

# Roadmap for SEC 47, 2025 Parley Report









SENIOR EXECUTIVE COURSE 47, 2025
NATIONAL INSTITUTE, KURU





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## **Abbreviations list**

ABBV	FULL FORM
AfDB	African Development Bank (AfDB)
Bol	Bank of Industry (Bol)
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
DBN	Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN)
DFI	Development Finance Institution (DFI)
DMO	Debt Management Office (DMO)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
FEC	Federal Executive Council (FEC)
FG	Federal Government (FG)
FMMBE	Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy (FMMBE)
<b>FMEnv</b>	Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv)
FMF/MoFI	Federal Ministry of Finance / Ministry of Finance, Incorporated (FMF/MoFI)
GCF	Green Climate Fund (GCF)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
GoG	Gulf of Guinea (GoG)
ICC	International Coordination Centre (ICC)
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU)
MDA	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDA)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
MoFI	Ministry of Finance, Incorporated (MoFI)
MSP	Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)
MT	Metric Tons (MT)
NASS	National Assembly (NASS)

## **Abbreviations list**

ABBV	FULL FORM
NBECC NBS NEMA NESREA NEXIM NGX NIHSA NIMASA NIWA NOSDRA NPA NPABE NSIA OVP PPP Q RAS RBDAS R&D SEC SGF WBG	National Blue Economy Coordination Council (NBECC) National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM) Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX) Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) National Policy on Marine and Blue Economy (NPMBE) Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) Office of the Vice President (OVP) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Quarter (Q) Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) Research and Development (R&D) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) World Bank Group (WBG)

### 1. Introduction



**Nigeria's marine and inland waters** present economic opportunities spanning fisheries, aquaculture, energy, transport, tourism, biotechnology, and conservation. With an 853km coastline, over 10,000km of inland waterways and a potential blue GDP of \$296 billion annually, the marine economy can support inclusive growth, climate resilience, and economic diversification.

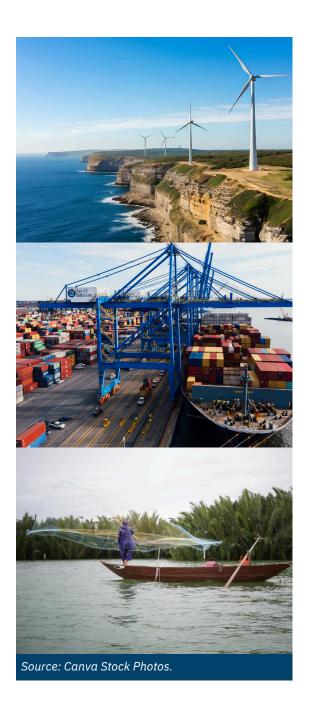
However, the system remains fragmented, underfinanced, and environmentally stressed. This Roadmap provides astructured pathway to reorganize governance, unlock investment, strengthen science and data systems, expandinfrastructure, and enhance human capital within a sustainability and security-driven framework.

CATEGORY	VALUE	OPPORTUNITY
Coastline Length	853 km	Nigeria's total coastal stretch along the Atlantic Ocean
Inland Waterways	Over 10,000 km	Combined length of rivers, creeks, and navigable inland water channels
Potential Blue GDP	\$296 Billion Annually	Estimated annual economic value of Nigeria's blue economy
Key Opportunity Areas	Fisheries, Aquaculture, Energy, Transport, Tourism, Biotechnology, Conservation	Major sectors with blue-economy potential
System Challenges	Fragmentation, Underfinancing, Environmental Stress	Issues limiting growth and sustainability
Roadmap Focus	Governance, Investment, Data Systems, Infrastructure, Human Capital	Core pillars for blue-economy transformation

## 2. Nigeria's Strategic Interest In The Blue Economy

## Nigeria's strategic interests in developing a competitive and sustainable Blue Economy include:

- Enhancing food security by reducing the US\$1 billion fishimport bill annually.
- Enhancing maritime security and reducing the US\$70 million lost annually to IUU fishing.
- Exploiting strategic aquatic systems, Niger, Benue, Cross River, Lake Chad, the Delta, for integrated sustainable development.
- Leveraging marine corridors for trade competitiveness and inland logistics.
- Harnessing renewable energy potential (offshore wind, tidal, floating solar).
- Strengthening Nigeria's leadership in the Gulf of Guinea maritime domain.
- Supporting climate resilience, mangrove restoration, and pollution control.



#### 3. POLICY OPTIONS

#### Nigeria has three core policy pathways:

OPTION 1

### Continue with fragmented, sectoral interventions

This maintains duplication and inefficiency, an undesirable option.

OPTION 2

## Strengthen existing frameworks without institutional redesign

Provides moderate reforms but does not fully resolve coordination and financing deficits.

OPTION 3 (PREFERRED)

## Adopt a unified Blue Economy Delivery System

Anchored on:

- A National Blue Economy Coordination Council (NBECC).
- Harmonised legislation.
- Integrated blue finance architecture.
- National marine spatial plan (MSP).
- Unified marine data network.
- Corridor-led infrastructure and security development.

  This aligns with global best practices (Greece, Morocco, Kenya, UK).

#### 4. WAY FORWARD / STRATEGIC PATHWAY

The strategic direction involves shifting from a fragmented system to an integrated national ocean economy through:



Source: Canva Stock Photos.

## 5. GOVERNANCE, POLICY COHERENCE & INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

#### **State of Play**

Nigeria's blue economy governance is fragmented across multiple agencies, FMMBE, NPA, NIMASA, NIWA, NESREA, NOSDRA, RBDAs, leading to overlapping mandates and slow decisions.

#### **CHALLENGES**



CONTRADICTORY LEGISLATION (NIWA ACT, NPA ACT, FISHERIES ACT).



WEAK VERTICAL COORDINATION (FG-STATES).



FRAGMENTED POLLUTION OVERSIGHT (NESREA VS NOSDRA).



BUDGET
FRAGMENTATION AND
ISOLATED PROJECTS.



LACK OF A UNIFIED NATIONAL MARINE COORDINATION PLATFORM.

#### **HOW WE GOT HERE MEASURES AND ACTIONS** SGF establishes National Technical Working Group (Q2 2026). Historical sectoral governance patterns, Harmonize all marine and blue economy laws (Q3 2026). absence of Marine Spatial Planning, and Submit revised laws to FEC & NASS (Q4 2026). delayed legislative reforms have Expand NPMBE Advisory Council into NBECC under Vice entrenched silos. President (Q2-Q3 2026). **EXPECTED OUTCOMES / TIMELINE AMBITION** • Q1 2026: NBECC committee. • Unified governance, streamlined licensing, and coherent regulation. Q2 2026: Technical Working Group inaugurated. Improved investor confidence and • Q3 2026: Legal harmonisation completed. accelerated project delivery. • Q4 2026: Bills submitted; NBECC operationalised.

## 6. BLUE FINANCE & INVESTMENT ARCHITECTURE

#### **State of Play**

Blue economy funding is inadequate (<0.5% of the national budget) despite a financing need exceeding US\$50 billionfor ports, waterways, renewable energy, and fisheries.

#### **CHALLENGES**





LIMITED DFI COORDINATION (NEXIM, NSIA, DBN, BOI, AFDB).





HOW WE GOT HERE	MEASURES AND ACTIONS
Historical focus on land-based infrastructure, weak investment frameworks, lack of risk-mitigation instruments.	<ul> <li>Create Infrastructure Investment Fund via MoFI (Q1 2026).</li> <li>Activate CBN finance window (Q2 2026).</li> <li>Deploy DFIs to blue projects (Q3 2026).</li> <li>Issue Blue Bonds, Blue Sukuk, and guarantees (Q4 2026).</li> <li>Commercialise underutilised federal assets (Q3 2026).</li> </ul>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES /	
AMBITION	TIMELINE

## 7. MARINE SCIENCE, DATA SYSTEMS & INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

#### State of Play

Hydrographic mapping covers only 40% of offshore waters; inland mapping is limited. Research spending is <0.3% of GDP.

#### **CHALLENGES**







WEAK INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AND INADEQUATE MARINE SCIENCE R&D.

HOW WE GOT HERE	MEASURES AND ACTIONS
Chronic underinvestment, institutional silos, absence of unified spatial planning.	<ul> <li>Create National Marine &amp; Blue Data Network under NBS (Q1 2026).</li> <li>Conduct baseline survey for Marine Spatial Plan (Q2 2026).</li> <li>Mandatory marine scientists on offshore survey vessels (Q3 2026).</li> <li>Generate annual ecological scorecards (2027).</li> </ul>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES / AMBITION	TIMELINE

## 8. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & LOGISTICS CORRIDORS

#### **State of Play**

Inland waterways transport <5% of freight; port dwell times remain 18–21 days; dredging cycles irregular.

#### **CHALLENGES**



SILTED WATERWAYS AND SECURITY RISKS.



UNDERUTILISED TERMINALS (WARRI, ONITSHA, LOKOJA).



FRAGMENTED INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING.



WEAK MULTIMODAL PORT CONNECTIVITY.

HOW WE GOT HERE	MEASURES AND ACTIONS
Infrastructure underinvestment, lack of corridor-based planning, fragmented mandates.	<ul> <li>Concession underutilised infrastructure (Q3 2026).</li> <li>Designate Marine &amp; Blue Corridors (Q4 2026).</li> <li>Expand inland dredging and navigational aids.</li> <li>Strengthen port-rail-road integration.</li> </ul>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES / AMBITION	TIMELINE

## 9. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

#### **State of Play**

Nigeria loses 2–3% of mangroves annually; widespread oil spills and plastic pollution affect over 7,000km of waterways.

#### **CHALLENGES**









HOW WE GOT HERE	MEASURES AND ACTIONS
Siloed environmental functions, weak monitoring, inadequate restoration programmes.	<ul> <li>Expand marine and inland monitoring networks (Q1 2026).</li> <li>Establish Joint Monitoring Committees (Q2 2026).</li> <li>Develop ship-source pollution monitoring system (Q3 2026).</li> <li>Oil-spill early-warning system with NOSDRA (Q3 2026).</li> </ul>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES / AMBITION	TIMELINE

## 10. SECURITY, SURVEILLANCE & MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS

#### **State of Play**

Nigeria faces insecurity along rivers and creeks, and loses significant revenue to IUU fishing.

#### **CHALLENGES**







ILLEGAL DREDGING, PIRACY, CARGO THEFT.

HOW WE GOT HERE	MEASURES AND ACTIONS
Fragmented enforcement; limited extension of Deep Blue capacities inland.	<ul> <li>Expand Deep Blue to deep-sea anti-IUU operations (Q4 2026).</li> <li>Strengthen inter-agency security along inland waterways.</li> <li>Integrate community surveillance with federal agencies.</li> </ul>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES / AMBITION	TIMELINE

## 11. HUMAN CAPITAL, BLUE SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT

#### **State of Play**

Informal operators dominate key subsectors; training, certification, and innovation capacity remain weak.

#### **CHALLENGES**



SKILLS MISMATCH; LIMITED VOCATIONAL PIPELINES.



WEAK INTEGRATION OF COMMUNITIES AND COOPERATIVES.



LIMITED ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION SUPPORT.

HOW WE GOT HERE	MEASURES AND ACTIONS
Decades of low technical investment, inadequate training institutions.	<ul> <li>Establish National Blue Skills &amp; Job Creation Programme (Q2 2026).</li> <li>Strengthen vocational and technical training.</li> <li>Industry–academia partnerships for innovation.</li> </ul>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES / AMBITION	TIMELINE

## 12. REGIONAL COOPERATION & BLUE DIPLOMACY

#### **State of Play**

Nigeria remains a central player in the Gulf of Guinea but coordination is limited.

#### **CHALLENGES**





HOW WE GOT HERE	MEASURES AND ACTIONS
Fragmented diplomacy and limited mandate extensions.	<ul> <li>Host GoG Marine Conservation Summit (Q2 2026).</li> <li>Expand ICC mandate to cover IUU (Q2 2026).</li> <li>Deep Blue extension to deep-sea governance (Q4 2026).</li> </ul>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES / AMBITION	TIMELINE

## 13. MONITORING, EVALUATION & REPORTING FRAMEWORK

#### **State of Play**

Current systems lack coherent tracking across agencies; monitoring is fragmented.

#### **CHALLENGES**





HOW WE GOT HERE	MEASURES AND ACTIONS
Isolated agency reporting; lack of consolidated dashboard.	<ul> <li>Establish national Blue Economy M&amp;E Framework.</li> <li>Corridor-based performance indicators.</li> <li>Annual Blue Economy Report and ecological scorecards.</li> </ul>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES /	TIMELINE
AMBITION	TIMELINE

#### 14. CONCLUSION

Nigeria's Blue Economy requires systemic integration, unified governance, sustainable financing, scientific data, resilient infrastructure, ecological restoration, maritime security, skilled human capital, and regional diplomacy. The Roadmap establishes these foundations through a sequenced, evidence-based pathway that addresses structural barriers and unlocks long-term national prosperity.

Corridor-based infrastructure development



Science-driven planning and monitoring



Ecosystem restoration and pollution control





Legal harmonization and governance integration



Regional cooperation and diplomacy



Skills, innovation, and job creation

Source: Canva Stock Photos.

## **SUMMARY**

#### 1. FOUNDATIONS (Q1-Q2 2026): GOVERNANCE, PLANNING & FINANCING ARCHITECTURE

#### 1.1. Establish Coherent Governance and Legal Frameworks

- SGF to constitute National Technical Working Group to harmonise all Marine and Blue Economy legislation (Q2 2026).
- FMOJ + FMMBE to review and consolidate laws governing: NIWA, NIMASA, NPA, NESREA, RBDAs, Fisheries Agencies (Q3 2026).
- Submission of Harmonised Marine and Blue Economy Bill to FEC and National Assembly (Q4 2026).

#### 1.2. Set Up National Blue Economy Coordination Council (NBECC)



SGF to review composition and structure (Q1 2026).



FEC to issue formal mandate on coordination oversight (Q3 2026).



Operationalise Council under the OVP (Q2 2026).

#### 1.3. Establish National Marine and Blue Data Network



FEC approves full MDA participation in National Blue Data Network coordinated by NBS (Q1 2026).



NBS + FMMBE to design Data Governance Reporting Standards (Q2 2026).



Set up data nodes across priority coastal and inland states (Q4 2026).

### 2. STRATEGIC SCIENCE, SPATIAL PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (Q2 2026 – Q1 2027)

#### 2.1. National Marine & Aquatic Spatial Planning Framework

S/N	Description
1	SGF to establish committee for national baseline survey and marine/aquatic spatial policy (Q2 2026).
2	National Coastal & Inland Water Bodies Spatial Management Plan (Q3 2026).
3	Mandatory placement of marine scientists on all offshore survey vessels (Q3 2026).
4	Annual ecological-health scorecards for protected areas (Q2 2027).

#### 2.2. Pollution Control & Environmental Monitoring Programme

S/N	Description
1	Expand marine and inland waters monitoring networks in partnership with FMEnv, NESREA (Q1 2026).
2	Establish Joint Monitoring Committees for marine pollution (Q2 2026).
3	Develop ship-source pollution monitoring protocols and real-time detection systems (Q3 2026).
4	Oil spill early-warning systems with NOSDRA (Q3 2026).

#### 2.3. Mangrove Restoration & Climate Resilience

Expand mangrove replanting up to 10,000 hectares, funded via GCF (Q1 2026).

#### 3. FINANCE, REVENUE & INVESTMENT MOBILISATION (Q1-Q4 2026)



Source: Canva Stock Photos.

#### 3.1. Blue Finance Strategy



FMF/MoFI establishes Infrastructure Investment Fund for aquaculture and fisheries (Q1 2026).



CBN creates development finance windows for fish production (Q2 2026).



DFIs (NEXIM, NSIA, DBN, BoI, AfDB, WBG) deploy financing to blue projects (Q3 2026).



SEC + NGX introduce Blue Bonds, Blue Sukuk, Guarantee Instruments (Q4 2026).



FMF + DMO to issue Sovereign Guarantees for key blue projects (Q4 2026).

#### 3.2. Expanded Government Revenue from Blue Corridors

S/N	Description
1	Design expanded revenue-generation plan for all blue subsectors (Q2 2026).
2	Concessioning of coastal & inland waterway assets (Q3 2026).
3	Establish Marine & Blue Corridors for fisheries, logistics & trade (Q4 2026).
4	Commercial export of hydrographic services to Gulf of Guinea States (Q3 2026).

#### 4. PRODUCTIVE SECTORS TRANSFORMATION (2026-2027)

#### 4.1. FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE EXPANSION

S/N	Description
1	Adopt National Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy (Q1 2026).
2	Expand artisanal marine fishing fleets from 31,500 to 317,540 (Q3 2026).
3	Boost inland fisheries from 304,000 MT to 3 million MT (Q2 2026).
4	Scale cage culture to 130,592 cages (Q3 2026).
5	Expand land-based aquaculture (earthen ponds, RAS systems) before Q4 2026.

#### 4.2. MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME

S/N	Description
1	Capacity-building collaborations & R&D expansion (Q1 2026).
2	Strengthen marine biotechnology curriculum (Q2 2026).
3	Academia-industry commercialisation linkages (Q3 2026).
4	Develop National Marine Biotechnology Policy & Roadmap (Q2 2026).

#### 4.3. MANUFACTURING & BLUE VALUE CHAINS

S/N	Description
1	Capacity-building collaborations & R&D expansion (Q1 2026).
2	Strengthen marine biotechnology curriculum (Q2 2026).
3	Academia-industry commercialisation linkages (Q3 2026).
4	Develop National Marine Biotechnology Policy & Roadmap (Q2 2026).

#### 4.4. MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT & MARITIME SECURITY

S/N	Description
1	Dredge non-navigable corridors to 10m draught (Q3 2026).
2	Link ports with integrated multi-modal system (Q4 2026).
3	Create Inland Waters Security Task Group (Q4 2026).
4	Strengthen inland vessel licensing, monitoring & safety regimes (Q3 2026).

#### 5. RENEWABLE ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSITION (2026–2027)

#### 5.1. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY FRAMEWORK











Source: Canva Stock Photos.

#### 6. HUMAN CAPITAL, JOBS & INCLUSION (2026-2027)

#### 6.1. NATIONAL BLUE SKILLS & JOB CREATION PROGRAMME

- Short-cycle, job-ready marine and blue skills training (Q2 2026).
- Co-designed vocational pathways with Youth, Women Affairs, SMEDAN (Q2 2026).
- Targeted bursaries & work-study programmes (Q3 2026).
- National Blue Apprenticeship Scheme (Q4 2026).
- Blue Labour Market Information System (Q1 2027).



#### 6.2. INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

- Establish Blue Innovation Hubs in all geopolitical zones (Q1 2026).
- National Marine & Blue Innovation Programmes (Q1 2026).
- Enterprise support systems for innovators (Q3 2026).
- Integrate Innovation Hubs into National Digital Innovation
- Platform (Q2 2027).



#### 6.3. SOCIAL INCLUSION & COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

- Expand CDC mandates to include marine & blue governance (Q2 2026).
- Community stewardship & E2E training (from Q1 2026).



#### 6. HUMAN CAPITAL, JOBS & INCLUSION (2026-2027)

7. ECO-TOURISM, CULTURE & RECREATION (2026-2027)

- Develop Blue Tourism
   Masterplan (Q4 2026).
- Strengthen security & surveillance for eco-tourism (Q4 2026).
- National hospitality benchmark for marine tourism (Q2 2026).
- Community-based ecotourism cooperatives (Q2 2026).
- Offshore/aquatic sports framework (Q1 2027).
- Annual national marine cultural heritage/sports event (Q1 2027).
- Maritime Conservation
   Volunteer Forum (Q1 2026).



Source: Canva Stock Photos.

#### 8. REGIONAL INTEGRATION & DIPLOMACY (2026)

7. ECO-TOURISM, CULTURE & RECREATION (2026-2027)

HOST GULF OF GUINEA MARINE CONSERVATION SUMMIT (Q2 2026).



EXPAND YAOUNDÉ ARCHITECTURE MANDATES TO INCLUDE IUU FISHING (Q2 2026).



EXPAND DEEP BLUE PROJECT TO COVER DEEP-SEA ANTI-IUU OPERATIONS (Q4 2026).



Source: Canva Stock Photos.

#### **MASTER TIMELINE SUMMARY**

Quarter	Key Milestones
Q1 2026	Governance reforms begin; data network approved; Blue Finance structures launched; fisheries expansion begins; innovation hubs launched; mangrove programme starts.
Q2 2026	Marine Spatial Planning baseline; harmonised legal review; skills & vocational pathways begin; blue tourism & CDC reforms; marine biotechnology curriculum reforms.
Q3 2026	Fisheries fleet expansion; spatial management plan; offshore energy replication; deep-sea anti-IUU plan; concessioning of assets; PPP pipelines fully active.
Q4 2026	Blue Bonds & Sukuk; multi-modal transport links; security expansion; ecotourism security; hospitality standards; revenue corridor designation.
2027	Ecological scorecards; Blue Labour MIS; coastal tourism events; large-scale aquaculture, manufacturing & value-chain facilities mature.



Source: Canva Stock Photos.

### NOTES


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# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (NIPSS)



The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) is a policy formation center for bureaucrats, private sector leaders, military officers, and medium- and senior-ranking civil servants. NIPSS was established in 1979.



#### **Purpose**

NIPSS is a high-level think tank and training institution for senior executives in the public and private sectors. It aims to improve policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria.

#### **Vision**

To be the apex centre for policy research, reflection, and training for a better Nigeria and human society. Mission: To serve as a centre for policy advocacy, advice, and training for Nigeria, West Africa, and Africa.

#### **Activities**

- Research key policy issues.
- Offers training programs for senior executives.
- Organizes conferences and seminars.
- Provides policy advice to the government.

#### **Significant**

NIPSS plays a crucial role in shaping national policy and developing leadership capacity in Nigeria. Its alumni include many prominent figures in government, business, and civil society.

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