

The PS Hosts the Commonwealth Secretariat



The Principal Secretary, State Department for the Blue Economy and Fisheries Madam Betsy Muthoni Njagi hosted a team from Commonwealth Secretariat on 6th December 2022 at her office. This was during the Country Evaluation Review on the Programmes and projects that Kenya implements with support from Commonwealth.

Under the Commonwealth Blue Charter, which is an agreement by all the 56 Commonwealth countries, the member states actively cooperate to solve ocean related challenges and to meet commitments for sustainable ocean action. The Charter helps commonwealth countries to work together on a fair, inclusive and sustainable approach to ocean protection and economic development.

There are 10 Action groups to help further this agenda out which Kenya is the focal point on Sustainable Blue Economy action group alongside Antigua and Barbuda. Besides, the country through the State Department participates in Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Action Group which is championed by Sri Lanka.

Kenya through the State Department has been a member of the charter since 2020 following a decision by Heads of Governments to champion Blue Economy while tackling ocean related challenges.

The State Department was co-opted in the year 2020 to provide technical support to Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (MF&DA) which is Kenya's focal point. As champion of Blue Economy Action Group, Kenya has so far influenced 13 commonwealth Member states to join the group.

The Kenya's Blue Economy framework provides strategies and mechanisms that guide sustainable management, development and utilization of the blue economy resources in the different sectors in the realization of its full potential, and contribution to the Country's economic growth. The Blue Economy is domiciled in the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs.

The Blue Economy has the potential of steering the country towards attainment of Vision 2030. Its contribution to the GDP has increased owing to increased multi sectoral investments. The sector offers numerous investment options for both private and public sectors providing opportunity for enhanced cooperation.

On this front, Kenya is currently training local fishermen/sea farers on crew fishing through a training program at Bandari Maritime Academy. The trainees graduate with a Short hand Deck Certificate allowing them employment opportunities and exploitation of fisheries resources especially in the deep sea.

Further, through Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED) project funded by both the Kenyan government and the World Bank, Kenya is in the process of putting up a marine hatchery to improve seed production. The project is also conducting stock assessment in order to ascertain the fish yields and diversity in the deep-sea.