



The **Youth**
Congress

LAKE REGION
Youth &
BLUE ECONOMY
MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

GRAND ROYAL SWISS HOTEL, KISUMU

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LAKE REGION YOUTH AND BLUE ECONOMY MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

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Acronyms & Abbreviation

BMU	Beach Management Units
CBO	Community Based Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EAC	East African Community
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
KES	Kenya Shillings
KICD	Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development
KIE	Kenya Institute of Education
KMA	Kenya Maritime Authority
KMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
KNEC	Kenya National Examination Council
KPA	Kenya Ports Authority
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
LVHD	Low Volume High Density
MT	Metric Tonnes
MTL	Maritime Transport Logistics
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
SGR	Standard Gauge Railway
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Acknowledgement

The Youth Congress appreciates hundreds of young people who showed interest through application to participate and thousands who participated in the forum through the online platforms.

We are grateful to the planning committee in Kisumu under the able leadership of Benard Nyadida and other members that included; Linda Essendi, Caroline Odera, Laura Jean-Louis, Robert Adungo among other committee members. We acknowledge the contribution of Millicent Olango and Charles Waweru the Rapporteurs of the forum.

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Executive Summary

The Lake region youth and Blue Economy Multi-Stakeholder forum held on 20th February 2020 at Grand Royal Swiss Hotel Kisumu, brought together over 80 participants drawn from state and Non-state Blue Economy actors. The forum proposed to not only build the capacity of youth organizations working in the blue economy sector but also identify and build partnerships with other stakeholders that strengthen youth engagement in the Blue Economy with a view of increasing youth access to information and opportunities.

The forum was divided into six sessions. The first two sessions included the keynote addresses from the organizers and guests

The third session was on Blue Economy from the Lake region Youth and women lenses, which focused on presentations from representatives drawn from youth groups from the six counties in the Lake region to make a presentation on their respective projects and initiatives. Presenters from Kisumu County (Muhoroni Sub-county), Homabay, Mombasa counties and Lake Debris Volunteer Program (LDVP) engaged the audience on their involvement in Blue Economy activities at the community level, and Rahmina Paullete, a 15 years old environmentalist from Kisumu Junior Academy made her presentation.

The panel discussions aimed at focusing the discussion on the representation and access to opportunities for young men and women and in the Blue Economy. The County Government of Kisumu was represented by Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro, Speaker of National Assembly, Mr Juniour Omondi Director Youth Women and persons with disability. Lake Region Economic Bloc Secretariat and Kenya Maritime

Authority.

During the panel discussion it all indicator pointed to poor youth participation in the Blue Economy sector was poor because of different challenges such as inadequate information, inadequate knowledge and skills, gaps in county leadership and how they support the youth in the Blue Economy. The second and last panel discussion focused on youth and women voices and spaces in the thematic area on the Blue Economy: opportunities for building youth leagues, the discussions also involved the legal aspect of entrepreneurship and involvement of Lake Region Economic Bloc in Blue Economy.

During the conference, the participants had the opportunity to address the emerging issues from the panel discussion and working group sessions, participants were divided into six core-working groups depending on organization thematic areas and interests through the guiding question.

In conclusion, it was realized that there is a lot of untapped resources in the lake region and less involvement of youth in decision making in matters of the Blue economy due to lack of awareness, limited capacity and skills, and less support and clear youth engagement framework from county and national governments.

Introduction

State of Youth and the Blue Economy in Kenya

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, several 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 23 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.”** Through the conference, young people developed a Youth ‘DeclarACTION’- youth concerns, recommendation and aspiration on Blue Economy. The Youth ‘DeclarACTION’ was presented to the world leaders on behalf of the youth by Ms. Maimunah Sharif, Executive Director, UN- Habitat at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference 2018 for action.

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 aspirations to maximize 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 such as in 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. The above calls for collaboration among the stakeholders.



With the need to enhance youth participation in Kenya’s Blue Economy, the Youth Congress partnered with the Canadian High Commission and UN-HABITAT in organizing Blue Economy Forums at the regional and county level. Firstly, the partners, including Kenya Education for Employment Program (KEFEP), held a Youth & the Blue Economy Conference on 6 December 2019 at the Kenya Coast National Polytechnic. The event was graced by Ms Lisa Stadelbauer, the Canadian High Commissioner as the Chief Guest of Honour. The conference drew in stakeholders and students studying Blue Economy related courses from KCNP, Bandari Maritime Academy, Technical University of Mombasa, Kenyatta University, and Moi University.

Secondly, a Coast Region Youth and Blue Economy Multi-Stakeholder Forum was convened on 17 December 2019 held at the Pridelnn Beach Resort, bringing 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.

Overall Objective

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

Specific Objectives

- To strengthen engagement with county governments and Regional Economic Bloc to enhance youth participation in blue economy;
- To increase informed participation and access to opportunities for youth and women on the Blue Economy for development;
- To build capacity of local youth and women organisations working on Blue Economy for economic empowerment and;
- 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

Remarks

“Young women and youth meaningful inclusion in decision making to harness on their energy, innovation, creativity is paramount for effective realisation of sustainable Blue Economy and not invited as consumers”

Henry Ogola
Co-convener, The Youth Congress

Kenya Maritime Authority shall support students who require specialized training on maritime issues and Blue Economy by offering bursaries, courses, institution and different forms of support

Margret Wachira
Kenya Maritime Authority & Representing Principal Secretary - State Department of Shipping and Maritime Affairs/ Kenya Maritime

Blue Economy is an emerging concept of preserving the health of the Lake Ecosystem, improving human wellbeing and social life for reducing environmental risk.

Rahmina Paullete
Environmental Ambassador,
Kisumu Junior Academy

With the vast opportunities in the Blue Economy, the youth need to set aside lamentations and embrace in revelation, tap existing opportunities

Linus Sijenji
Youth Expert, UN-Habitat.

Having youth representation at the Blue Economy Implementation Standing Committee enables Kenya to develop policy direction that takes into account the needs of the youth as they attempt to participate in the Blue Economy both economically and environmental conservation.

Raphael Obonyo
Convener, The Youth Congress

SESSION II

Addressing Youth and Women Engagement in the Blue Economy on Legislative and Policy Framework

County Government Submissions

From a legislative point of view, the most significant contribution that the County Assembly of Kisumu can do for the youth is tracking policy development and implementation on matters of the Blue Economy.

Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro
Speaker County Assembly of Kisumu

Emerging Issues

- Africa's Blue economy is massive and if well developed and managed has the potential to be a significant contributor to economic transformation and growth of the continent;
- The youth need to be open-minded about choosing employment opportunities in the informal sectors;
- Untapped fishing potential results in the large scale importation of fish into the country;
- Both the National and County Government need to do more in pushing the Blue Economy agenda among youth;
- It was realized that it would be possible to discuss how an integrated cluster concept will enable maritime transport, especially with the upcoming Kisumu port;
- The Kisumu Port would also promote gender equality, create employment for the youth and decent work for all the facilitation of economic growth and eradication of poverty;
- There is need for the development of effective and well- structured management to enable lake cities to increase their contribution to GDP growth by leveraging their superior advantage in the area as tourism and culture while conserving the aquatic ecosystem;
- The youth could use alien plants and turn them to renewable energy, manure and many more; and
- Capacity building of the youth, women, and small-scale fish entrepreneurs is essential for the adoption of practices such as value addition to bring out business opportunities and end hunger and malnutrition through securing food supplies promoting good health and dietary practices.

Policy regulations are an essential component of making sure funds set aside for youth economic empowerment are utilized adequately and prudently.

Junior Omondi
Director Youth, Women and Persons with Disability, Kisumu County



To learn about other aspects of the blue economy, visit www.worldbank.org/oceans

SESSION III

Working Group 1

Youth Economic Empowerment and Capacity Building

Background

The focus of the session was primarily on creating sustainable, environmentally-friendly jobs in the Lake region Blue Economy sectors towards poverty eradication. Central to the discussion was the need to ensure that economic engagements in the Blue Economy ought to be meaningful and mindful of Bill of Rights. Moreover, the youth need to develop innovative solutions to socioeconomic challenges such as the growth and spread of water hyacinth in Lake Victoria.

Objective of the Working Group

1. Identify untapped opportunities for Lake Region youth which can be leveraged to sustainably provide decent and meaningful 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.

Key Messages

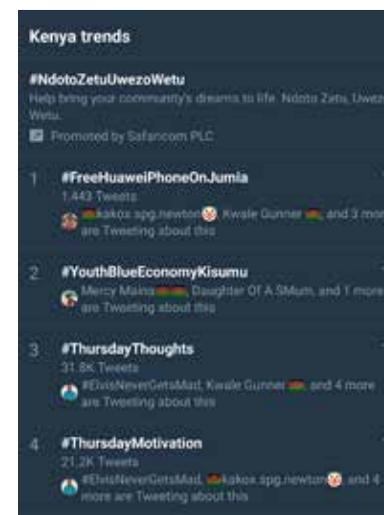
1. Inadequate access to information renders the youth less prepared to engage in emerging opportunities;
2. Poorly skilled youths make them unqualified to work in technical Blue Economy sectors such as maritime transport and logistics;

Moving Forward

1. Appropriate training for the youth on areas of the Blue Economy;
2. Sensitize youth to enhance division of labour hence helping in the development of systems that can help curb urban employment;
3. Encourage youth funding in water sports, transport and tourism;
4. Engage the youth with the leaders at the county and national levels of governments to ease remitting of information in regards to the youth; and
5. Sensitizing the youth about the Blue Economy and encouraging innovation and creativity.



Delegates deliberating on Youth economic empowerment and capacity building



Working Group 2

Commercialization: Tourism, Bioprospecting & Fishing

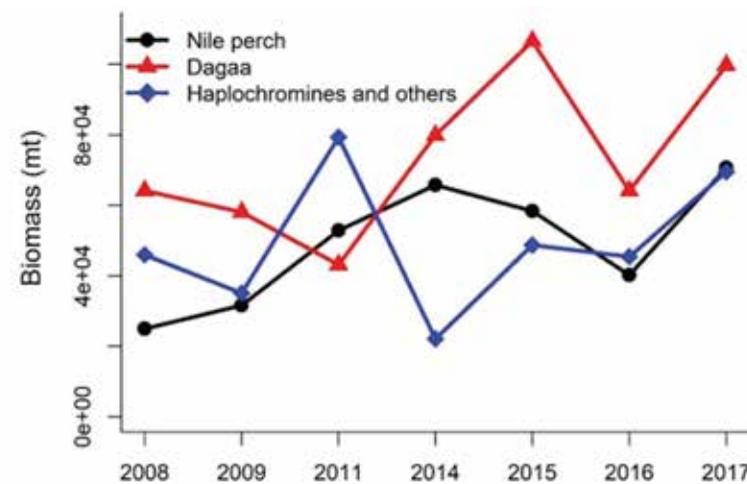
Background

As the world continues to focus on the development of the Blue Economy for sustainable growth, lake-facing counties continue to attract more population, tourism activities as well as other infrastructural developments.

Lake Victoria is hydrologically delineated and covers an area of approximately 183,000km² with lake-surface of covering about 68,800 square kilometres. Lake Victoria supports the largest inland fishery in the world. Although only 6% of the Lake is in Kenya, it is the most important source of fish, employment, income and export earnings for the fishery sector. The Rivers Nzoia, Nyando, Sondu, Awach Samunyi and Kuja drain into the Lake from Kenya, all year round. Lake Victoria fish landings in Kenya have been declining during the last few years. For example in 2015, the Lake Victoria fishery landed 153,051mt and earned fishers an estimated ex-vessel income of about KES 13.2 billion. In 2016, 118,145 mt of fish was landed valued at about KES 9.44 billion, a 28.7% decline from 2015.

Omena, also known as Dagaa (*Rastrineobola argentea*) has increasingly dominated the catches while Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*) contributes the highest value of the fish from the lake. For example Omena contributed 67,457 mt (57.1%), Nile perch contributed 26,293 mt (22.3%) and Tilapia, mostly *Oreochromis niloticus*, contributed 3,203 mt (2.7%) of the catch during in 2016. In terms of value, Nile perch contributed 54.2%, Omena, 23.1% and Nile tilapia 8.7% of the total value.

With regard to the fishing effort index of inland capture in Lake Victoria, it was observed that even though fish catch has remained steady, fishing efforts have been increasing as noted by KMFRI Kisumu Centre. While fishing efforts have increased, income per capita has been decreasing because fish catch has declined. However, the majority of fishers still depend on capture fisheries as their source of livelihood, and this is due to lack of or less diversification in the streams of income sources.



Fish biomass in the Kenyan part of Lake Victoria based on hydro-acoustic

Source: (KMFRI, 2018)

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 the 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.

Key Messages

1. Women fishmongers in the fishing communities commonly form transactional sexual relationships with fishers, as part of the jaboja system, wherein women who wish to sell fish in the market secure the rights to purchase the fish caught by the fishermen; the practice is noted to be one of the leading cause and spread of HIV in the region;
2. Water hyacinth presents several challenges to the Lake Basin including blocking boat access, interference with irrigation and water supply;
3. Transportation takes several days to make a full truckload since fish landing has decreased thus causing postharvest loss in landing sites where preservation facilities are inadequate; ice plant used by the fishermen cannot meet the market demand, and the machines often break down, thus hampering ice production;
4. Ice plant used by the fishers cannot meet the market demand, and the machines often break down, thus hampering ice production;
5. Fish selling price is unstable and widely fluctuating. Middle men fully determine the price. Fishers have no strategy/ ability for bidding and marketing;
6. Postharvest loss and value addition is impossible due to lack of facilities, knowledge, and resources for fish preservation and value addition;
7. The development of Lake Basin has led to the creation of tourist sites hence marketing and networking;
8. There has been the creation of job opportunities e.g. hospitality sector; and
9. Cultural diversity through trade and religion.

Moving Forward

1. Effective mapping, along the lake region zones since there is potential in the gulf, at places such as Dunga and Ndere beaches;



Delegates deliberating on Tourism, Bioprospecting & Fishing

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.

Key Messages

1. To establish networks, it is essential to involve the National Government, Kenya Wildlife Society, Kenya Forestry Services, Kenya Marine Authority and Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
2. Inadequate capacity building implementation programs from educational and research institutions to youth actors on the ground;
3. Inadequate knowledge on how to effectively harness emerging technology geared towards unlocking the Blue Economy potential;
4. There has never been continuous research on issues arising on Blue Economy but instead start-stop research;
5. Lack of sufficient skills amongst youth actors to sustainably unlock the Blue Economy potential;

Moving Forward

1. Initiate school clubs with a focus of cultivating a climate that enhances local solutions for local problems;
2. Simplify scientific terminologies used in research dossiers so that youth can participate fully in disseminated scientific publications;
3. There is a need for collaboration and networking with different educational and research entities with a view of forging a new coalition of the willing in championing sustainable use of Blue Economy resources;
4. Need for review of the educational curriculum with an emphasis of how budding youth can develop innovative and sustainable means of harnessing resources from the Blue Economy;
5. Customize solutions to contemporary way of dealing with upcoming issues;
6. Focus more on the solutions affecting the Lake Basin Blue Economy by encouraging youths to be innovative and ready to give solutions to problems;



Delegates deliberating on Sustainable & Inclusive Education & Research

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 across the globe. It is from this that the session brought together youths to address challenges affecting maximum utilization of aquatic ecosystems while safeguarding 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 to 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 the climate crisis is human activities such as combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation.

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

In a nutshell, human activities contribute to climate change and pollution of marine and other aquatic resources, thus diminishing the potential of blue economy resources to contribute to economic growth and regulation of the environment. Primary concerns sensitive to climate identified for the Lake Victoria basin include the physical and ecological impacts which influence fish production including the water levels, thermal stability and mixing, primary productivity, fish diversity, pests and weather variability. Besides, climate change is expected to alter the hydrological cycle, temperature balance and rainfall patterns. The change of the hydrological cycle influence the limnology processes including the timing of floods and biological production. Abundance and species diversity of riverine fishes are particularly sensitive to these disturbances.

Objective of the Working Group

1. To create an understanding of 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.

Key Messages

1. Water hyacinth presents several challenges to the Lake Basin including smothering aquatic life by deoxygenating the water, reducing nutrients for young fish in sheltered bays, and creation of breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other insects that results in diseases such as malaria, encephalitis, gastro-intestinal disorders, and bilharzia/schistosomiasis;
2. Development of commercial outlets at Dunga Beach are unplanned resulting in the encroachment of man-made structures into Lake Victoria that in turn contribute towards its pollution;
3. Human settlements around Lake Victoria lack sewage treatment facilities, hence effluent discharge finds its way into the water resulting in eutrophication;
4. Poor agricultural practices in surrounding highland areas have also been blamed for the release of chemical sediments from fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides;
5. Climate change has the undesirable effect of leading to flooding and displacement of human settlements;

Moving Forward

1. Step up efforts towards reducing greenhouse emission by encouraging development of carbon sequestration along Lake Victoria;
2. The youth should fully involve themselves in the planting of trees and grass to reduce soil pollution;
3. Proper Collection and reuse or recycling of waste and enhance appropriate storage of the same waste;
4. Identify surface run-off points with a view of minimizing impervious surfaces in urban areas as well as developing flood control mechanisms and retrofit programs such as blue-green infrastructure;
5. Educate the community on the effects of discharging harmful substance in the environment;
6. Enhance feeding grounds through forestation;
7. Implement policies that protect riparian zones from poor agricultural practices, residential and commercial construction, landscaping and logging;
8. Youth can help in raising awareness in the community on the importance of taking care of the water sources;
9. Youth can help in training the community on sustainable waste management.



Delegates deliberating on Climate Action, Pollution & Waste Management

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 growth. Youth participation is central to the long term success of the sector. The session endeavoured to address how the youth can best participate in the industry.

Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) has taken over the operation of the Inland Water Ways including Kisumu Port. The project entails improved physical infrastructure of Kisumu Port and other Lake Victoria ports, targeting transport services among East African Community (EAC) countries. The purpose of this project is to facilitate the efficient and safe movement of goods and people through the port of Kisumu to serve both the local and regional East African market.

The project entails the improvement of facilities at the current Kisumu port and construction and operation of the Kisumu Greenfield port to augment Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) operations. Key features of the Kisumu Port includes:

1. 100 metres of shoreline that is dredged to a depth of 8 metres to accommodate large vessels;
2. Kisumu Oil Jetty;
3. 262m quay;
4. Rail-wagon ferry pier, including 90 m of berthing space alongside the pier, on reclaimed land, almost perpendicular to the main quay, Warehouse measuring 50 m by 16 m on the main quay;
5. 3,000m² paved storage area directly behind the warehouse and;
6. Offices for the harbour master, customs, and police division.

Current export commodities from the Kisumu Port includes: edible oil, bar soaps, exercise books, shoe shine, sweets and other confectionaries, sleeper shoes, netting material, blankets, and fertilizer. Imports through the Kisumu Port includes sugar, cotton seed cake, and bottled water and soda.

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;

Key Messages

1. Transboundary conflict wherein Kenyan fishers are arrested in Uganda either because of trespassing into the Uganda part of the lake or illegal fishing. The fishermen are forced to pay hefty fines when their engine boats and fish catches are confiscated;
2. Illegal fishing and lack of resources for patrol BMUs also lack patrol gear; therefore, they cannot enforce rules in the lake;

Moving Forward

1. Increased security patrols by Kenya's security personnel with a view of offering protection of Kenya's fishers from aggression;
2. Increased training of youths from the Lake Victoria Basin on matters of maritime shipping & logistics in preparation for taking up opportunities from the expanded Kisumu Port;



Dredging Works at the Kisumu Oil Jetty
by Southern Engineering Co. Ltd

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 a 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 a need for a robust legal framework that creates an enabling environment for effective youth participation in the Blue Economy sustainably.

Kenya Law has a mandatory requirement that at least 30% of the catch by foreign fishing vessels in the EEZ should land in Kenya; however, this provision of the law is not observed because there are no fisheries ports and related facilities that have the capacity to handle the quota stipulated in the law. As a result, there is indeed no fish landing in Kenya from these foreign fishing vessels.

The Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2016 provides for the establishment of the following:

1. The State Department of Fisheries and Blue Economy that is responsible for the fisheries policy, licensing, development marketing, technical cooperation, management, and regulation, as well as the Blue Economy policy and regulatory matters;
2. The Kenya Fisheries Service that coordinates and manages all matters concerning the fisheries sector;
3. The Fish Marketing Authority that markets fish and fisheries products from Kenya;
4. The Kenya Fisheries Advisory Council reviews and advises the national government on policies related to the coordination of fishing management and allocation of fishery resources, as well as agreements related to fishery, research, education, capacity development in fisheries, management plans, and resources for the development of the fisheries sector;
5. The Fish Levy Trust Fund that provides supplementary funding of activities geared towards management, development and capacity building, awards, and urgent mitigation to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries resource; and
6. The Fisheries Research and Development Fund that provides supplementary funding for research intended to further the development of fisheries management, capacity building, scholarships, grants, and support for the observer program.

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 the structures of the legal and institutional frameworks needed to address challenges to youth engagement in the Blue Economy industry.

Challenges

1. Lack of capacity for BMUs to enforce rules and regulations for fishing, including their mandate;
2. Complicated governance structure in terms of management and licensing of fishing. The BMUs do not know who to refer to, whether national government or county government, in terms of management and licensing of fishing;

Moving Forward

1. Constitutional principles should be used as guiding principles for the regulatory framework proposed and enacted;
2. Define the scope within which we tend to operate whether at the county and National levels, this is important in guiding who and how to engage; and
3. Institute a robust technical committee where various groups are represented.



Delegates deliberating on Policy & Regulatory Framework both on Blue Economy and Youth participation

SESSION IV

Blue Economy from Lake Region Youth and Women Lenses

Homabay County Presentation: Initiative For Her by Ms. Beverly Adhiambo

This is a Youth-led community-Based organization which started as an advocate for quality education, but currently venturing on Blue economy to generate income, this initiative came up as alternative income generating activity other than fishing, with major focus on making manure with hyacinth, and the process involves ploughing green manure from hyacinth directly into the soil.

The benefits includes, Aid in cleaning up the lake, provision of free manure to the community, creates employment for 90 Widows along the lake region of Homabay. Some of the key challenges faced by the CBO includes the inadequate capacity to undertake extensive scientific research and the long duration it takes for the compost to mature (approximately 6 months).

Kisumu County Presentation: Lake Debris Volunteer Program by Mr. Patrick Otuo Wanguche

The organization mainly deals with waste management of trash and debris that comes from storm drains and sewers, abandoned or discarded fishing gear, plastic bags used in packaging and final debris from recreational activities such as picnicking and beach-going. The organization determined that the consequence of the pollution includes:

- Entanglement of lake animals resulting in injury and drowning of the lake wildlife;
- The debris can be mistaken for food and eaten by animals accidentally; and
- Marine litter degrades the aesthetic value of the lake and the beaches.

The presentation noted that most plastics waste take a long time to degrade in the environment thus calling for the youth to get involved in local clean-ups in the community level, avoid littering, reduce the amount of waste produced, and recycling whenever possible.

Kisumu County Presentation: Mazifertilizer by Mr. Ronny Ochoro

The organization is involved in the production of an environmentally friendly high nutrient granulated organic fertilizer from waste especially on animal manure. Production from the low-cost animal manure makes the business ventures profitable. Moreover, the product is easy to operate and needs minimal investment. The source of the raw material includes:

- Agricultural waste such as straws and rice bran;
- Animal manure from livestock;
- Industrial waste such as distillers grains, sugar residue [Molasses];
- Municipal sludge such as river sludge and sewerage sludge; and
- Domestic Garbage from the kitchen homes, vegetable market, and slaughter-house.

The above raw materials go through a process of safe treatment and fermentation that produces a variety of organic acids used for fertilizers.

Coast Region Blue Economy Perspective Outlook by Mr. Charles Waweru & Ms. Gloria Elizabeth

Mr. Waweru & Ms Gloria presented a Youth Blue Economy perspective by highlighting some of the notable entrepreneurial ventures (including those by youths) in diverse thematic areas of the Blue Economy as outlined below:

- **Aquaculture:** Shining Farmers is a ladies CBO based in Likoni sub-county currently engaged in aquafarming of mudfish and tilapia.
- **Bioprospecting:** Kibiyuni Seaweed Farmers based in Kwale County pioneers in the value addition of seaweeds into cosmetic products as well as export of the product to China, Ireland, and Malaysia.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Mikoko Pamoja (which is verified by Plan Vivo System and Standards) trades about 3000tCO₂ per annum into the voluntary carbon market for a crediting period of 20 years. Revenue generated (of about KES 1.5million per annum) is used to support community projects in water and sanitation, education, and environmental conservation.
- **Coastal Tourism:** Involves various tourist related activities occurring along the Kenya Coast line. Success of coastal tourism in Diani is attributed to the various conservation efforts of various youth CBOs and the Kwale County Government in making sure the beaches are in pristine condition.
- **Conservation:** Research Partners for Africa documented beach degradation on the Diani (Kwale County) shoreline as a result of human activities from 1999 to 2019.
- **Fishing:** Delta Fishers Cooperative Society Ltd. is a success story from Tana River County where the group initially began as a CBO but was able to marshal profits from the sale of fish harvested from the Tana Delta and is now a society that offers loans to members of the community.
- **Maritime Biotechnology:** This is a revolutionary area of the Blue Economy that entails the creation of products and processes from marine organisms through the application of biotechnology, molecular and cell biology, and bioinformatics. Persons with interest in the area may study the Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology and Oceanography) at Pwani University.
- **Marine Tourism:** Kikozi Programme Group in Lamu facilitates ecotourism ventures associated with the mangrove ecosystem in Lamu, such as apiculture and boat riding and kayaking in the mangrove channels. The organization sensitizes the community on sustainable fishing practices that do not destroy the coral reefs in Lamu.
- **Maritime Transport:** Kenya Ferry Service is vital in offering ferry services between Mombasa Island and South Coast where an estimated 300,000 pedestrians and over 6,000 vehicles cross the Likoni Channel daily. Ms Elizabeth Marami is a coast youth who is known as the first female marine pilot in Kenya. The Bandari Maritime Academy is the leading institution offering maritime training and research.
- **Policy-Making:** Kenya Maritime Authority and Wavuvi Association are some of the leading state actors at the centre of policy suggestion, implementation and enforcement on matters of the Blue Economy.
- **Security & Inspection:** Kenya Coast Guard Services is based in Mombasa; the vast majority of its personnel are youths.
- **Ship Building & Repair:** SECO is a leading Ship builder in located in Mombasa where hundreds of youth have been able to gain both industry experience (through an internship) and employment. Its shipyard has a capacity of 110m slipway and 66m dry docks.
- **Waste Management:** Mwatate Sub-County Youth CBO undertakes waste management by converting organic waste into fish feed for its mudfish projects located at Lake Chala and Lake Jipe.

SESSION V

Employment, Entrepreneurship & Opportunities for the Youth in Blue Economy

This session was in the form of a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Carol Odera from Women in Small Enterprises (WISE). The panel was made up of Mr Dave Okech (C.E.O - Rio Fish), Mr. Byron Lyle Menezes (LG Menezes Advocates), and Mr. Okoth Obara (Representative from LREB)

Below are some of the key messages from the session:

- Youth need to form collective socioeconomic groups to be able to fully sustainably exploit opportunities in the Lake Region Blue Economy such as cage fish farming;
- Legal frameworks must be in place to guide Youth entrepreneurs in Blue Economy;
- Youths need to demand and access information since it is not only their Constitutional right (as guaranteed in Article 35) but also is essential in making sure one is informed of emerging opportunities;
- There is limited skill set for the Blue Economy sector since most youth lack skills in the Blue Economy due to the unresponsive education system;
- LREB is coming up with policies and framework to guide various issues such as access to credit facilities with a view of unlocking the youth potential in engaging with the Lake Region Blue Economy;
- There is no legal framework that guides the price of fish in Kisumu; traders use open market approach since there is a lot of involvement with various middlemen and brokers. There is a need to regulate this to protect the fish farmers;
- Cage fish farming needs to be looked at as a complement to wild fish farming.
- Cage fish farming needs to be regulated to ensure the practice is sustainable;
- There is environmental degradation especially around Lake Victoria since the depth of the water is only 6-7 meters deep instead of 20 meters which the ideal depth for cage fishing;
- Before registration of companies, the youth need to seek legal counsel to assist in matters of contracts, terms of reference, Kenya Revenue Authority, Trading Policies and National Environmental Management Authority NEMA;
- Key stakeholders in the Lake Basin Blue Economy need to embark on more research, encourage mentorship advocacy, sensitization and awareness amongst youth in matters Blue Economy;
- The County Government of Kisumu needs to put in policies that govern the Blue Economy and youth access to finances; and
- There is a need to come up with a well-capacitated maritime technical college in Kisumu.



Tilapia Cage Farming in Dunga Beach

Special Feature Cage Fish Farming

Background

Cage farmers in Kenya – where most of Lake Victoria's cage activity is based – currently produce about 40,000 tons of fish per year. Cage farming is when a netted enclosure is suspended in an aquatic environment – like a sea or lake. This enclosure houses fish or other aquatic products.

Currently, there are an estimated 3,398 cages in Lake Victoria which are owned by about 27 individuals and 16 groups. It is estimated that the rapid increase in cages in Lake Victoria has resulted in the doubling of cage production to around 5,000 MT-10,000 MT. This is likely to offset the declining trends in pond-based fish production.

The system of cage culture in Lake Victoria is technically termed as low volume high density (LVHD) method, wherein the cage is comparatively so compact (i.e.,

30m³ at the largest) that huge volumes of new water can flow into an LVHD cage to maintain suitable water quality such as dissolved oxygen. Therefore, a super high density, 359 fingerlings per 1m³, can be practised, and the productivity is high (at least 100 kg/m³) in this method.

There is an increasing interest in cage fish culture in Lake Victoria. This new development comes in the face of low fish stocks, providing new opportunities for investment and promising returns. However, this development also raises critical environmental issues. Aquaculture production systems impact directly on temperature, oxygen demands and increased frequencies of diseases and toxic events. These impacts affect the quality of water, biodiversity and the stability of the ecosystem.

Challenges of Cage Fishing

1. Discharge of nutrients from the fish feed and excretions which could lead to changes in the ecosystem;
2. Colloidal sediments accumulated at the bottom of the lake cannot be eradicated due to the lack of strong currents and will cause deterioration of conditions in the culturing area and its surroundings. The situation will ultimately lead to a deadly decline in production, and, generally, once production is impacted upon negatively, it will always be difficult to resume to regular production;
3. If proper water exchange is not there, the uneaten feed and metabolic waste released from cages will lead to eutrophication of the site.
4. Dependence on imported expensive feeds is another challenge in the LVHD cage culture. Fish in a super high stocking density would often require quality feed, such as expensive feed that is rich in proteins, vitamins, and minerals to mitigate the vulnerability of fish to disease in the LVHD cage;
5. The fish are crowded in cages, and there is a relatively high incidence of disease that can spread rapidly;
6. Cages can be attractive to predators, vandals, and poachers.
7. Farmed fish may also escape and interact with other fish in the wild which can spread disease and parasites. These impacts can, in turn, decrease local catch of wild fish, creating a conflict between cage culture and fishermen.

Sustainability of Cage Fishing

1. Moving the cages to deep waters (about 10 metres depth) where there are more oxygen and the flow of water helps them to “self-clean”;
2. Farmers must have access to mapping tools so they know the right place to install their cages thus safeguarding the navigation of other boats, and natural fish breeding zones and fishing areas to avoid conflicts;
3. Cleaning cage netting regularly to avoid fouling and clogging;
4. Use of floating feeds to avoid excessive accumulation of uneaten feeds;
5. Develop business plans for cage enterprises to track their operations, monitor progress, and make adjustments for improved performance; and
6. Insuring operations against risks and losses.

Lake Victoria Basin Commission

Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) headquartered in Kisumu, is an institution established in 2003 to coordinate the sustainable development of resources within the shared lake and its basin. Economic and allied programmes include promoting maritime transport and safety and initiating poverty alleviation efforts through improved fisheries, among others. LVBC is one of the scores of EAC institutions spread across the region and the only one based in Kenya.



Lake Victoria Basin region

Courtesy Call to the County Government of Kisumu

The selected youth leaders representing various Lake region counties and youth interest paid a courtesy visit to the County Government of Kisumu. The team was hosted by Mr. Haggai Kadiri, Chief Officer, Gender, Women, Youth Affairs and Social Service and Mr. Junior Omondi, Director for Youth, Women and People with Disabilities.

The Youth Congress purposed to forge a working partnership with the County Government of Kisumu in line with policy issues on Youth participation in the Blue Economy, Inclusion of youth in the county decision making and forging a multisector partnership to realize the Youth Policy. To spearhead the working relationship, a Terms of Reference between Youth Congress and County Government of Kisumu shall be developed.

From the meeting, the following key areas of cooperation were identified

1. Economic empowerment of Youth, Women and PWD;
2. Capacity Building for Youth (to be implemented after a comprehensive needs assessment to identify gaps for youth capacity building)
3. Mobilize the Youth to participate in the development of the Youth Policy and other policies developed by county government
4. Development of Kisumu County Youth Policy;
5. Setting up Business Development and Incubation Programme;
6. Organise Youth Round Table with Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o
7. Resourcing and Financing of youth and young women with ideas in the Blue Economy;
8. Ensuring youths are strategically placed with a business that supports the Kisumu Port once it is operational;
9. Formation of Youth Leagues in the Lake Region Counties for youth participation and leadership in political and socio-economic development.



Courtesy meeting with Haggai Karidi, Chief Officer, County Government of Kisumu



Lake Region Forum
Participants

Summary of Recommendations

1. Increase awareness of the potential and opportunities in the Blue Economy for the youth in the Lake Region as an alternative source of employment;
2. Development and use of a multi-sectoral partnership approach in the financing, policy formulation and legislation that are youth-friendly which will spur the sustainability in the Blue Economy sector;
3. Increased investment in academic institutions that provide knowledge and skill in a bid to encourage youth to take up a course that will feed into the blue economy sector;
4. Blue Economy stakeholders especially the fish cage farmers need to come up with regulations and guidelines that will guide fish cage farming in the region;
5. Increase in conservation efforts due to extensive pollution of Lake Victoria that in turn affects the realization of pollution-free and sustainable Blue Economy ecosystem;
6. There is need to include youth in key institution and structure in Blue Economy such as the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Lake Region Economic Bloc, Lakefront Development Corporation, Revamping of the Kisumu Port and the programs that are being implemented by the Entity.
7. Increase investment in research in relation to Blue Economy which should be shared with other stakeholders to help in decision making by Blue Economy sector players; and
8. Youth representation in County and National Government technical working committees and parastatals to ensure the youth voices are heard in the decision making.
9. There is need for county and National government to provide incentives and allocate resources- funds to support youth and young women initiatives and innovations in lake region
10. There is need for access to information from research and Government institutions and more engagement with the learning institution for informed programing in Blue Economy to address youth concerns and aspirations.

Conclusion

The Blue Economy provides the opportunity for youth in the Lake Region to come together and chat a collective way forward by sharing innovations and creative ideas on how to tap unrealized resources and opportunities that exist in the Blue economy. This will only be realized if the youth are organized and well equipped with knowledge. There is also a need for the government to put in place policies and legislation that will provide a conducive environment for youth to fully exploit the opportunities in Blue Economy. There need for collaboration among the actors for synergy and to advance the youth agenda.

Appendix A: List of Participants

Name	Organization/Institution	County
Agatha Noel	Busia County Youth Reference Group	Busia
Alvin Daniel	Thurgem Youth Football Club	Siaya
Beatrice Owiti	KYOC	
Benard Nyadida	Koko Media	Kisumu
Beverly Nicole Adhiambo	Initiative For Her	Homa Bay
Bonnie Ndede	Youth Alive! Kenya	Kisumu
Brenda Nduku Kanyonga	Raino Tech4Impact	Kiambu
Byron Lyle Menezes.	LG Menezes Advocates	Kisumu
Carol Odera	Women in Small Enterprises (WISE)	Kisumu
Cassie Lauryn Kenny	Young Africa Leadership Initiative	Siaya
Catherine Soi		
Charles Waweru	The Youth Congress	Mombasa
Christine M. Wasike	Lake Region Economic Bloc	Kisumu
Cynthia Omondi	Elimu Resource Center	Kilifi
Daisy Adhiambo	Ajiry	Kisumu
Daisy Otuoma	Impact Poultry Kenya	Kisumu
Dancan Oyugi	Legacy Youth Organisation	Kisumu
Dave Okech	Rio- Fish Limited	Homa Bay
Denis Nyakach	Amazing Kisumu Foundation	Kisumu
Dorine Bright	Kisumu	
Dorothy Akoth	Women in Small Enterprises-Kenya	Kisumu
Elisha Odhiambo Okumu	Kenya Marine Lake Debris Volunteers	Kisumu
Elly Obiero	Nation Media	Kisumu
Erick Odhiambo		
Eric Tolo	Giselle Foundation	Kisumu
Evans Ouma		
Gitei Antony Gathiru	Tunsen Global	Busia
Gloria Elizabeth	The Youth Congress	Mombasa
Halima Hanii	The Youth Congress	Nairobi
Hallima Nyota	Youth Leaders Stakeholders CBO	Busia
Harrison Otieno	PATAGRAO LTD	Kisumu
Henry Ogola	The Youth Congress	Nairobi
Hilda Ouma	Canadian High Commission	Nairobi
Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro	Speaker/County Assembly of Kisumu	Kisumu
Jael Lieta	SKY Fm	Kisumu
Joan Odongo	Gissele Foundation	Kisumu
John Okongo	Migori County Government	Migori
Judy Okicho	Awino Foundation	Kisumu
Judy A. Oricho	Siaya	
Junior Omondi	Director Youth/County Govern of Kisumu	Kisumu
Kenedy Omolo Anjejo	Association of Fish Cage Farmers	Kisumu
Kizito Omollo	Youth Village	Busia
Kwama Leonard	County Government of Kisumu	Kisumu
Laura Jean-Louis	Tembea Kisumu	Kisumu
Lavender Toya	One Vibe Africa	Kisumu
Lennah Awuor	Giselle Foundation	Kisumu
Leslie Omondi Okura	Kisumu City Youth Network	Kisumu
Linda Essendi	Blue Economy -Kisumu Committee	Kisumu
Linda Oluoch	Gissele Foundation	Kisumu

Appendix A: List of Participants

Name	Organization/Institution	County
Linus Sijenyi Margaret Wachira	UN-Habitat State Department of Shipping & Maritime Affairs/Kenya Maritime Environmentalist	Nairobi Mombasa
Mariam Oyugi Mary A.Ochieng Mary Atieno	SKY KIM	Kisumu Kisumu
Millicent Olang'o Millicent Raburu	Blue Economy	Kisumu
Naftaly Mwangi Mwirigi Nancy Awino Okalo Nancy Okutah Nancy Ruth Awuor Nicholas Didi Patrick Obora Okoth Patrick Wanguche Philip Odiemo	Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute Tribus-TSG/Ajiry Koko Media Blue Economy Youth Initiative Dunga Beach Management Unit Lake Region Economic Bloc Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute WINAM CAPITAL	Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu
Rahmina Paulette Oyugi Raphael Obonyo Robert Adungo Roniance Adhiambo Ronny Otieno Ochoro Roselyn Awino Abungu Samuel Okwiri Samwel Jera Saraphina Ambale Shalton Omolo Stacy	Kisumu county Environmentalist The Youth Congress Kisumu City Youth Blue Economy Ecofinder Kenya Green Leaf Kenya Kisumu Youth Olympic Council Lake Region Economic Bloc Dunga Beach Ecotourism Tinada Youth Organisation CSP-K	Kisumu Nairobi Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu
Steven Ouma Otieno Tom Mboya Adera Tony Omondi Victor Raballa Vincent Oduor Otieno Vivian Kobe	CADIF Kenya Friends of Dunga Swamp Nation Media Daily Nation VIBA Private Limited (VIBA Explore)	Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu Kisumu

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