ZIBELINE INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING

ISSN: 2785-8715 (Online)
CODEN: SEPSCJ

Socio Economy and Policy Studies (SEPS)

DOI: http://doi.org/10.26480/seps.01.2022.29.33

CrossMark

REVIEW ARTICLE

THE NIGERIAN BLUE ECONOMY: ECONOMIC EXPANSION ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Augustine Okon Jacob[a]*, Okon Joseph Umoh[b]

[a] Department of Economics, Obong University, Nigeria
[b] Department of Economics, University of Uyo, Uyo, Nigeria
**Corresponding author email: drjacob.ao@gmail.com*

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History:

Received 18 January 2022
Accepted 23 February 2022
Available online 28 February 2022

ABSTRACT

The land is deteriorating. Now we'll look at the oceans. With the continued loss of terrestrial resources and the need for major economic gains, littoral states have increased their efforts to achieve a "blue economy." Nigeria, as a country with a large number of littoral component states and long waterways, has not been left out in this pursuit, making the creation of a Nigerian blue economy a need for the country's benefit. The pursuit of a blue economy, on the other hand, goes beyond national borders and takes on an international dimension. The blue economy, also known as the marine economic system, is an ecosystem of economic activities centered on commerce and action in and around huge bodies of water, such as oceans, that are continued to survive ecological responsibility. Fishing, wastewater treatment, tourism, seaside hotels and restaurants, power (wind energy and tidal power), and transportation are all part of the economy (ships, bargers, rigs, and other floating vessels). In value terms added and employment, the "Blue Economy" might outperform the world economy as a whole. Around the world, blue economy activities and ideas are showing to be varied, vibrant, and broad. As a result, this debate emerges, with the goal of determining how this ideal of a Nigerian blue economy may become a reality.

KEYWORDS

Blue Economy; Nigeria; Maritime Sector; Ecosystem

1. INTRODUCTION

Agricultural products and a few mineral products have been the backbones of Nigeria's economy until the late 1960s. Nevertheless, in the 1970s, with the discovery of ample oil and subsequent expansion in the petroleum industry, formerly significant parts of the economy, especially agriculture (the blue economy), were abandoned (Adeyemi and Abiodun, 2013). Marine economy activities are commonly regarded as playing a critical role in alleviating severe poverty and hunger by providing jobs and other economic opportunities. This includes, for example, the provision of seagoing people and ship recycling, as well as ship owning and management, construction and maintenance, and port services. Nigeria has an 870-kilometer coastline and 3,000-kilometer inland waterways, as well as a diverse range of natural resources such as hydrocarbons, natural gas, zinc, bauxite, mineral ores, copper, gypsum, lead, as well as other raw materials.

The unpredictability and negative consequences of over-reliance on oil have heightened the need for Nigeria's economy to diversify away from oil and toward the blue economy. Advocates of increasing productivity think that blue economy outputs have a high potential to boost the Niger Delta region as well as the Nigerian economy to the degree of economic progress required. The blue economy is critical not just for a diverse range of species and ecosystems, but also for the food chains, livelihoods, and environmental stability of a world population approaching nine billion people (Abdullahel, 2017). The sea (blue economy) covers more than 75% of the Earth's surface and houses and over 50 percent of all living things, giving the mistaken impression that it is an infinite resource. This results to catastrophic overexploitation and deterioration, with far-reaching implications far beyond their shorelines. Many economic development objectives, as well as the shift to a wholly green economy, rely on ocean-related problems for long-term viability.

The "blue economy," a complementary "blue" component of that transformation, offers a novel solution to dealing with marine monitoring while getting their advantages in a more equitable and sustainable manner. According to a study, it has become abundantly clear that without improved long-term management of the seas, the people that relies on them would perish (Hoegh-Guldberg, 2015). This is especially true for small island states like Nigeria's Niger Delta, which are vital to the blue economy. The 2030 property development plan acknowledges the potential for a link blue economy, environmental development, and economic growth are all intertwined. It through real estate use of marine biodiversity, and the viable management of fisheries, agricultural production, tourism, and corporate organizations, Target 14.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) intends to strengthen the economic margins of small island developing states (SIDS), water-enclosed territories, and least developed countries (LDCs) such as the Niger Delta (UNCTAD, 2016).

The Niger Delta is at the vanguard of the blue economy's growth, understanding that marines play a critical significance in the future of mankind and that the blue economy provides a more appropriate approach to sustainability for their extraordinary situations, restrictions, and difficulties. The blue economy incorporates an unique strategy to the commercialization of marine, lake, river, and other bodies of water resources. The concept aims to market economic progress, social inclusion, and livelihood maintenance or enhancement while also contributing to sustainable development. It refers to the decoupling of

Quick Response Code	Access this article online	
	Website: www.seps.com.my	**DOI:** 10.26480/seps.01.2022.29.33

Cite The Article: Augustine Okon Jacob, Okon Joseph Umoh (2022). The Nigerian Blue Economy: Economic Expansion Issues and Challenges. *Socio Economy and Policy Studies, 2(1): 29-33.*

socioeconomic development from environmental and ecosystem degradation through marine-related industries and activities. As a result, the goal of this research is to investigate the blue economy and the country's economy, as it explains what the blue economy is and how countries like Nigeria and the Niger Delta region can benefit from it through occupations and the improvement of human living conditions in riverfront regions and islands.

2. Clarification of Concepts

2.1 The Blue Economy's Origins and Conceptualization

The blue economy concept has recently acquired support in a variety of settings, indicating its use as an income diversification framework for sustainable growth that acknowledges nations' reliance on the marines (UNECA, 2016). Also, it describes the real notion that further development is feasible while adhering to sustainability and social justice values, particularly intergenerational parity. Professor Gunter Pauli coined the term "Blue Economy" as an economic ideology in 1994, when the United Nations asked him to consider future business models in advance of the COP3 meeting in Japan, where the Kyoto Protocol was passed (Pauli, 2010). The international group organizing the program for the 2012 urban center summit, known as "Rio+20," advocated the idea of a "blue economy."

In practice, the proposed concept is an application of each "green economy" in a cycle of inexperienced growth and marine-related ideas. The key grounds for backing the blue economy notion at the Rio+20 summit were human eudemonia and social fairness, as well as less environmental degradation and financial resource usage (UNEP, 2013). Due to the obvious newly introduced platform of marine development and marine governance, the blue economy recognizes the marine domain. The concept reflects the teetering edge that exists between socioeconomic development and irresponsible environmental damage. The phrase "blue economy" has been used in a variety of contexts. Nevertheless, it's thought to be made up of a number of economic sectors and policies that work together to determine whether or not the use of marine resources is property.

The blue economy idea strives to market economic processes, social inclusion, and hence the maintenance or enhancement of livelihoods while also safeguarding the ecology of the marines and coastal areas. It entails detaching socioeconomic activity and development from environmental degradation, as well as maximizing the benefits received from marine resources (Wairimu and Khainga, 2017). The blue economy, according to the is the appropriate use of coastal resources for productivity expansion, livelihood opportunities, and jobs while also maintaining the marine system's health (World Bank, 2016). The "blue economy," as defined by the European Commission, includes all economic activity including marines, seas, and coasts. It covers a wide range of interconnected, established, and emerging industries. The Commonwealth of Nations sees it as an evolving concept aimed at improving the situation for our ocean or "blue" resources.

According to Conservation International's Bertazzo, the blue economy has economic benefits that aren't widely publicized, such as carbon storage, coastal conservation, cultural values, and variety (Conservation International's Bertazzo, 2008). The term "blue economy" is now widely used around the world with three distinct but related meanings, according to the Center for the Blue Economy: the ocean's overall contribution to economies, the need to address the ocean's environmental and ecological properties, and, as a result, the ocean economy as a growth opportunity for both developed and developing countries. According to OECD forecasts, by 2030, the "blue economy" will be recognized as an economic sector having a direct or indirect link to the ocean that will outperform the in terms of utility and employment (OECD, 2012). The global economy is on track to grow at a rapid pace.

The industries of marine energy, marine biotechnology, coastal business enterprises, transportation, and food production may offer unrivaled growth and investment potential. "A resource-ocean-primarily based economic system that is for the most part mitten by coastal ecosystems and assets, one which utilizes ecologically responsible and inventive facilities, techniques, and procedures, and also organizational and financial support agreements, to meet the objectives of the blue economy," according to the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress (2012, 23): (a) property and comprehensive advancement; (b) designed to protect the coasts and oceans and decrease environmental risks and environmental resource scarcity; (c) attempting to address water, energy, and food security; (d) safeguarding the health, livelihoods, and welfare of coastal residents; and (e) promoting ecosystem-based global climate adaptation measures.

The decoupling of socioeconomic progress from environmental degradation is at the heart of the Blue Economy concept. To achieve this, the Blue Economy model relies on a billion dollars' worth of natural (blue) capital being assessed and incorporated into all sectors of its economy (conception, development, infrastructure building, commerce, tourism, exploitation of resources, energy generation, and consuming). While environmental and ecological parameters are respected, potency and resource optimization reign supreme. This includes, where possible, sustainable procurement and use of natural raw materials, as well as adopting "blue" low-energy options to gain efficiency and advantages over the "brown" condition of models of industrial strategy to improve energy, underemployment, and energetic (UNEP, FAO, IMO, UNDP, IUCN, GRID-Arendal, 2012).

2.2 The Nigerian Delta from a Geographical Perspective

The Niger Delta region is roughly located between the Equator's latitudes of 400N and 600N, and the Greenwich meridian's longitudes of 500E and 800E. The region features a hot and humid sub-equatorial climate with hot and wet days, thick flora, mangrove, and enormous, lush woods, which comes as no surprise. It is the area between the Benin River's estuaries to the west and the Cross River's estuary to the east of the Niger River proper. The geographical Niger Delta is the world's most populous delta. It is Africa's and the world's second-largest country (Afolabi, 1998; Nyananyo, 1999; Anderson and Peek, 2002). It comprises over 7,000 square kilometers, roughly one-third of which is water, with 5,400–6,000 km2 of the world's largest mangroves (Afolabi, 1998; Nyananyo, 1999). According to Amaechi, the Federal Government has made steps to include the blue economy idea into its Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, including the creation of a draft National Transportation System that is pending confirmation by the Federal Executive Council (Amaechi, 2018). The strategy will lay the groundwork for Africa's marine property's long-term protection and development.

2.3 Economic Development

Economic growth is the long-term rise in the number of products and services generated by a country's economy. It is expressed as a percentage rise in real gross domestic product (RGDP), or GDP adjusted for inflation. The market value of all final goods and services generated in a country or economy is referred to as GDP. The positive and sustained rise in aggregate goods and services generated in an economy over a certain period is also referred to as "economic growth. Economic growth can be expressed in increase in per capita income, which would be the cumulative quantity of goods and services in a particular year divided by the country's population in that period. Nominal and real economic growth are both possible. As a result, real economic growth is characterized by an increase in the aggregated price of goods and services less the rate of inflation.

Nominal economic growth, on the other hand, is defined as growth that is not deflated (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2015). The general consensus it seems to be that "economic growth" pertains to a led to advancements in a country's accumulated level of output over a given time period, whereas "economic development" is defined as a sustained increase in the aggregate level of output and incomes, taking into account issues such as income distribution, healthcare, education, environmental degradation, and global pollution reduction.

2.4 Blue Economy Principles for a Long-Term Future

Lakes, rivers, and coastal areas are among the most significant habitats on the planet, and they represent a priceless part of our natural heritage. They are also critical to billions of people's food and nutrition security, as well as the majority of countries' economic success (DESA, 2017). Nonetheless, human economic activities are already affecting the ability of those marine environments to generate jobs and nutrition in the long run, and development approaches that are fragmented, disorganized, and frequently contradict what scientists tell us is physically possible or ecologically sound are making it even more vulnerable. Fortunately, a number of governments, organizations, and individuals in both rich and developing countries have recognized the importance of a consistent, coordinated, fair, and science-based policy for regulating the economic growth of the seas.

Humanity is increasingly aware that we are an important part of the maritime sector, which means we must plan and carry out our economic activities with care, equality, and a desire to improve human living standards and eudemonia while also protecting the health of the scheme. Visionary leadership in both the public and private sectors is required to steer the blue economy in a highly sustainable direction. This includes keeping promises made at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has proposed the following Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy to ensure that the ocean's economic development contributes to true sustainability and flexibility today and, in the future, with special attention to the needs of poor countries. Countries' economies (WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme, 2015). These concepts serve as both a definition and a roadmap for creating a sustainable blue economy.

They're international that can be used by governments, non-governmental and finance industry actors, aid organizations, and nongovernmental organizations in any part of the oceans, seas, or coasts, as well as any actor interested in the ocean's economic development. According to WWF, all blue economy participants are asked to utilize these principles for a sustainable blue economy, as well as to include these definitions, descriptions, and actions into marine policy and activities around the world. Policymakers, sectors of the economy, smaller companies, and various actors should gear up pertinent and measurable goals and objectives for a sustainable blue economy in order to generate clear, measurable, and internally consistent objectives and outcomes for a sustainable blue economy in their design, management, and activities with a transparent direction. To reduce conflicts and inconsistencies, goals and targets for multiple economic, social, and environmental domains should nevertheless be linked by policies and activities that are as integrated and coherent as possible. However, the following factors were considered: (Worldwide Fund for Nature's Baltic Ecoregion Programme, 2015).

2.4.1 Obtain and share information about their progress toward these aims and ambitions

The objectives and targets for a sustainable blue economy must be reviewed on a regular basis, and progress should be tracked should be reported in a strikingly clear and accessible manner to all or any stakeholders, as well as the general public.

2.4.2 Create a favorable economic and legal environment for the Blue Economy, complete with appropriate incentives and rules

Economic factors like as taxes, incentives, and charges have the purpose of absorbing social and environmental constraints, costs, and liabilities to society. In order to have a sustainable blue economy, international and domestic regulations, and also non-public contracts, must be drawn up, imposed, and continually improved in conduct.

2.4.3 By employing inclusive tactics and, as a result, the scheme approach, plan, manage, and effectively govern the use of marine regions and resources

All essential uses of marine regions and assets should be responsible for, organized, administered, and controlled through proactive, preventive, reconciling, and integrative procedures that preserve the ocean's long-term integrity and sustainable usage, while also taking into account human activities on land. Such procedures should be self-governing, accountable, open, perhaps, and inclusive in order to be conscious of gifts and future human uses and wishes, as well as the desires of minorities and therefore the most susceptible teams in society. Such processes should also employ appropriate tools and tactics to capture the variety of benefits that scheme products and services would provide for various stakeholders in order to make informed trade-offs.

2.4.4 Develop and implement standards, guidelines, and best practices that promote a long-term blue economy

Governments, businesses, non-profits, investors, and customers should all work together to develop or implement global sustainability standards, guidelines, best practices, or other relevant behaviors. Organizations should use such standards not only to ensure that their actions are carried out in a transparent and accountable manner, but also to enhance their performance and fight in the present and future.

2.4.5 Recognize the interdependence of the maritime and land-based industries, as well as the fact that many of the dangers to marine environments originate on land

Land-based impacts on marine ecosystems must be addressed in order to achieve a sustainable blue economy in the seas and coastal zones, and actors must also collaborate to market the development of a sustainable inexperienced economy on land.

2.4.6 Join forces to understand a sustainable and prosperous future for everybody by exchanging information, knowledge, best practices, lessons learned, perspectives, and ideas

All participants in an exceptionally viable blue economy have a capacity to participate in and succeed in the method of execution across national, regional, sectorial, and other borders in order to confirm the collective situation of our common marine heritage.

2.4.7 Building a Sustainable Blue Economy: Elements of Principles

Encourage economic activities that benefit the oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers' long-term health and resilience. In order to inform policy and decision-making, relevant data and science should be employed. Participate in the development and conservation of blue-economy resources with key stakeholders. As a result, the company's social and environmental responsibilities are increased. Develop knowledge and awareness of the value of the blue economy's market and non-market goods and services. The purpose of Alien financing is to promote inclusive economic activities that improve the health of blue-economy resources. Support the expansion of small and medium-sized businesses in the blue economy. Create marketplaces for blue-economy-related industries that are growing and innovative.

2.4.8 Key parts of the Blue Economy Policy Direction: D.I.R.E.C.T. + MAX

To better integrate blue economy challenges into national and subnational policy and governance frameworks, develop and/or reinforce national policies. These policies should be defined by the goals they seek to achieve, with specific targets for the blue economy stated. As a result, develop policies that promote healthy, flexible, and productive ocean environments. Even if it isn't, citizens, especially the impoverished, might feel the effects. This study emphasizes the importance of factorization in the function of natural capital in the blue economy, as well as active measures and management of such capital stocks, to support the three pillars of sustainable development: social, environmental, and economic.

Raising awareness of the blue economy and why it matters among higher education stakeholders (including the development of a typical virtual education platform). This involves a focus on overcoming informational hurdles that are truly typically caused by a plane figure focus, such as educating the public, private, and civil society, as well as youth, in areas where forecasts suggest future generations will be able to find work (i.e., the blue economy). As a result of a variety of these factors, emerging industries may require skills and training that were previously unavailable. You can respond to academic and training systems.

Ensure that ocean wealth is preserved both nationally and locally. Encourage the use of victimization enabling technology for effective observation, control, and police investigation as it becomes available. Construct infrastructure to facilitate a transition to a blue economy (soft or hard, blue or green). Coastal flooding poses serious threats to the financial system and the blue economy, necessitating a mix of three adaptation strategies: creating flood barriers, constantly altering structures to reduce damage, and transferring structures to locations with reduced flood risks. Marine and coastal building could shift from a supporting position in the blue economy to taking on a number of key roles.

Transform R&D and national or regional knowledge/know-how centers by establishing institutional ties with emerging global expertise and platforms. As other countries actually engage on similar processes, there may be chances for trade and collaboration to create skills and improve blue-economy industry analysis and development. To unlock non-public capital, maximize Finance for Development. Utilize limited public funding to remove barriers to private sector investment and secure innovative and long-term financing for blue clusters. Blue economy principles are being created to make it easier for personal cash to flow into ventures that meet the broad objectives. Such ideas could be used to guide and inform developers across a variety of government entities.

2.5 The Blue Economy's Potential and Natural Resources

The growth of the blue economy is not entirely reliant on the growth of the ocean economy. Property development in the marine sector, on the other hand, is factored into development concerns. The blue economy includes both traditional ocean sectors such as fishing, tourism, and maritime transportation, as well as new and emerging ones like as offshore renewable energy, agriculture, ocean bottom extractive activities, and marine biotechnology and bioprospecting. Because there are no markets for the services supplied by ocean ecosystems, they also contribute significantly to economic and other activities such as carbon sequestration, coastal protection, garbage disposal, and thus diversity. Every country's combination of marine activities differs, depending on their unique national conditions and, as a result, the national vision adopted to reflect their idea of a blue economy. It gives social and economic benefits to present and future generations. Marine ecosystems must be restored, protected, and valued for their diversity, productivity, flexibility, essential functions, and intrinsic value. By promoting clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows, we can reduce waste and increase material employment.

The following are some of the benefits that marine and freshwater environments provide:

Fish contribute about 60% of the animal macromolecules consumed by the world's population and 6.5 percent of all macromolecules consumed, with one billion people relying on this supply of macromolecules. Fish is an important source of nourishment as well. Fish is effective in addressing food and organic process security among the impoverished and vulnerable communities all over the world, even in tiny numbers.

Fish farmers, and others who provide services and merchandise to related businesses are estimated to provide livelihoods to 660–820 million people globally, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Tourism, which is one of the top five industries in most tiny island republics, is also built on the foundation of oceans and coasts.

Oceans act as a major sink for phylogenetic emissions, absorbing 25% of the excess carbonic acid gas produced into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels. Sinks for so-called "blue carbon."

2.6 Economic Growth Potentials and Opportunities in Nigeria's Niger Delta and Beyond

Smart Shipping, Ports, Transportation, and International Sustainable Development: In recognition of marine transport's enormous contribution to the global economy, sustainable development recognizes mobile trade's role as a driver for long-term, inclusive growth. Economies have made significant investments in infrastructure, operations, and capability development. Coastal and lakefront communities continue to draw a big population, business enterprise operations, and diverse infrastructural upgrades as the world continues to rely on the blue economy for long-term growth. To keep up with such high demand and resource consumption, these new infrastructural and job-creation expenditures will be required. Sustainable Energy, Natural Resources, and Innovative Industries: Through sustainable energy sources and sustainable natural resource harvesting, the Blue Economy is being used to create acceptable, sustainable, and dependable energy, as well as meet mineral resource demands. As an institution of innovative industries, this opens up a variety of investment prospects in the energy and minerals sector.

2.7 Marine Life Management and Sustainment, Conservation, and Economic Sustainability

The aquatic ecosystems of the world provide a wide range of resources and services. They contribute to the group's well-being as well as global socioeconomic progress. It provides space for academic institutions, policymakers, development partners, practitioners, and the commercial sector to address issues resulting from the most extensive use of aquatic ecosystems while maintaining environmental protection. Ending Hunger, Securing Food Providers, Promoting Physiological Condition, and Sustainable Fisheries: The Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the United Nations aspires to discover long-term solutions to end all types of hunger by 2030, as well as establishing food and organic process security. Sustainable fisheries, mariculture, and agriculture are well positioned to contribute significantly to achieving this goal.

2.8 Climate action, agriculture, waste management, and pollution-free oceans are all topics that need to be addressed

Human activity is to blame for both global climate change and the poisoning of marine and aquatic resources. As a result, blue-economy resources' ability to contribute to the economic process and environmental control is hampered.

2.9 Regulative Social Control and Maritime Security

International ocean-borne trade, job and income development, and the sustainable use of blue economy resources all require a safe and secure maritime domain. To secure the marine domain, states and non-state players in the Niger Delta should collaborate. The lopsided growth of the blue economy, which is marked by the exclusion of women, youth, and indigenous people, could be a key barrier that must be solved if the blue economy's good impact is to be realized globally.

2.10 The Challenge Facing the Blue Economy

Counterfeiting, unauthorized, undeclared, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, individual importation, arms trafficking, illicit drugs, and other felonious merchandise, terrorism, cybercrime, the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), threats to liberty of route planning, environmental risks, and natural disasters are all examples of maritime security issues. Small fishermen may be provided financial tendency to adopt property practices or protected maritime areas may be constructed to aid in the recovery of sea habitats and output. The lack of standard electronic systems, as well as the slow adoption of technology in shipping and maritime transport. Global warming, ocean pollution, irresponsible marine resource extraction, and the degradation of coastal habitats are all challenges that must be tackled. Non-inclusivity, gender imbalance, and unequal purchasing of equal labour have all occurred. There is a lack of a competent education and coaching structure that supports maritime knowledge and skills in a sector that requires highly skilled workers. Human activities and environmental degradation degrade marine habitats, limiting the potential of the blue economy. Inadequate long-term capabilities (people skills and technology) to tap into the blue economy's energy and natural resources. Rain-fed agriculture is too reliant on rainfall, resulting in production that is unsustainable. Inadequate engagement of indigenous communities and peoples in the Niger Delta's blue economy. Aboriginal peoples' ability to participate in the blue economy is limited.

2.11 The Way to a Blue Economy

Raising awareness to increase knowledge of the Blue Economy idea is still necessary due to applicable international legislation and new UN agency guidelines on marine cyber security threats and risk management. Overseeing and promoting the use of blockchain technology in maritime transportation, as well as developing an international framework and best practices. Developing and enforcing maritime education and skills coaching regulations based on a detailed examination of coaching, skill, and career gaps. Pursue regional and global collaboration to share experiences, information, and best practices. Invest in basic, easy-to-use maritime information systems to help people make informed and inclusive decisions. To protect marine habitats, use good urban planning and marine abstraction techniques. To grow your firm, diversify your business enterprise products.

Encourage analysis and innovation to advance sustainable energy and natural resource exploration, as well as the growth of innovative industries in the blue economy, by developing human aptitude and talent. Encourage females and youth to play a critical role in pushing for the development of sustainable energy resources and mineral exploration in the blue economy, as they make up roughly 60% of the Niger Delta's and the world's population. We must build strong legislative, regulatory, and institutional frameworks to protect maritime resources. By transferring technology and boosting capacity, encourage small-scale fishermen to join in property-based fish production and processing. Put into execution the commitments made on marine safety, security, and regulatory frameworks. Processes and frameworks for policy formation, implementation, and analysis will be improved.

3. Conclusion

In the Niger Delta and Nigeria, the blue economy has the potential to lead to faster and greater GDP growth. Food, energy, and transportation, among other products and services, might be given through innovation and expansion in the coastal, marine, and maritime sectors, establishing the foundation for the Niger Delta's long-term development and economic advancement. Diversifying a country's or region's economy away from oil, including the coastal, marine, and maritime industries, is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and guaranteeing good, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth. This is especially crucial given the country's tremendous growth without accompanying poverty reduction. This policy goal aims to raise awareness of the Niger Delta's contribution to the blue economy. Through this molding of the blue economy and its facets, the Niger Delta will strengthen the blue economy's forward and backward links with the oil sector of the economy. The policy transient makes recommendations for essential policies that should be followed in order to support and build the blue economy in the Niger Delta and Nigeria for long-term development and inclusive economic growth. It also lays the groundwork for future policy development in the Niger Delta to support the blue economy.

The Implication of The Study

This study has significant social change implications; efficient blue economy operations would benefit not only the Niger Delta region, but also the Nigerian state's economic growth. The findings of this study may stimulate social change by encouraging Niger Delta officials to shift their attention from oil money to growing and expanding the blue economy in order to sustain the region's economy. This could result in better livelihoods, long-term integration, job possibilities, and an overall improvement in the region's standard of living. The findings of this study could help Niger Delta states and the Nigerian government design rules and regulations that will optimize the blue economy's economic growth potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Niger Delta's ocean economy is completely based on it. Identifying a number of policy scenarios for the development of this sector of the economy would be the most successful technique. Various scenarios can be investigated, based on what is known about the external drivers. Modeling these conditions would result in estimates of the price and boundaries of alternative ocean economic growth trajectories, from which line-specific targets and public investment pathways may be developed.

SUGGESTIONS

Using youngsters as coast guards, as well as the waterways and deep sea, to combat marine piracy and other issues. Developing and implementing maritime learning and professional mentoring centers and schools, as well as policies that support thorough mentoring, abilities, and career development, as well as upgrading and certification of the Seaside College in Isaka, Rivers State, so that it can continue to coach people in maritime skills.

Each Niger Delta state government, as well as the Nigerian government, should look beyond oil and concentrate on the blue economy. Make the Niger Delta State Golf Club a one-of-a-kind club in the region by redesigning it. Diverse marine products, such as the cultivation of valuable chains and coral protection, must be invested in. Youth should be encouraged to participate in the blue economy because they have the enthusiasm, knowledge, and abilities to help the blue economy flourish sustainably.

REFERENCES

Abdullahel, B., 2017. Our Oceans and the blue economy: opportunities and challenges, 10th international conference on marine technology. Available at https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877705817332447

Adeyemi, K.S., Abiodun, A.J., 2013. Development of the non-oil sector in Nigeria: challenges & lessons for less developed countries. Covenant Journal of Business and Social Sciences (CJBSS), 5 (23).

Afolabi, D., 1998. The Nigerian mangrove ecosystem. Third regional workshop of the Gulf of Guinea large Maine Ecosystem. (GOGLME). Lagos, Nigeria.

Amaechi, R., 2018. Blue economy sustainability: Nigeria to partner other African countries. Retrieved: https://www.nimasa.gov.ng/press-center/post/blue-economy-sustainability-nigeria-to-partner-other-african-countries-amaechi

Anderson, M.G., Peek, P.M., 2002. Charting a course in: Anderson, M. G. and Peek, P. M. (eds.). Ways of the rivers: art and environment of the Niger Delta. Smithsonian institution, New Yoke, Pp. 25 – 36.

Bertazzo, S., 2018. What on Earth is the blue economy? Human Nature - Conservation. Retrieved, Conservation International Blog. Black's Law Dictionary (8th Ed.), Pp. 215.

DESA. 2017. Towards sustainable development for all. Retrieved from, United Nation Bulletin.

Ebarvina, M.C.M., 2016. Economic assessment of oceans for sustainable blue economy development. Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics, 2 (2), Pp. 7-14.

Economist Intelligence Unit, 2015. The blue economy, growth, opportunity and a sustainableocean economy; A Briefing Paper for the World Ocean Summit, Available at https://www.eiu.com

Hoegh-Guldberg, O., 2015. Reviving the Ocean Economy: The Case for Action – 2015.

Nyananyo, B.L., 1999. Vegetation. In Alagoa E. J (ed). The land and people of Bayelsa State: Central Niger Delta. Onyoma Publications.

OECD. 2012. The Future of the Ocean Economy – exploring the prospects for emerging ocean industries to 2030 Mare. Retrieved, European Commission.

Pauli, G., 2010. The Blue Economy: 10 years-100 innovations-100 million jobs. United State: Paradigm Publications.

The East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress. 2009. Building a blue economy: Strategy, opportunities, and partnerships in the Seas of East Asia. EAS Congress Bulletin, 131(9)

The Webster Dictionary

UNEP, FAO, IMO, UNDP, IUCN, GRID-Arendal. 2012. Green Economy in a Blue World. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), (2014). The oceans economy: opportunities and challenges for small island developing states (SIDS), United Nations, Geneva.

UNEP. 2013. Green Economy Definition. http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/AboutGEI/

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), 2017. Mapping the linkages between oceans and other sustainable development goals: A Preliminary exploration, DESA Working Paper No. 149, Available at https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/working-paper/wp149

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). 2016. The Blue Economy, Available at www.uneca.org

Wairimu, E., and Khainga D., 2017. Kenya's Agenda in Developing the Blue Economy, Available at http://kippra.or.ke/kenyas-agenda-in-developing-the-blue-economy/

World Bank, 2016. Blue economy development framework - Growing the Blue Economy to combat poverty and accelerate prosperity, Available at: http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/446441473349079068/AMCOECC-Blue-Economy- Development-Framework

www. Panda.org/baltic, WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme