

Enabling Effective Knowledge Systems that Support a Blue Economy

Globally, and particularly for coastal and ocean nations, there is a focus on developing coastal and ocean space to increase prosperity. Nations have relied on, and continue to rely on the ocean for transport, food and climate regulation, etc., but the difference now is that there is intense focus on how we develop this space more sustainably. This has been called the blue economy, a term used when referring to ocean-based sustainable development.

Developing a blue economy agenda is challenging because many sectors and actors are working in this space, and each of them has their own interpretation of the blue economy, with their own experience and priorities influencing their choices and actions.

The knowledge system influences the quality of communication, implementation, decision-making, and adaptive management and has the potential to empower impactful engagement in advancing a more sustainable ocean economy.

Knowledge coproduction can facilitate the evolution of effective localised blue economy frameworks that are inclusive, but local knowledge systems play a vital role in integrating sustainability and ensuring it is embedded within the community.

Various mechanisms enable a local and sustainable blue economy (see below and Göthberg et al., 2022), and effective knowledge systems can support a more sustainable and integrated approach.

By evaluating approaches in Seychelles and Australia, this research aims to:

- Highlight the relationship between the blue economy and local knowledge systems to empower cross-sectoral engagement and collaboration that advances sustainability.
- Determine which aspects of the local knowledge system support (or are a barrier to) empowered decision-making, adaptive management and effective policy development.
- Empower cross-sectoral engagement, critical thinking and innovative collaboration using improved knowledge coproduction.

References:

Göthberg, M., Carneiro, G., Hammar, L., Gårdmark, W., & Isaksson, I. (2022). 9 factors enabling local blue growth in developing countries. *Report 2022:11*.
Hoareau, K. (2023). *The Blue Economy: Who Knows What?* In Telesford, J. N. (2023 in production). *Annual report on global islands 2022*. Island Studies Press: Canada

The Blue Economy

Adequate, accessible & well-maintained Infrastructure & functional value chains

Financing that supports new investment, appropriate technological upgrades & strengthened resilience

Buy-in (value creation) & community engagement

Coherent & predictable legal frameworks & policy

Effective environmental regulations that are evidence-based, context-adapted & locally understood

Good governance & functioning institutions

Improved technology & better processes enabled through innovation

Strategic planning

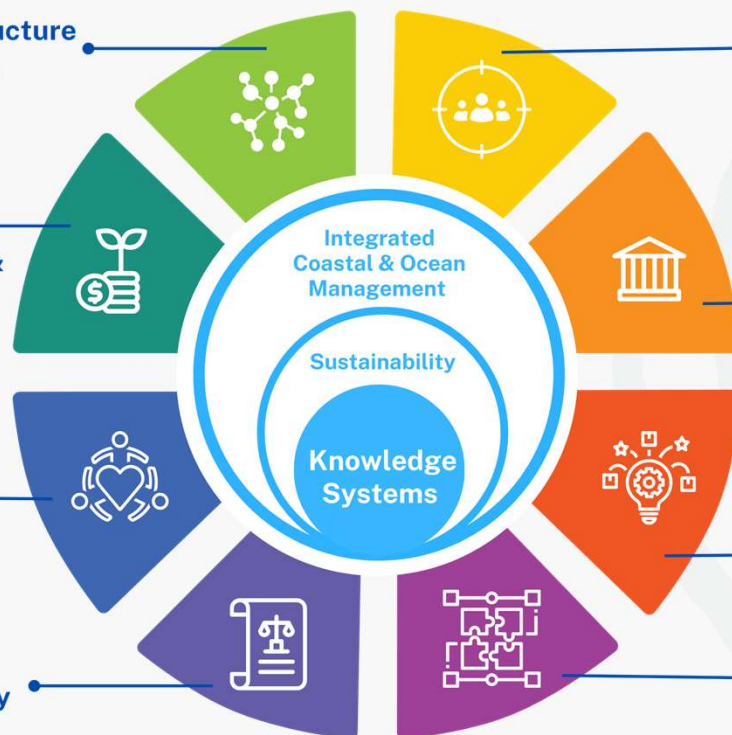


Image content influenced by Göthberg et al. 2022