OBSERVATION & PREDICTION SERVICES TO SUPPORT POLICY MAKING IN NIGERIA

4 MARCH 2023
OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA’S OCEAN/BLUE ECONOMY

- Coastline of about 853km.
- The surface area of its continental shelf is about 37,934km².
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) area = 210,900km², within which Nigeria exercises sovereign rights for the purpose of exploiting, conserving, and managing its fisheries resources.
- Nigeria’s territorial waters are located in the gulf of guinea and known for its rich marine biodiversity.
In January, Nigeria launched its Expanded Committee on Sustainable Blue Economy, led by the Vice President, with the aim of enhancing the governance framework and infrastructure of the maritime sector.

The Committee includes representation from the Federal Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, reflecting their involvement in the decision-making process.

This led to the formation of the ministry of Marine and Blue economy in July 2023 by the Presidency.
Common Challenges in BE

• **IUU, Marine Safety and Security:**
  - Piracy, IUU fishing, smuggling of people, arms trafficking of illicit goods, terrorism, etc.
  - Inadequate collaboration among stakeholders and uncoordinated institutional mandates,
  - Lack/weak law enforcement capacities
  - Limited funding for assets and equipment

• **Coastal Vulnerability to Flooding and Erosion:**
  - Increasing coastal population and consequential pressure on resources
  - Poor urban planning and resource scarcity
  - Limited early warning systems and coastal resilience

• **Pollution, Climate Change and Habitat loss:**
  - Impacts of climate change (floods, sea level rise and salinization of coastal aquifers)
  - Menace of plastic pollution and impact on food chain and environment
  - Unsustainable agricultural practices, land-based sources of pollution, HAB
  - Poor waste management and Habitat degradation
### Need for Coastal Information

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Planned Actions

01 Develop Nigeria’s blue economy policy/framework
02 Bankable Projects
03 Strengthening R&D & capacity building
04 Partnerships on Marine and Blue Economy/NASDRA
05 International collaboration/inter agency collaboration AU, UN inter alia
06 Strengthening exchanges, information & inclusiveness
• The need for a National, Regional and Continental Approach

• Inclusiveness

• Needs/Baseline assessment

• Need for Policies and frameworks to streamline information/Political willingness
Thank You