BLUE ECONOMY

of the
North-east Tobago UNESCO
Man and the Biosphere Reserve
Management Plan

SUMMARY SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

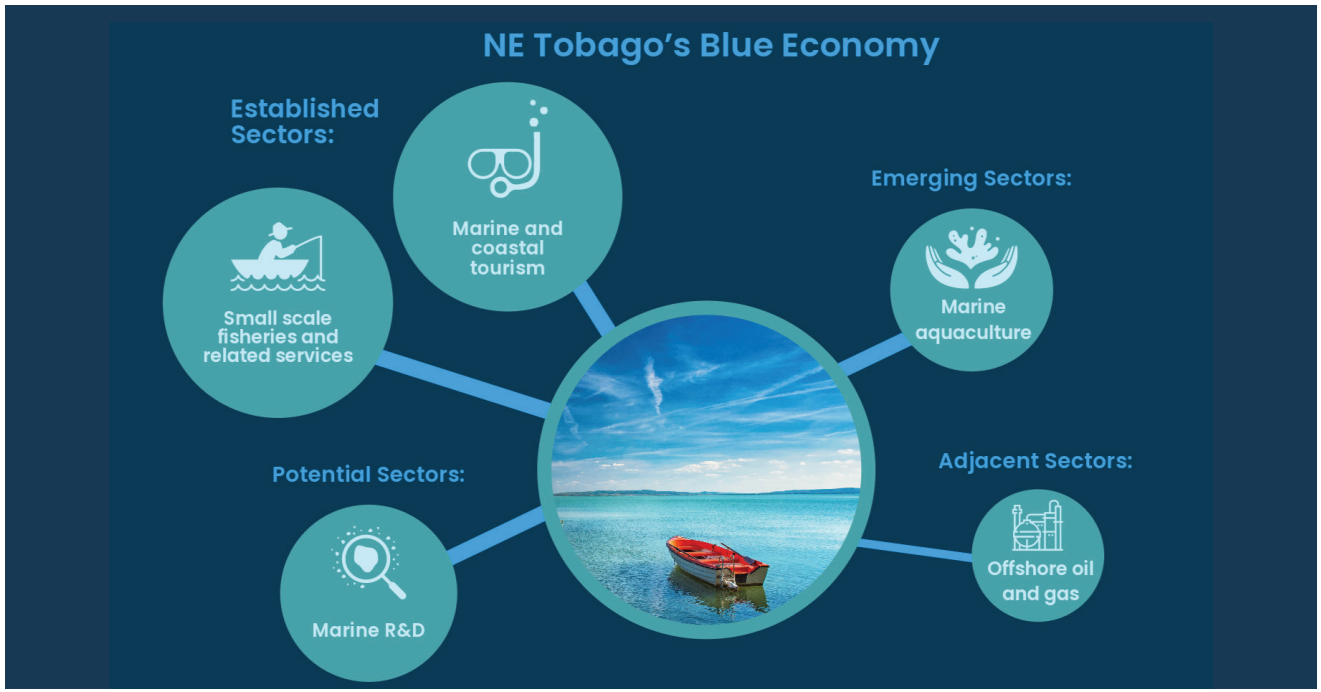
Blue economy is a term that describes the sustainable, or better regenerative, use of marine resources. In recent years there are many national and international initiatives to support the growth of blue economy which includes the protection of all marine and freshwater ecosystems in the North-east Tobago UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve. Our blue economy is mainly based on the fisheries sector on which all our communities depend, and which is the strongest economic contributor. All forms of tourism in NE Tobago are also partly or fully involved in the blue economy and the maritime oil and gas industry plays a significant role for the entire country. Other sectors are only just starting such as aquaculture, yachting, research, and alternative energy production. While NE Tobago is highly dependent on blue economic activities, their potential is not realised and available resources increasingly depleted or compromised. Major threats to developing a regenerative blue economy are climate change, marine pollution, under-resourced management, competition from other islands, and overexploitation.

HIGH LEVEL GOAL

The Blue Economy in the NE Tobago UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve consists of diverse and innovative marine business activities which manifest the Biosphere Reserve's full economic potential, equitably support sustainable livelihoods, create opportunities for residents, and regenerate ecosystems and biodiversity.

PRIORITY NEEDS

- Stakeholders understand the concept of Blue Economy and its importance for NE Tobago;
- establishing an integrated approach to blue economic development;
- applicable research regarding potential blue economic activities is intelligibly and freely available;
- stakeholders have the capacity to engage in blue economic activities;
- a business environment that is facilitating innovation, collaboration, investment, and development of blue economic activities;



- natural resources are regenerated and sustainably available; and
- an economic and environmental monitoring programme that is communicated to stakeholders.

STRATEGIES

- Identifying the most applicable, lucrative as well as socially and environmentally beneficial blue economic opportunities for the NETMABR.
- Creating the facilitating business environment for the identified options.
- Enabling local and attracting international investment.

KEY PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- drafting a stakeholder approved integrated coastal zone management plan
- drafting of a stakeholder approved blue economic development plan
- working with economic stakeholders to consolidate a blue economy enabling environment
- building the capacity of local stakeholders to fully capitalise on a regenerative blue economy.

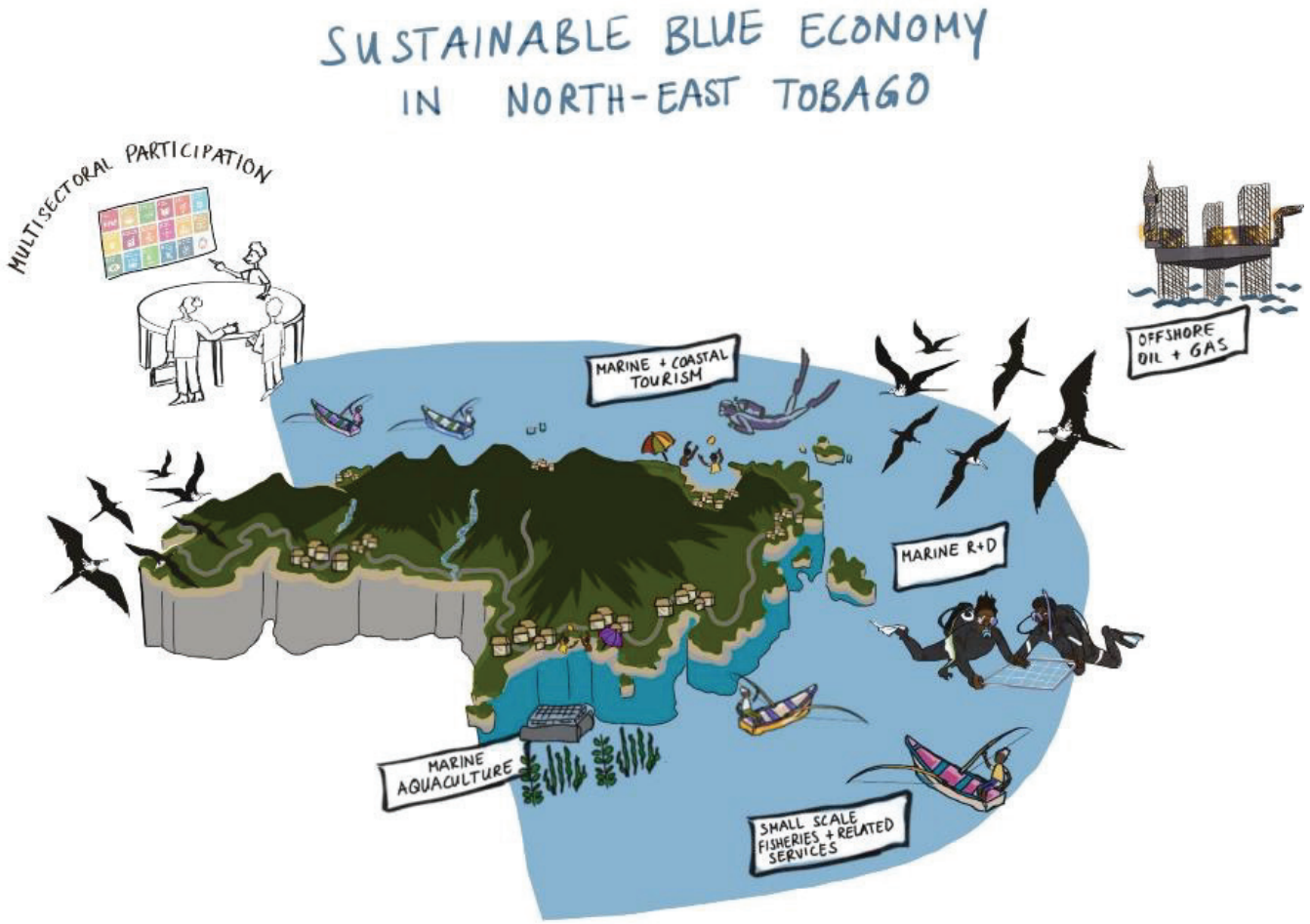


Figure: Sustainable Blue Economy in NE Tobago (Janina Ewals)