OUR OCEAN
KENYA 2026

CONCEPT NOTE

Executive Business & Investment Forum

Date: 14th – 15th June 2026.

Theme: Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future

Venue: PrideInn Paradise Beach Resort & Convention Centre, Mombasa, Kenya

Host: Government of the Republic of Kenya

1. Introduction

The Executive Business & Investment Forum is a high-level, private-sector–focused platform convened alongside the 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC11) to mobilise business leadership, capital, and innovation in support of Kenya's blue economy priorities. Designed as a closed, outcome-oriented forum, it brings together senior executives from companies operating in Kenya, development partners, financiers, and senior government leadership to accelerate investment, job creation, and scalable solutions linked to the ocean economy.

While OOC11 provides the global policy, diplomatic, and commitment-setting platform, the Executive Business & Investment Forum is intentionally commercial and delivery-driven. It creates a structured space for the private sector to engage directly with government and development finance institutions on bankable opportunities, blended finance models, risk mitigation, and implementation pathways. The Forum positions the private sector not as observers, but as co- creators and implementers of Kenya's ocean and climate agenda.

The Forum is convened as part of Kenya's broader ambition to translate OOC11 from a global convening into tangible national outcomes, aligned with Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and the country's emerging Blue Economy Strategy.

2. Background and Context

Kenya's ocean economy—spanning fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, tourism, offshore energy, coastal infrastructure, circular economy industries, and ecosystem services—represents a significant yet underleveraged driver of economic growth, employment, and climate resilience. At the same time, ocean pollution, ecosystem degradation, and climate risks pose direct threats to livelihoods, infrastructure, and long-term competitiveness.

Hosting the 11th Our Ocean Conference positions Kenya at the centre of global ocean leadership. However, the success of OOC11 will ultimately be measured not by commitments alone, but by the extent to which those commitments translate into investments, enterprises, jobs, and resilient value chains on the ground. Achieving this requires deliberate, early, and structured engagement with the private sector—particularly businesses already operating within Kenya's economy.

The Executive Business & Investment Forum responds to this need by creating a dedicated mechanism to align policy ambition, capital, and enterprise capability—ensuring that Kenya's hosting of OOC11 catalyses real economic and social returns.

3. What Kenya Intends to Achieve through the Forum

Through the Executive Business & Investment Forum, Kenya seeks to crowd in private capital, unlock innovation, and accelerate enterprise participation in the blue economy. The Forum is designed to:

- Translate OOC11 commitments into bankable investment pipelines
- Accelerate blue jobs across fisheries, manufacturing, logistics, tourism, energy, and services
- Position Kenya as a regional hub for ocean-linked investment and innovation
- Strengthen collaboration between government, business, and development finance partners
- Advance circular economy solutions that address ocean pollution while creating commercial value

4.0 Why Private Sector Engagement Is Central

Delivering on ocean sustainability and blue growth cannot be achieved through public finance or policy alone. Businesses play a decisive role in capital mobilisation, technology deployment, value-chain transformation, and job creation. The Forum recognises that companies operating in Kenya are uniquely positioned to scale solutions quickly—whether through financing blue enterprises, investing in circular production systems, greening maritime logistics, or deploying data and digital infrastructure. The Forum therefore focuses on practical engagement, including:

- Financing models for blue SMEs, infrastructure, and nature-based solutions
- Circular economy innovations targeting marine pollution and waste recovery

- Blue carbon, climate risk, and insurance-linked investment instruments
- Public–private partnerships for ports, fisheries, coastal cities, and logistics
- Enterprise-led solutions that combine profitability with sustainability

Expected Outcomes

The Executive Business & Investment Forum is expected to deliver:

- Identified investment-ready opportunities across blue economy sectors
- New or strengthened public–private and blended finance partnerships
- Commitments toward financing blue jobs and enterprises
- Scalable solutions addressing ocean pollution and climate resilience
- A clear private-sector contribution to Kenya's OOC11 legacy