



# Policy needs for ocean data and information in Kenya

*Presented by Emmah Akware, on 4th March 2024 at the Ocean Observation and Prediction for Coastal Sustainability in Africa*

# Introduction

Ocean observation plays a foundational role in documenting the state and variability of components of the climate system and facilitating climate prediction and scenario development.

Best available and accessible science helps decision-makers make informed choices on the sustainable use of the marine environment and its ecosystem.

Ocean data helps in identification of risks, improvement of governance, management, institutional capacity, and decision-making processes

# Introduction

- Distinctive coastal ecosystems.
- Endowed with rich coastal and maritime resources, which have a huge potential for wealth and employment creation as well as contributing to food and nutrition security.
- Main sectors:
  - Maritime transport
  - fisheries,
  - tourism,
  - offshore mining
- Despite the huge potential of the blue economy, it's still underdeveloped.



# Role of Ocean Data in coastal sustainability

Prediction, management and adaptation to changes in the marine environment.

- Mapping and identification of species niche habitat
- Unsustainable IUU fishing
- Spatial data for safe shipping and navigation.
- Coastal urban planning
- Coastal water quality monitoring
- Climate change prediction and adaptation
- Areas beyond national jurisdiction



# State of Ocean Data Policy in Kenya

National Fisheries Policy

Kenya Marine and Fisheries  
Research Institute

- Directorate of Ocean & coastal Systems and blue.
- Oceanography and hydrography as well as laboratory technical data.

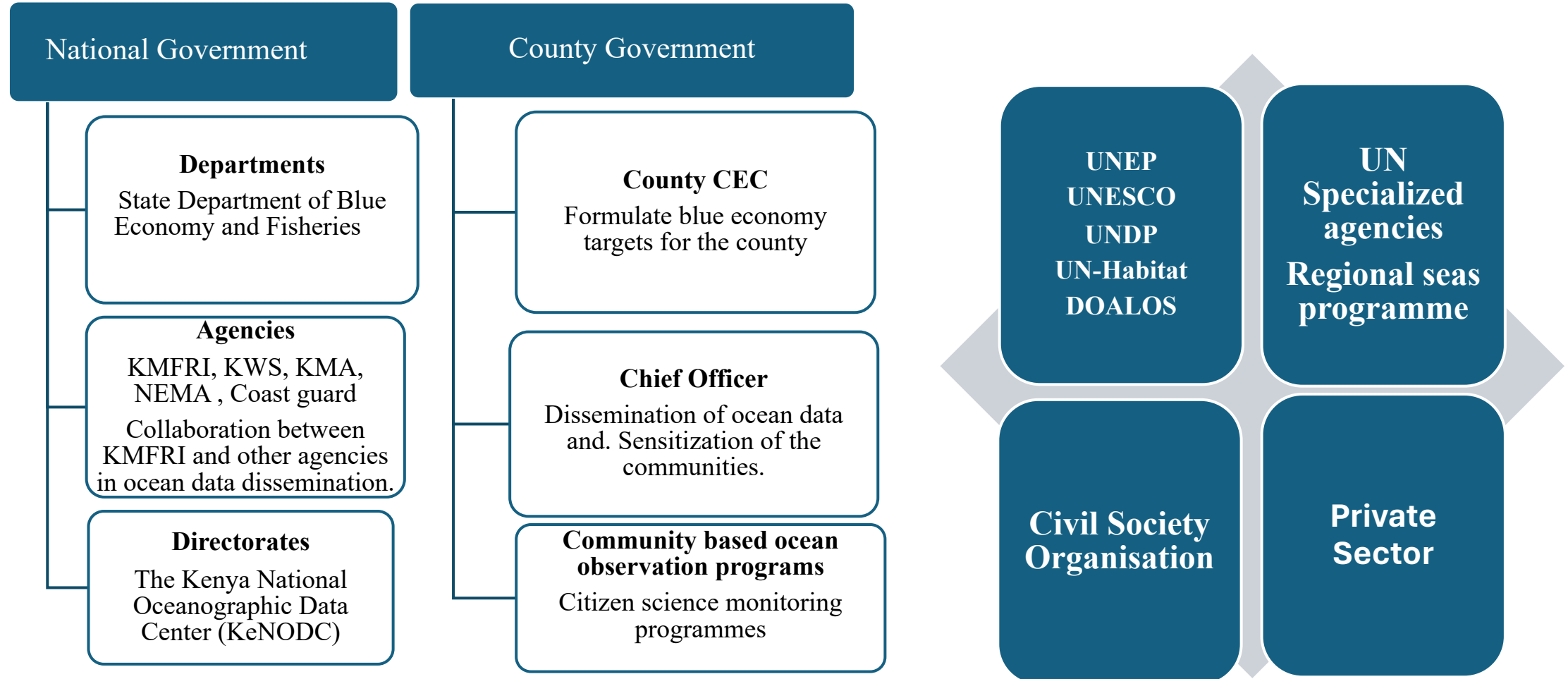
Knowledge Management Policy

Marine spatial planning

IMO-Maritime single window



# Institutional framework



# Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

## International Legal instruments

- Conventions
- Regional MEAs

## National Legal instruments

- The Constitution of Kenya
- National Fisheries Policy
- Fisheries Management and Development Act
- Science & Technology Act
- Environmental & Management Coordination Act



# Policy needs for ocean data and information

## Institutional

- Harmonization of institutional framework
- Enhanced Interagency Collaboration (KMFRI & KWS)
- Investment in marine research and data collection infrastructure and dissemination i.e., research vessels
- Legal Framework to Protect Marine Data Rights
- Frameworks for data sharing among governmental, regional, and international bodies
- Funding and Resource Allocation
- Incentivization of Private Sector Engagement
- Training and capacity building for marine scientists, data analysts, enforcement personnel, legal personnel and coastal communities.





# Policy Needs for Enhancing Ocean Data and information



## Research and Technology

- Integrated maritime surveillance system
- Investment in marine research and data collection infrastructure
- Disaster reduction and early warning systems
- Regional and international collaborations
- Marine biodiversity assessment and monitoring systems (MASS, ROVs)



## Community

- Citizen science alliance (allow communities directly deal with data processing)
- Capacity building and community sensitisation
- Incorporation of traditional knowledge in ocean data



## Legal

- Development of a National Ocean Data Policy
- Implementation of the Fisheries Management and Development Act
- Development of frameworks for data sharing among governmental, regional, and international bodies
- Integration of science in legal documents



# Challenges

- Weak policy integration.
- Legislative gaps and weak enforcement of existing laws
- Uncoordinated development of the blue economy sector.
- Limited research capacity and information sharing that enable exploitation of the resources.
- Clarification of mandates among relevant key institutions especially the county government and national government.
- Weak data management systems from collection, storage, analysis and dissemination



# Conclusion

Ocean data in identification of risks, improvement of governance, management, institutional capacity, and decision-making processes.

Global, regional and national collaboration is needed in data collection, management and dissemination.





THANK YOU