

The blue economy:

Prosperous. Inclusive. Sustainable.

Delivering on the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by helping the world harness its blue potential.

A global first

Kenya is hosting the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference – the first global conference on the sustainable blue economy.

Over 4,000 participants from around the world will meet in Nairobi from November 26 to 28, 2018 to share ideas on how to:

- Harness the potential of our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to improve the lives of all, particularly people in developing states, women, youth and Indigenous peoples
- Leverage the latest innovations, scientific advances and best practices to build prosperity while conserving our waters for future generations



Why this conference

The world has rallied around the enormous pressures facing our oceans and waters, from plastic pollution to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, there is international recognition that we need to develop our waters in an inclusive and sustainable manner for the benefit of all.

The Sustainable Blue Economy Conference builds on the momentum of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris and the UN Ocean Conference 2017 "Call to Action".

This conference will:

- Identify how to harness the potential of the blue economy to create jobs and combat poverty and hunger
- Show how economic development and healthy oceans and waters can go hand in hand
- Capture commitments and practical actions that can be taken today
- Bring together the players needed to transition to a blue economy

Conference events

- Plenary sessions for all participants
- Main events and expert panels on conference themes
- Side events on specialized topics
- Seminars featuring the latest academic and scientific thinking on the blue economy
- Exhibitions (a showcase of trade, investment and tourism for the blue economy)
- Business forum (one-day event for businesses to network and pursue investment opportunities)

Themes

There are many building blocks to a blue economy that is prosperous, inclusive and sustainable. The main theme of the conference is “The Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, with 9 sub-themes:

1. Ending hunger, securing food supplies and promoting healthy diets
2. Transportation and global connectivity
3. Energy, mineral resources and sustainable development
4. Managing and sustaining marine life and conservation
5. Employment, job creation and poverty eradication
6. Climate action, agriculture and pollution-free oceans
7. People, communities and societies – the inclusive blue economy
8. Cities, tourism, culture and the blue economy
9. Maritime security and enforcement

Each sub-theme will take into account: new technologies and innovations; priorities and partnerships; financing the blue economy; and women, youth and the blue economy.

Partners and participants

To deliver this large, international conference and ensure developing states can fully participate, Kenya is partnering with Canada (co-host) and Portugal (sponsor).

Participants will come from developed and developing states from all sectors:

- Heads of State and government
- Ministers
- Governors and mayors of ocean- and lake-facing cities
- International, regional and national organizations
- Universities, research institutions and innovators
- Business and private sector
- Community leaders and civil society
- Women, youth and Indigenous people

Join us in Nairobi to:

- Help shape the transition to the blue economy
- Hear about the latest innovations in science and technology to ignite blue growth
- Create new partnerships and projects that transcend boundaries
- Learn about success stories and concrete actions for driving sustainable blue economies
- Share strategies for transitioning to a blue economy in your country or region
- Be mobilized for change

