

## The blue economy in Cross River, Nigeria

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Fact box

- **Population:** 3 866 269 [1]
- **GDP:** USD 9.3 billion [2]
- **Area:** 21 787 km<sup>2</sup> [3]

#### Drivers for the blue economy



Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems



National laws, regulations and initiatives



International initiatives

### Blue economy sectors

Cross River, a West African region named after its main river and located in the Niger Delta with a small coastal border on the Atlantic Ocean, is home to all blue economy sectors below, except water-based renewable energy. The main sectors contributing to the blue economy in the Cross River State are seafood, shipping, water-related transport, port activities and water-related tourism.



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

### BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in Cross River are related to biodiversity loss, depletion of freshwater and natural resources, pollution from plastics, disturbance of natural habitats and wildlife and waste generation.

#### Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Cross River State



Changing precipitation patterns and/or hydrological availability



Coastal erosion



Soil degradation or soil erosion

[1] [2] [3] Nigeria Data Portal (n.d.), [www.nigeria.opendataforafrica.org/apps/atlas/Cross-River](http://www.nigeria.opendataforafrica.org/apps/atlas/Cross-River) (accessed 16 March 2023)

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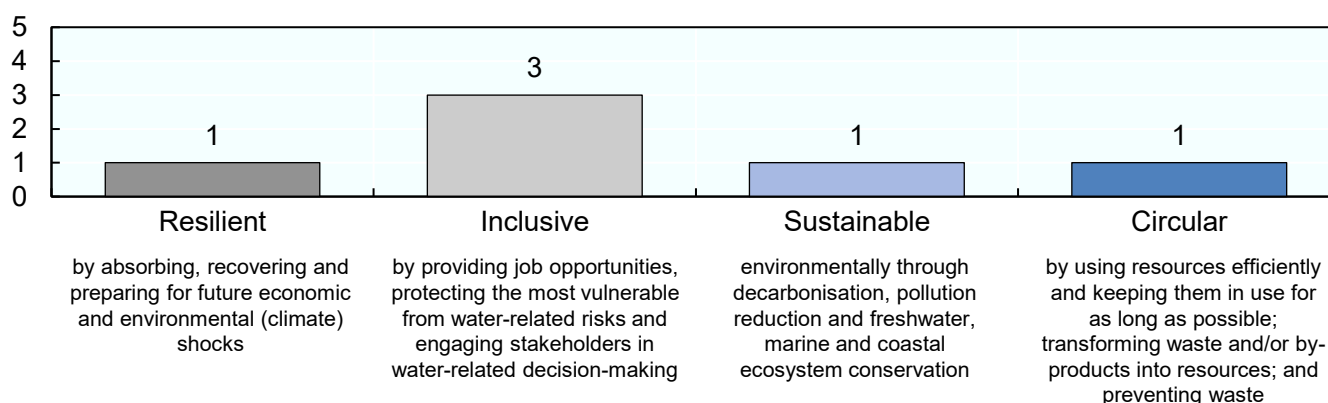
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### GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

The preparation of Integrated Coastal Area Management Plans (ICAM) for Cross River is currently ongoing under the state's integrated watershed management programme. In addition, the project "Integrated management of mangrove ecosystems and expansion of social protection for fisheries and forest dependents in the coastal communities of Cross River State" aims to kick off in 2023.

### THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY (\*)



(\*) Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

### TOP CHALLENGES

- Technological challenges
- Unclear allocation of roles and responsibilities
- Lack of political will
- Lack of planning and decision-making at the adequate scale
- Insufficient link between marine and freshwater policies
- Lack of co-ordination between government departments
- Lack of co-ordination between levels of government
- Inadequate technical and human capacities of civil servants
- Insufficient data collection and information sharing
- Regulatory barriers
- Cultural barriers

### FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Set up a formal strategy
- Enhance resilience to climate change
- Tackle pollution of water bodies
- Boost technology use and uptake
- Foster a science-policy dialogue
- Preserve local culture and traditions linked to aquatic ecosystems
- Foster collaboration between blue economy sectors and others
- Improve the regulatory environment
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Protect the most vulnerable from negative impacts
- Channel public and private funds towards the blue economy
- Improve data collection on the blue economy