



- Financing solution
- Needs Assessment
- Policy analysis solution
- Sustainability solution
- Management solution

## **SUSTAINABLE NIGERIAN BLUE ECONOMY - STRATEGY CONFERENCE : 8<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2025,**

**THE EKO HOTELS AND SUITES, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The **Sustainable Nigerian Blue Economy – STRATEGY CONFERENCE** crucially is conceived to be the last of the Nigerian Blue Economy Advocacy series that started with maiden **Nigeria Blue Economy Stakeholders Conference** 15-17 February, 2022 in Lagos which brought major stakeholders together for a robust discussion on Blue Economy with inputs from experts from within and outside the country – including the **United Nations Global Compact Sustainable Ocean**

**Business Action Platform.** The communique, made available to the highest level of government was expected to constitute the basis of policy formulation and legislation to underpin the Blue Economy in the country. Subsequently, the **Niger Delta Blue Economy Investment Forum** 15-17 November, 2022, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State highlighted the importance of the Niger Delta Region. Thereafter, the **Nigerian Blue Economy Discovery Conference** 27-30 November, 2023, THE BWC HOTEL, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS concentrated on the potentials of the Blue Economy. And the **SUSTAINABLE NIGERIAN BLUE ECONOMY – ECOSYSTEM CONFERENCE** 5-7 NOVEMBER, 2024, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS brought all the essential elements together.

There is now a sufficient national consensus about the importance of the Blue Economy and what it's implementation could do for the Nigerian economy, hence the creation of the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy. There is however a dearth of knowledge about implementing strategies - the seeming lethargy at the state level who are frontline Stakeholder is a proof. This strategy conference is intended to improve the knowledge base of policy makers across the country for all the various stakeholders for proper appreciation, policy formulation, legislation and implementation.

Significantly, **Alfe City Institution** during this advocacy process and period now has developed significant repository of information about what all the major Stakeholders have and what needs to happen to move the process forward.

This **SUSTAINABLE NIGERIAN BLUE ECONOMY – STRATEGY CONFERENCE** is expected to be the last in the series of public advocacy outreach on the prospective Nigerian Blue Economy. The next stage would be providing practical

knowledge and capacity Building for a sustainable Nigerian Blue Economy to stakeholders across the country.

## **BACKGROUND**

The crude oil and the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria has played a pivotal role in the economic and political evolution of Nigeria since its independence. It's difficult to imagine what kind of Nigeria there would be without the discovery of crude oil at Oloibiri in 1956 in the area now called Bayelsa state.

The crude oil has shaped Nigeria, its politics, economy, its people and to a considerable extent its role in the World. The prefix 'Giant' associated with Nigeria in relation to the rest of Africa is not of size but the boom created by the crude oil.

However, the consequences are not pretty; pollution, environmental degradation, neglect and the consequential militancy of youth - generations that have grown up without proper education in the Niger Delta Region.

There is therefore a human necessity for a clean break from this painful period of monumental cultural sabotage. A sustainable Nigerian Blue Economy should herald a new horizon of possibilities as oppose to a very corrupt culture of entitlement perpetuated by the crude oil. The crude oil was a natural endowment misused hence has not had the lasting beneficial effect that could have served the purpose of human DEVELOPMENT in the country.

For sustainability, Blue Economy solution calls for decongestion of Lagos; to reduce the pressure on the Apapa port by encouraging the construction of new sea ports along the coast and the River Niger that can serve the other parts of the country. Employing standard international metrics, there should be at least twenty seven functional ports of varying sizes serving a growing population that is rapidly approaching a quarter of a billion people. The case for construction of new sets of sea ports along the Nigeria Atlantic Coast which some littoral states are ready to undertake is overwhelming.



## **OBJECTIVES OF CONFERENCE**

- *With the benefit of our experience in the last few years, provide specific policy initiatives to the government that can kick-start Blue Economy implementation*
- *Provide practical solutions to littoral states on coastal development initiative for growth and employment creation;*
- *Provide practical solutions to stakeholders for financing projects, management and implementation;*
- *Advance the national discuss on the imperative of a Blue Economy in Nigeria through practical demonstration of actual projects at the state level;*
- *Provide the platform for individual state to exhibit their Blue Economy projects for both local and international investors;*
- *Create a mechanism for peer review amongst the state to encourage open competition;*
- *Create a database for the states to serve as a repository of information about development in the blue economy sphere;*
- *Establish a thriving open source for investment information on the Blue Economy in the country;*
- *Above all, create discernable media buzz about the potential of Nigeria's blue economy as a source of hope for unemployed youths.*



*Coastal Development*





Lagos-Calabar highway



## **THE TECHNICAL CONTENT:**

*(A) What developing a Blue Economy would contribute to the growth and sustainability of the Nigerian economy.*

*(B) The roles of government and other stakeholders in the development of a Nigerian Blue Economy.*

*(C) The means, process of developing the physical infrastructure required for a sustainable and thriving Nigerian Blue Economy.*

*(D) How Nigeria can build a future technology driven economy that will be greener and sustainable.*

*(E) The process of creating a Nigerian Blue Economy that will guarantee an environmentally sustainable development employing global best practices.*

## **PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS**

- ❖ National Assembly Legislators
- ❖ All related Federal Ministries and Marine Agencies (MDAs);
- ❖ The River Basin Development Authorities;
- ❖ The littoral states;
- ❖ Financial Institutions;
- ❖ Maritime operators;
- ❖ Some Multilateral institutions.