



Mauritius

1 Which bioeconomy-related policy strategies exist?

In 2013, the Mauritian government published a comprehensive **Roadmap on “Ocean Economy”**, which outlines how Mauritius will transform to become an Ocean Economy. The government integrated the vision of the Ocean Economy in its Government Program 2015–2019, with a clear

economic and foreign investment focus. For this purpose, a new ministry has been created and the Mauritius Institute of Oceanography together with all other ocean related activities have been brought under the pursue of that Ministry.

2 Is the term “bioeconomy” or “biobased economy” used in the strategy documents?

Yes

No

X

3 Who is the author of the strategies?

The Roadmap on Ocean Economy has been published by the Mauritius Board of Investment. The roadmap is the result of public consultations held with representatives of the private sector, local ocean specialists, international experts and re-

searchers to assist the Government in evaluating the potential of the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone. A National Taskforce on Ocean Economy should be nominated to oversee the implementation of the Roadmap.

4 What are the key goals of the strategies?

The main objective of the Ocean Economy Roadmap is not related to bioeconomy. The strategy envisions that the ocean economy's contribution to GDP will double from a current 10.8 percent to 20 percent by 2020. It seeks to develop into a major hub in the region for petroleum products, container transshipment and value-added services such as logistics and marine services. Still, about half of

the priority areas for development of the ocean economy can be attributed to bioeconomy.

In the 2015–2019 work program, the government pursues the development of the ocean economy as an important industry to promote economic diversification, job creation and wealth generation.



5 What are the priority areas of the strategies?

The Ocean Economy Roadmap identifies seven priority areas, about half can be considered bioeconomy-related: fishing, seafood processing and aquaculture; marine pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, thalassotherapy and high-end aquaculture; marine services including marine biotechnology; and ocean knowledge. Particular attention is paid to lagoon aquaculture projects and so called “Deep Ocean Water Applications” for example in bioprospecting, the cosmetics and bottled-water industry.

The 2015–2019 Government Program sets mainly regulatory priorities when it comes to realizing the vision of the ocean economy. For example, a new Fisheries and Marine Resources Bill and a Marine Pollution Bill will be introduced in line with the International Maritime Organization Convention. The Program further highlights the government's active promotion of fossil fuel exploration while putting the fishermen community at the center of socio-economic development.

REFERENCES

Republic of Mauritius. Board of Investment. (2015). Newsletter. Issue Nr. 72. Retrieved from: <http://www.investmauritius.com/newsletter/2015/January/index.html>

Republic of Mauritius. Board of Investment. (2013). The Ocean Economy: A Roadmap for Mauritius. Retrieved from: <http://www.oceaneconomy.mu/PDF/Brochure.pdf>