society	Tana River County
Mwatate Sub County Youth CBO	Taita Taveta County
Research Partners For Africa, Kenya	Coast Region
Shining Farmers	Mombasa County
Radio Salam	Coast Region
WWF Kenya	Kenya
Doshi Group	Kenya
Blesses Ladies Youth Bunge	Mombasa County
Fadlcarda Foundation	Mombasa County
Bunge La Wananchi Mikindani	Mombasa County
Deep Blue Youth Enterprise Kenya Ltd	Mombasa County
Songa Pamoja Youth Movement	Mombasa County
Future 4 Hope	Kwale County
Vanga Blue Forest CBO	Kwale County
Unicorn CBO	Mombasa County
Aquablue Kenya	Mombasa County
Humanyane CBO	Mombasa County
Mombasa West Mazingira Alliance	Mombasa County
Centre For Development And Peace	Mombasa County
Pearl Fish Co Ltd.	Mombasa County
Elimu Resource Centre	Kilifi County
Mombasa Youth Network	Mombasa County
Mombasa Youth Assembly	Mombasa County

## Appendix C: The FlipFlopi Dhow





## Contact

P. O. Box 44427 00100 Nairobi Kenya  
Tel: +254 799 863 696/ 0770 254 864  
Email: [info@theyouthcongress.org](mailto:info@theyouthcongress.org)  
[www.theyouthcongress.org](http://www.theyouthcongress.org)