How the Blue Economy can drive Africa’s development while improving resilience against climate change.

It is the poor and vulnerable that suffer the most when global crises hit Africa.

This has been the case with food shortages and rising debt levels, and it is the case with climate change, which threatens to erode the continent’s hard-won development gains unless urgent action is taken.

Our vision is to help countries develop sustainable infrastructure, adequately manage natural habitats and natural resources, and address the pollution that is threatening the productivity of coastal ecosystems. Climate change-related events such as sea-level rise, land subsidence, storm surge, and coastal flooding are exacerbating the vulnerability of those living along Africa’s coastline.

The Blue Economy is a significant solution that is sometimes out of sight.

Here 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 better 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 unleash the immense potential of the Blue Economy. 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 help countries prioritize impactful actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost adaptation while delivering on broader development goals, including food security and livelihoods for the most vulnerable populations and sectors.

We look forward to partnering with Africa’s coastal countries—many of which are already seeing the effects of climate change on their marine environments—on creating local Blue Economies that support sustainable development.

Sincerely,

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