

Highlights from Blue Economy Sessions
Swiss Impact Initiative & ESAFON Global Impact Investment Conference
May 15 & 16 2019, Mövenpick Hotel, Geneva

The 4th Swiss Impact Investment Initiative workshop as a voice to defend ocean protection and advocate the blue economy development has been highly successful.

Together with ocean related panel sessions addressed during the ESAFON 4th Global Impact Investment Conference, a number of observations leads to the following comments:

1) Switzerland has a key role to play in pursuing SDG 14 as it has the international bodies, the diplomacy, the research capability and technology, the legal competency. This is reflected in the Red Sea Coral Reef International Centre project that takes a large scale approach to a major set-back in ocean conservation and the safeguard of biodiversity and eco-tourism **Ref. EPFL**

2) Derived from the Bangladesh Ex-tax pilot project, it is fully relevant to consider aligning tax policy and incentive with SDG 14 and the circular blue economy. Use new tax policy to subsidize global fossil fuel and drain natural capital. New tax policy will encourage human capital development instead of natural resources depletion **Ref. Ex-tax**

3) Replace fossil fuels by renewable energies – this does span several blue economy industries:

-Oil and gas platform conversion into marine wind based energy

-Development of tidal (and wave) based energy – highly predictable and manageable **Ref. IUCN**

4) Green ports and green shipping – two activities which go hand in hand and are core to the circular blue economy development- 40% of the global fleet is EU – **Ref. Ocean Assets**

5) Marine Protected Areas can deliver conservation and economic benefits through stakeholder's engagement and payment for ecosystem services – provide scalability locally but can be used plug and play along 1 million kilometres of worldwide shores. **Ref. Vertigo Lab – Blue Seeds**

6) Feeding the world sustainably with fish as a source of protein is crucial and is achievable at scale with responsible aquaculture **Ref. AMP**

This Swiss Impact Initiative suggests the strengthening of global partnership behind borders to team up around ocean sustainability building and financing.

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