

## The blue economy in Kisii, Kenya

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



### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Fact box

- **Population:** 6 269 579 [1]
- **GDP:** N/A
- **Area:** N/A

#### Drivers for the blue economy



Boost economic activity



Increase productivity



Create jobs

### Blue economy sectors

Kisii, an East African region in Kenya on the eastern shore of Lake Victoria, is home to the seafood and blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education sectors of the blue economy.



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 impact of blue economy sectors in Kisii is related to the depletion of natural resources (e.g., fish stocks, sand, hydrocarbons, etc.). Other smaller impacts are water pollution, depletion of freshwater resources due to freshwater abstraction, pollution from plastics, disturbance of natural habitats and wildlife and waste generation.

#### Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Kisii



Water stress



Flood



Soil degradation or soil erosion

[1] Kenya Bureau of Statistics (2019), Kenya Population and Housing Census Results, <https://www.knbs.or.ke/2019-kenya-population-and-housing-census-results/>

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### GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

Through public participation of local communities, the Kisii county government is developing a [County Integrated Development Plan \(CIDP\)](#) across the nine sub-counties, which provides proposals for blue economy programmes and projects. Research, education and training related to the blue economy, in particular in aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture, is provided by the [Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute \(KMFRI\)](#) and the [University of Kisii](#). The region is home to innovative initiatives such as the use of aquaponics as a technology that promote circularity, the use of weather warnings to mitigate adverse weather events, and the collection and reuse of rainwater from roofs through raised ponds.

### Funding mechanisms

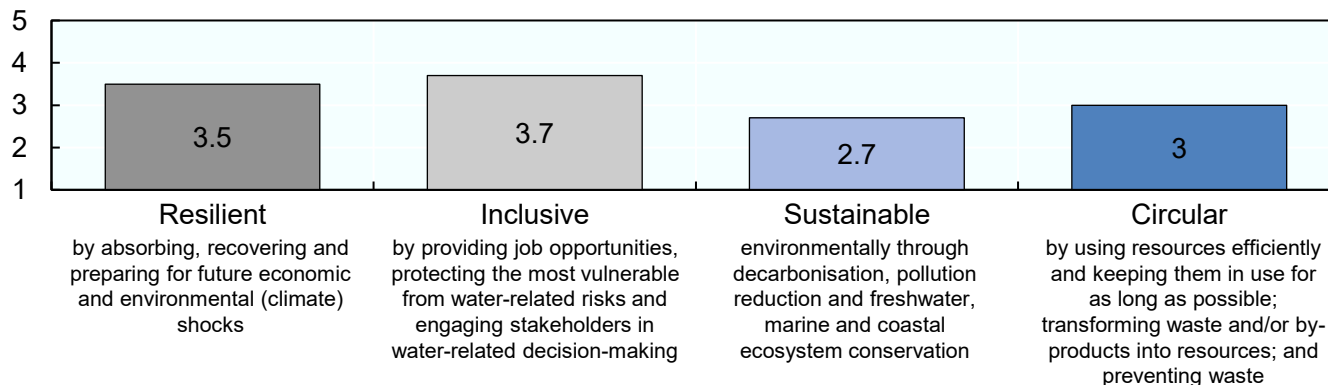
- International transfers of funds
- Central government transfers of funds
- Local/regional funds



Dedicated budget for the blue economy

### 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
- Lack of a clear and holistic strategy
- Insufficient link between marine and freshwater policies
- Inadequate technical and human capacities of civil servants
- Lack of financial resources
- Regulatory barriers
- Cultural barriers

### FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Set up a formal strategy
- Promote material efficiency and circularity
- Enhance resilience to climate change
- Foster a science-policy dialogue
- Channel public and private funds towards the blue economy