

The Blue Empowerment Project

ABOUT THE PROJECT

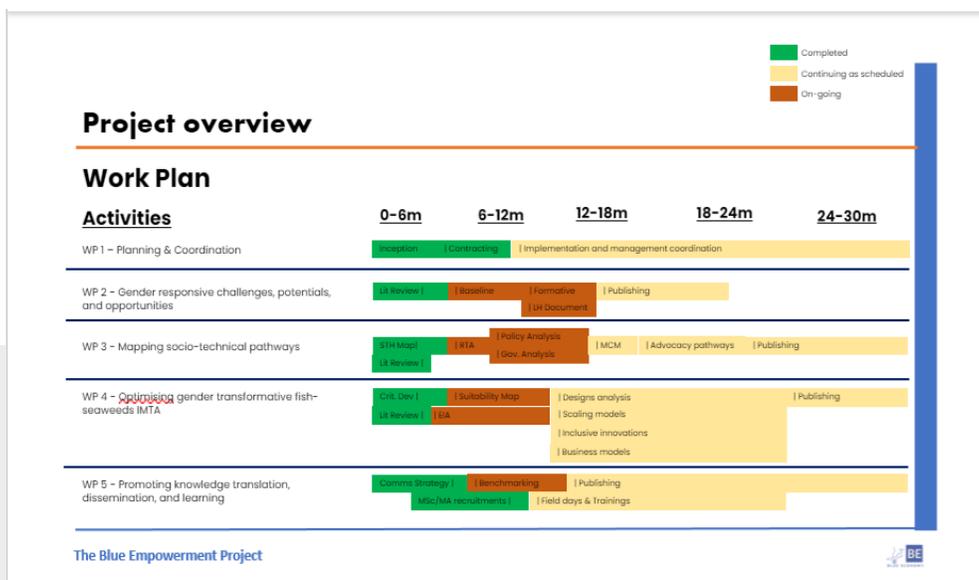
Blue empowerment is a low-carbon, gender transformative initiative in coastal Kenya, with the aim of contributing to tackling barriers for the empowerment of fisher women through adoption of climate-smart integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) of seaweeds and fish for improved livelihoods and resilience. Anchored in sustainable development goal (SDG) 5 on the crucial role of gender equality in development processes as well as in the Kenya Vision 2030, the expected main beneficiaries of the result of this project are women. The core model to be used to help in ensuring the results of empowerment will be the Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation Model whose core aspects include Agency, Resources, and institutional structures. The project is running in Kwale County and will be scaled to Kilifi County.

ACTS is an Intergovernmental organization founded in 1988 to pursue policy-oriented research towards strengthening the capacity of African countries and institutions to harness science and technology for sustainable development. ACTS envisions a sustainable economic, social, and environmental future for Africa, through science, technology, and innovation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To profile and document gender responsive challenges, potentials and opportunities for commercial and sustainable adoption of fish-seaweeds IMTA for economic development of coastal fisher communities;
2. To map socio-technical pathways that can support enabling policies, technology uptake, and governance frameworks for IMTA adoption and women fisher-folk empowerment;
3. To design, set-up, test and optimize gender transformative fish-seaweeds IMTA solutions for the socio-economic empowerment, COVID-19 and Climate Change resilience of fisher women;
4. To promote knowledge translation, dissemination and learning for IMTA systems upscaling, climate change and COVID-19 response strategies for the local community and women empowerment in Kwale and Kilifi counties.



A summary of the project's achievements in 2022 and projections in 2023



WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2023

A little exciting sneak peek into 2023!

1. Quarterly Webinars

We shall be having a webinar every quarter. Our next webinar will be in March 2023. Details and link to the meeting will be shared as the date approaches.

2. A book on Blue Empowerment

Mid 2023, ACTS looks to publish a book on the blue empowerment of women while analyzing the barriers, challenges and opportunities in the fisher-folk communities in coastal Kenya. We shall inform you of its release in due course.

3. Hackathon

We shall be having an innovation challenge in 2023. We welcome you to come and present your idea on how to empower women in the Blue Economy and win a prize for your team!

4. Studentship

To achieve our outputs for work stream 4 and 5, we shall be recruiting 2 students for the PhD fellows. This will be advertised in our website. <https://blueeconomy.acts-net.org/>

BEP proposes to undertake social, technological and institutional analyses of the barriers, challenges and opportunities for leveraging IMTA of seaweed and fish as a low-carbon, gender-transformative, environmentally and economically sustainable innovation for equitable empowerment.



*African Center for Technology Studies
ICIPE Duduville Campus, Kasarani*

*blue-economy@acts-net.org
<https://blueeconomy.acts-net.org/>*