CARIBBEAN BLUE ECONOMY: AN OECS PERSPECTIVE
Significance of Oceans to the OECS

Globally Oceans (which cover about 70% of the earth):

- Have 97% of its water and provides 50% of its oxygen;
- Absorb 30% of human-produced carbon dioxide;
- Absorb 93% of increased global warming since 1970s;
- Buffer ever-worsening impact of storms;
- Main trade medium (90% volume, 70% value);
- Provide US$24 trillion in ecosystem services per year.

Oceans are essential! No Ocean, no life!
THE UNITED NATIONS Ocean Governance Framework

- Policy Framework
- Legal Framework
- Administrative/Institutional Framework
- Implementing Mechanism
- Marine Space
- Shipping
- People at Sea
- Maritime Security

- Marine Science and Technology
- Fisheries Resources
- Marine Genetic Resources
- Marine Biological Diversity
- Non-living Marine Resources
- Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment
- Climate Change
- Settlement of Disputes
PROTOCOL: ARTICLE 24 - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

... to minimize environmental vulnerability, improve environmental management and protect the region's natural resource base for optimal social and economic benefits for Member States.
THE BLUE ECONOMY – definition

“A sustainable ocean economy [blue economy] emerges when economic activity is in balance with the long-term capacity of ocean ecosystems to support this activity and remain resilient and healthy.”  (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2015)
Caribbean Sea (covers 1% of the earth, is a biodiversity hot spot) – blue economy 2012:
  - US$407Bn = 14-17% of GDP of the States and Territories (US$53.17Bn by island States and Territories).

OECS Member States (marine space to land space approx 85:1).
  - The blue economy employs up to 30% of the labour force in some Member States.

166 million people live within 100 kilometers of the Caribbean coast.
THE CARIBBEAN OCEAN ECONOMY

In 2012 supported:

- 34 SIDS & territories;
- 40 Million persons;
- Fisheries US$5 Bn & Aquaculture US$1.9 Bn
- Tourism: US $47 Bn;
- Oil and gas: US $40 Bn;
- Shipping: US $311 Bn.
Caribbean Region-wide blue economy vision consensus

Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+)

- 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for sustainable development is endorsed by 25 States and Territories;

- A CLME+ Interim Coordinating Mechanism (ICM) was established by an MOU in July 2017.

- CLME+ Vision – “a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region”
VISION

Healthy and richly biodiverse Eastern Caribbean marine environment, sustainably managed in an integrated way to promote socio-economic development and support the livelihoods and aspirations of current and future generations.

57th Meeting of the OECS Authority, 2-4 June 2013
CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OCEANSCAPE PROJECT (CROP)

USD 6.3 M Funded by:

Administered by:

Executed by:

Participating countries:

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OCEANSCAPE PROJECT (CROP)

Supporting the transition to a sustainable ocean economy (blue economy) (ECROP, Action 3.1)

COMPONENT 1 Strengthening Ocean Governance

- National Coastal Master Plans;
- National Marine Spatial Plans (MSP);
- A Regional MSP Framework. (ECROP Policy 4; Action 3.2, 3.3.)
- National Ocean Governance Policies and Strategies;
- Align ECROP with 2030 development Agenda (ECROP Policy 4; Action 3.2, 4.1.)

For orderly development of the blue economy and informed decision making.
COMPONENT 2 Strengthening Knowledge & Capacity

Expand marine data aggregation and Analytical Tools (for better decision making)

- Mapping Ocean Wealth
- Mobile Data Applications of layered GIS
  (ECROP Policy 6; Action 6.1)

Institutional Strengthening and Knowledge Services

- Think Blu U Virtual Open Campus University
  (ECROP Policy 5; Action 5.1)
**BLUE ECONOMY & THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

| 18. Negotiation and Implementation Multilateral Environmental Agreements | 19. MOI, including partnerships 96-120 | 20. SIDS partnerships platform | 21. Review |

**Preamble Par 6 Sustainable and Sustainable Growth**

**Par 59-63**

- Food Security and Nut Para 59-63
- Health and NCDs 72-75
- Social Development Education para 87-89
- Gender Equality and women’s empowerment 76, 77
- Water & Sanitation 64-65
- Sustainable Economic Growth 23-30
- Sustainable Economic Growth 27-c
- Sustainable paragraph 7 Gender equality 77h
- Water and sanitation para 65 Sustainable Consumption and Production para 68-69
- Climate Change 31-46
- Oceans & Seas 53-58
- Biodiversity 89-94
- Invasive Alien Species (IAS) 95
- Social Development peace societies 83-86
- MOI, including partnerships 96-120
- SIDS partnerships platform

**Blue Economy & the Sustainable Development Agenda**

- 1. Foster Improvement in the Quality of Life
- 2. Food Security and NUT Para 59-63
- 3. Health and NCDs 72-75
- 4. Social Development Education para 87-89
- 5. Gender Equality and women’s empowerment 76, 77
- 6. Water & Sanitation 64-65
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BLUE ECONOMY BENEFITS

Support for socio-economic sustainability, and resilience

- New technologies
- New markets
- Investment
- Capacity building
- Bioprospecting
- Technology transfer
- Assets and benefit sharing
- New fisheries & value added
- Entrepreneurship
- Job creation/livelihoods

Be better able to adapt and recover quickly from adversity in climate and the environment, economic and social systems.
The Caribbean is a Biodiversity Hotspot with 8-35% of global endemic species.

DRIVERS & PRESSURES

Human activities and climate change:

- 70% of beaches eroded
- 75% of coral reef dead
- 85% of wastewater is untreated.
CARIBBEAN BLUE ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES

- Fisheries (Aquaculture) - increased fish production by 30% in 10 years
- Shipping – Global shortage of 16,500 officers (2.1%) in 2017
- Oil and Gas – Guyana could export by 2020. Monthly yield could exceed 10 million barrel by 2022
- Waste management terrestrial & ship-generated, and circular economy
- Tourism – Yacht provisioning and repair services
- Blue biotechnology – e.g. Sargassum fertilizer
thank you