



COMMONWEALTH  
of LEARNING

VUSSC



January 25 to February 28, 2021

# THE BLUE ECONOMY: Blue Resources

Learn more about the sectors that can be developed from  
ocean resources

*A free MOOC presented in partnership between the University of Seychelles  
and the Commonwealth of Learning*

Number of units: 5  
Length of course: 5 weeks  
Workload: 4-5 hours per week  
Cost: FREE  
Level: Introductory  
Prerequisites: None  
Language: English  
Institution: University of Seychelles and  
Commonwealth of Learning  
Subject: The Blue Economy

## What is this course about?

Planet earth's defining feature is the ocean and it is the reason that life exists. It produces oxygen, absorbs carbon dioxide and contributes to freshwater renewal. It connects countries and cultures, and supports ecosystems that bridge national boundaries. Nations are increasingly looking to the ocean to meet the needs of their people, particularly coastal communities and island nations. Some are looking at their large lakes and rivers to do the same. This MOOC introduces key blue economy sectors that can be developed, for example, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Marine Renewable Energy, Seabed Mining and Marine Biotechnology. The course also explores some of the key considerations that influence the sustainability of individual sectors and blue economy strategies as a whole.

## Why should you do this course?

Whether you live in a landlocked or coastal nation, the benefits of developing a sustainable Blue Economy are relevant. Over five weeks you'll discover how and why the Blue Economy concept is driving innovative thinking about how we engage with the ocean and how it supports societies. Through discussion forums and a live session with course tutors, you'll get to interact and collaborate with other learners, plus the videos (including featured experts), reading and quizzes help you understand the material. All this for only 4-5 hours of your time per week.

## What will you learn?

This is an introductory course for persons from various backgrounds, both technical and non-technical. The integrated, multi-sectoral nature of the Blue Economy provides opportunity for new knowledge to be developed, regardless of how much or how little you may know. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the key components that form part of each blue sector
- Discuss the factors that influence the sustainability of each blue sector
- Assess the role of blue sectors in the evolution of a nation's Blue Economy as a whole

## Course inclusions

Once you sign up, your access will include all materials, including videos and course-related readings. This is MOOC three of four, and it can be taken on its own, but you will gain the most value by taking all four MOOCs.

## Meet the team

This free MOOC is delivered through a partnership between two internationally recognised institutions: the University of Seychelles (UniSey) and the Commonwealth of Learning, and is facilitated by Kelly Hoareau, Director of the James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute at UniSey. Kelly is currently developing resources, networks and knowledge to support the Seychelles Blue Economy agenda. She works internationally on Blue Economy research, education and awareness to advance ocean-based sustainable development. For more, visit <https://beri.unisey.ac.sc/>. Drs Holly Niner and Kaylee Smit will assist Kelly. Holly is a Research and Knowledge Exchange Fellow with the [Marine Conservation Research Group](#) at the University of Plymouth. As part of the [One Ocean Hub](#), she seeks to support the sustainable, equitable and just use of marine and coastal resources and space. Kaylee is currently working on projects that are linked to intergovernmental marine spatial planning in the Western Indian Ocean and artisanal fisheries in Seychelles.

## Course outline:

- WEEK 1: Fisheries**
- WEEK 2: Aquaculture**
- WEEK 3: Marine Renewable Energy**
- WEEK 4: Seabed Mining**
- WEEK 5: Marine Biotechnology**

## What will you gain?

Upon completion you will receive recognition through a verified, easily shareable Certificate to highlight the knowledge and skills you've gained.

## How do you get started?

Registration is now open. To sign up go to:

<https://bit.ly/38mazYQ>

## For more information

Visit the course home page at

<https://www.mooc4dev.org/BlueEconomy3>

or

[Email: vussc@col.org](mailto:vussc@col.org)

or visit us at

<https://vussc.col.org>

[www.col.org](http://www.col.org)