

# Blue Economy for Resilient Africa Program

## Foreword

Africa, the world's second-largest continent, is surrounded by two seas and two oceans. With the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Indian Ocean to the east, the continent boasts a vast shoreline with myriad coastal and marine ecosystems. These ecosystems provide the continent's coastal countries and communities with food, livelihoods, and economic opportunities while protecting against the ravages of climate change which, as on other continents, disproportionately impact Africa's most poor and vulnerable.

Our vision is to help countries reduce poverty and share prosperity by developing sustainable blue infrastructure, adequately managing natural habitats and natural resources, and addressing pollution, which are threatening the productivity of Africa's coastal and marine ecosystems. Climate change-related events such as sea-level rise, land subsidence, acidification, storm surge, and coastal flooding are exacerbating the vulnerability of those living along Africa's coastline.

The Blue Economy is a significant solution area that is sometimes out of sight. In this package, we offer a set of operational solutions and new finance tools that we believe can help nations address the key question that a sustainable Blue Economy seeks to answer: ***How can Africa's coastal countries manage their coastal and marine landscapes to spur economic growth and reduce poverty while adapting to the effects of climate change?***

The World Bank can help. Drawing on our experience on the African continent and across the world, we provide technical and financial assistance to help countries create solutions that can be operationalized. Visionary ideas, innovations, and applicable science are all clear and available. Our aim now is to make sure that we channel these resources to initiatives that can make a difference for the most vulnerable populations and sectors.

We look forward to deepening and expanding our engagement with Africa's coastal countries—many of which are expected to be hit hard by the effects of climate change on the marine and coastal environment—on creating Blue Economies that support sustainable development.

Sincerely,

Ferid Belhaj



Vice President  
Middle East and North  
Africa

Ousmane Diagana



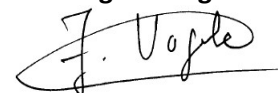
Vice President  
West And Central  
Africa

Victoria Kwakwa



Vice President  
East And Southern  
Africa

Juergen Voegelé



Vice President  
Sustainable  
Development