



COMMONWEALTH
of LEARNING

VUSSC



June 8 - July 12, 2020

THE BLUE ECONOMY: Sustainability, Innovation and our Ocean

Learn how to gain the most from our ocean resources while ensuring that future generations can do the same

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

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. The ocean provides important goods and services to all of society. This short course introduces the concept of the Blue Economy, explores the potential that the ocean holds and asks us to consider how we can become better stewards of this precious resource.

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 with experts, videos and readings, you'll get to interact and collaborate with other learners, plus our self-assessment model means you take quizzes only when you're ready. 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:

- Explain the Blue Economy concept, its priorities and challenges
- Recognise the importance of ecosystem services to the Blue Economy
- Identify ocean sectors that have the potential to support livelihoods and wellbeing while considering what is needed for a resilient ocean

Course inclusions

Once you sign up, your access will include all materials, including videos and course-related readings. All you need is a PC, laptop, tablet or mobile phone and internet access.

Meet your facilitator

This free MOOC is delivered through a partnership between two internationally recognised institutions: the University of Seychelles (UniSecy) and the Commonwealth of Learning, and is facilitated by Kelly Hoareau, Director of the James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute at UniSecy. Kelly is currently developing resources and knowledge to support the Seychelles Blue Economy agenda. She works internationally on Blue Economy research and education to advance ocean-based sustainable development. For more, visit <https://beri.unisey.ac.sc/>.

No of units: 2

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

Course outline:

WEEKS 1 & 2

Introducing the Blue Economy

WEEKS 3 – 5

Ecosystem Services: The Foundation of the Blue Economy

What will you gain?

Upon completion you will receive recognition through a Certificate to verify your achievement. In addition, you will be invited to participate in the three follow-up Blue Economy MOOCs to be offered throughout 2020.

How do you get started?

Registration is open **now!**

To kickstart your journey and sign up, click [here](https://www.mooc4dev.org/user/register?enroll=335) or go to <https://www.mooc4dev.org/user/register?enroll=335>.

Course begins on World Oceans Day
– **June 8, 2020**

For more information

Email: vussc@col.org

or visit us at

<https://vussc.col.org>

www.col.org