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Strategy for Implementing the Blue Economy Concept for Community Empowerment in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia has around 17,500 islands spread throughout the archipelago and a coastline that stretches for 81,000 km, more than half of Indonesia's total area is sea and water. This geographical condition makes Indonesia a country that has rich marine resources. However, challenges such as illegal fishing and lack of empowerment of coastal communities threaten the sustainability of the fisheries sector. Implementing the Blue Economy concept is the key to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through a literature study, this article investigates strategies for implementing the Blue Economy in empowering communities in Indonesia to achieve the SDGs, especially goal 14: Life Below Water. Strategic steps are needed such as increasing supervision, developing technology and building infrastructure to improve community welfare and maintain the sustainability of marine resources. With great potential in the aquaculture sector, Indonesia can realize the vision of sustainable development through collaboration between various parties and the application of innovative and sustainable Blue Economy principles.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, with its status as an archipelago country which has been established since the Djuanda Declaration in 1957 and strengthened by the Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), offers extraordinary marine resource potential. With approx. With 17,500 islands spread throughout the archipelago and a coastline stretching 81,000 km, more than half of Indonesia's total area is sea and water. This abundance opens wide doors in developing the fisheries sector, which is the government's main focus in stimulating production growth and increasing exports of marine and fishery products. The data confirms a positive trend, with the export value of fishery products increasing from USD3.78 billion in 2016 to USD4.09 billion in 2017. However, amidst this success, challenges such as Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing remain something that must be addressed. taken seriously. Protection of marine ecosystems and empowerment of coastal communities is important in maintaining the sustainability of this sector.

On the other hand, even though Indonesia has abundant marine resource potential, the utilization of marine potential is still far behind compared to land resources. This is caused by the lack of available information and the lack of efforts to optimize marine potential effectively. Even though the area of the Indonesian archipelago reaches 2.8 million km2 and the territorial waters reach 5.9 million km2, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), claims to the Continental Shelf beyond 200 miles covering an area of 3500 km2 to the west of Aceh show that Indonesia's maritime potential is not yet fully utilized to its full potential. Efforts to develop marine potential in a sustainable and inclusive manner are the key to realizing sustainable development, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) or sustainable development is the 2030 agenda which aims to achieve a sustainable development agreement based on universal, integrative and inclusive human rights and principles of equality, with the aim of ensuring that no one is left behind. This resolution has 17 goals and 169 targets jointly designed by countries in a United Nations resolution published on October 21 2015, as a joint development ambition until 2030. One of the goals of this SDGs is Life Below Water, which aims to protect marine ecosystems by conserving and sustainably utilizing sea, ocean and maritime resources for sustainable development.

Basically, the blue economy concept includes the sustainable use of marine resources for economic growth, increasing welfare and employment, as well as maintaining the healthy balance of marine ecosystems (Bappenas, 2023). This economic concept aims to facilitate appropriate development and manage various interests in marine space without creating competition between economic, ecological or social authorities. Meanwhile, according to the World

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Bank, the blue economy is the sustainable use or utilization of marine resources for economic growth, increasing welfare and creating jobs while maintaining the health of marine ecosystems.

According to a report from the European Union, the blue economy involves all sectoral and inter-sectoral economic activities that are based on or connected to, oceans, seas and coasts. This includes existing sectors such as fisheries, coastal tourism and maritime transport, while focusing on developing new industries that barely existed 20 years ago. Meanwhile, the new industries in question include blue carbon absorption, offshore renewable energy production, and biotechnology. These activities create opportunities for business, development and employment, while addressing climate change.

Due to current environmental challenges, marine, coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity are under severe pressure. Increasing marine pollution, accelerating climate change, and overexploitation of marine resources have significant socio-economic consequences for the billions of people who depend on marine resources. Coastal areas and populations are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In addition to impacts such as rising temperatures, extreme heat waves, erratic rainfall patterns, etc., coastal areas are also being hit by two of the most dramatic and visible impacts of climate change: rising sea levels and increasingly frequent and intense cyclonic storms.
As we face the challenges of a rapidly changing world, it is important to explore new solutions that address these vulnerabilities and provide opportunities for economic growth and development. Recent estimates show that ocean-based sectors and activities contribute around USD 2.5 trillion to the global economy and provide livelihoods for more than 3 billion people. In addition to conventional maritime sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, ports and shipping, and coastal and marine tourism, countries are starting to explore new growth paths, including ocean-based renewable energy, deep sea exploration, and marine biotechnology. At the same time, the fragile condition of the marine environment requires all maritime activities to minimize their impact on the environment and preserve coastal and marine resources. In this context, the application of the Blue Economy concept offers a promising path towards a sustainable and resilient future.

Although countries define the Blue Economy based on their national circumstances and priorities, ensuring sustainability and resilience will require that all economic activities be balanced with the long-term carrying capacity of marine ecosystems. Ensuring social justice and gender equality and encouraging greater collaboration among all stakeholders are also integral components of the Blue Economy approach. Pursuing a Blue Economy is the most effective way to reduce coastal vulnerability and address the maritime impacts of climate change and other environmental risks.

The benefits of implementing the Blue Economy go far beyond environmental sustainability. This approach is in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and helps us achieve various targets. For example, sustainable fisheries management supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by ensuring food security and improving nutrition. Coastal tourism, if implemented responsibly, can contribute to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by creating job opportunities and improving the local economy. Investments in the Blue Economy, including marine conservation and restoration efforts, contribute to SDG 14 (Life Below Water), which protects marine ecosystems and biodiversity and increases their resilience. Importantly, research shows that action on SDG 14 is lagging behind and is the least funded SDG.
A recent report from the World Economic Forum found that “it will take $175 billion per year to achieve SDG14 by 2030, however, between 2015 and 2019, total investment was just under $10 billion”. Maximizing the impact of the Blue Economy requires integration into broader global climate change and biodiversity initiatives. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provide platforms for international cooperation. Pursuing a sustainable and resilient Blue Economy can significantly accelerate efforts to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement and the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangrove forests, seagrass beds and salt marshes act as highly efficient carbon sinks and provide habitat for terrestrial and marine species. Therefore, conserving and restoring these ecosystems will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve biodiversity. Forests also provide additional benefits for climate adaptation by acting as a natural barrier against sea level rise, storm surges and tropical cyclones. The ocean can also provide a significant source of renewable energy through wind, tidal and wave energy. These clean and sustainable sources complement land-based renewable energy sources, which will be especially effective for land-scarce countries like India.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Wise utilization of marine potential is the main key for Indonesia in achieving sustainable development goals. By paying attention to aspects of economic, environmental and social sustainability, this country can optimize marine resources to achieve various development targets, such as poverty alleviation, food security, environmental protection and economic empowerment of communities in Indonesia.

Through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially through the blue economy concept, Indonesia has the opportunity to utilize the potential of marine resources more effectively and sustainably. The SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth,

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while paying special attention to environmental protection and social empowerment. Thus, implementing the SDGs in the marine and fisheries sector will ensure that the use of marine resources is carried out responsibly and sustainably. The aim of this research is to investigate strategies for implementing the Blue Economy concept in empowering communities in Indonesia to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over time, the various sectors in a country should continue to progress and develop. The government's role in optimizing and improving the quality of activities in each sector is very necessary so that progress can be felt by the community. The fisheries sector is one sector that has so far played a significant role in Indonesia's economic development. Opening employment opportunities, increasing individual productivity, increasing livelihoods and living income, increasing foreign exchange through export-import activities are some of the roles of the fisheries sector in economic development. Fisheries also create multiple effects or chain effects which are proven to drive other sectors, such as: the trade sector, the industrial sector and even the education sector which is related to various campus research and the absorption of an educated workforce. Fisheries are always directed towards an IT-based industrialization process which will further stimulate and mobilize other sectors to become involved in the industrialization process.

Fisheries as an economic activity has a very important role in the progress of the country and the welfare of society. As an economic activity, fisheries should continue to be promoted and developed and become a priority in order to be able to produce positive economic growth. This requires innovation and creativity as well as optimizing the role of stakeholders, in this case the government, so that fisheries activities continue to exist and can contribute to the welfare of the country. Apart from that, fisheries, which are currently heading towards an industrialization process, must be able to maintain business sustainability while still paying attention to the balance and preservation of waters. Based on this, the blue economy concept emerged which was initiated by Cicip Sutardjo, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Blue economy is a process where raw materials and the production process come from the universe and follow the way nature works. The Blue Economy is a tool that can be used to improve economic conditions which are currently not good and create more activities in the form of a sustainable model. Providing the best solution by transferring the economy and producing a better community for the future. The Blue Economy concept was developed to answer the challenges of the world economic system which tends to be exploitative and damages the environment caused by exploitation exceeding the capacity or carrying capacity of nature. The essence of the Blue Economy is Sustainable Development which is a correction and enrichment of the Green Economy with the motto "Blue Sky - Blue Ocean" where the economy grows, the people prosper, but the sky and sea remain blue.

Blue economy is a concept for optimizing water resources which aims to increase economic growth through various innovative and creative activities while ensuring business continuity and environmental sustainability. The blue economy concept prioritizes and emphasizes efficiency. Efficiency encourages investment and fisheries business development while maintaining a sustainable environment. The main essence of this blue economy is pro-ecosystem activities. All waste output from fishing activities must be in a condition that does not pollute the land or public waters. Waste, both chemical waste and organic waste, will directly or indirectly affect habitat and ecosystem life, therefore, there is a need for science and technology in treating waste output.

METHOD

The method used in this research is the literature study method. Literature study is a method used to collect data or sources related to the topic raised in a research (Habsy, 2017). The data collected was then analyzed using descriptive analysis methods. In this case, analysis was carried out on data from articles relevant to the Blue Economy concept in the context of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) point 14, which relates to life below water. This literature study focuses on relevant articles, books and journals and is equipped with supporting data from official sources such as the World Bank, Central Statistics Agency (BPS), and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP). This approach provides a solid foundation for research to develop an effective and sustainable Blue Economy implementation strategy in supporting the achievement of the SDGs in Indonesia, especially in protecting underwater life and empowering communities in Indonesia.

RESULT

Potential and Utilization of Marine Resources by Indonesian People in the Fisheries Sector Indonesia's marine resource potential is a very valuable asset and has a significant impact on various aspects of life. As the largest archipelagic country in the world, Indonesia has a marine area covering around 5.8 million km2, which is home to various marine ecosystems and biodiversity. This situation provides great potential in the fisheries sector, with Indonesia becoming one of the largest fisheries producers in the world. The diversity of fishery commodities in Indonesia is in the form of capture fisheries and aquaculture (Aprilia & Mulyanie, 2023). Indonesian capture fisheries have Abundant potential, both in sea and land waters. Sustainable production from marine capture fisheries reaches around 9.3 million tons per year, while capture fisheries in inland waters reaches around 0.9 million tons per year. Apart from that, Indonesia also has great potential in aquaculture, with sustainable production reaching 56.8 million tons per year. This potential creates great opportunities for the Indonesian maritime economic sector.

The marine economic sector is not only limited to fisheries, but also includes various other sectors such as the fishery product processing industry, marine tourism, mining and energy, as well as regional resources on small islands.

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The total potential economic value of Indonesia's maritime sector is estimated at 1.33 trillion US dollars per year, with potential employment of around 45 million people.

Even though it has great potential, the utilization of Indonesia's marine resources is still not optimal. There are still challenges in sustainable management of marine resources and law enforcement against illegal fishing practices. Illegal fishing simply means that fishing is carried out in violation of existing regulations, or fishing activities can be said to be illegal if there are regulations but it turns out that in implementation these regulations are not effectively enforced in the field (Jamilah & Disemadi, 2020).

DISCUSSION

Apart from that, the welfare aspect of fishermen and coastal communities is also an important concern. Remember Most of them still live in less prosperous conditions. In optimizing the utilization of marine resource potential, serious efforts are needed from various parties, including the government, related institutions and the community. Strategic steps such as increasing supervision and law enforcement, developing technology in the fisheries sector, and developing infrastructure that supports the marine sector can be the key to improving community welfare and maintaining the sustainability of Indonesia's marine resources. Implementation of the Blue Economy Concept in Indonesia Blue economy is a concept in optimizing water resources which aims to increase economic growth through various existing activities which are managed innovatively and creatively while maintaining and guaranteeing a process in the sustainability of a business by paying attention to environmental sustainability (Al Fahri et al., 2022). The blue economy includes all economic activities related to the exploitation and utilization of marine potential, from the fisheries sector to marine tourism. The main aim of implementing this concept is to achieve comprehensive economic growth without ignoring the principles of sustainable development.

Indonesia has great potential in developing a blue economy, especially considering its position as a maritime country with the second longest coastline in the world. Projections from the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) show that the value of Indonesia's blue economy in 2045 is expected to reach USD 7.4-9.8 trillion, increasing significantly from the previous estimate of only around USD 1.3 trillion in 2021.

One of the great potentials in Indonesia's blue economy is mangrove forests. Protection of mangrove forests is one of the main focuses in efforts to maintain the sustainability of coastal areas. Efforts to manage mangrove resources by The principles of resource efficiency, zero waste, social responsibility, production cycle systems, innovation and adaptation, and sustainable institutions are known as blue economy management (Firmansyah & Rahayu, 2022).

LindungiHutan, an organization committed to protecting mangrove forests in Indonesia, has carried out various efforts to rehabilitate and conserve mangrove forests in various coastal locations. By involving farmers and local community groups in the planting and monitoring process, LindungiHutan not only contributes to environmental preservation, but also to improving the economic welfare of local communities.



Figure 1. Commitment to Protect Forests in Supporting the Blue Economy Concept
Source: Researcher documentation

The importance of mangrove planting can also be seen from its contribution to carbon absorption. Each mangrove tree is capable of absorbing around 24 Kg of carbon during a 3 year planting period, making it a potential alternative for carbon offsets for companies as well as a source of additional income for coastal communities. Thus, implementing the Blue Economy concept in Indonesia is not only economically profitable, but also has a positive impact on environmental preservation and the social welfare of local communities.

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Blue Economy Strategy in Indonesia in Achieving SDGs 14: Life Below Water SDGs is a United Nations (UN) initiative that was ratified in 2015, aiming to promote sustainable development until 2030, by paying attention to economic, social and environmental aspects. Goal number 14 focuses on the importance of preserving marine and marine resources marine, including through sustainable fisheries management, and creating economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources.

Indonesia, as the largest maritime country in the world, has great obligations and potential in achieving SDGs 14 targets, especially in the aquaculture sector. This is in line with the priority agenda of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) which emphasizes the development of sustainable marine, coastal and land cultivation. The Sustainable Blue Economy concept has become the foundation for the KKP's vision and mission in building a competitive and sustainable marine and fisheries sector to improve community welfare.

Sustainable Blue Economy, or Sustainable Blue Economy, is the latest development approach that integrates ecological, economic and social aspects. The aquaculture sector, as part of this concept, has a vital role in national development and global food supply. Indonesia's aquaculture production has experienced a significant increase every year, with an increasingly large contribution to the world's food supply. The great potential in the Indonesian aquaculture sector includes various superior commodities such as shrimp, crab, lobster, seaweed and tilapia. The following is a table of production data and production values for leading aquaculture commodities in Indonesia.

Emphasis on technology development, access to capital, supporting infrastructure, seed standardization, and price stability and market access are the keys to realizing sustainable aquaculture. Through good collaboration between various parties, Indonesia can optimize the potential of aquaculture as a driving force for the economy and supporting food security, in accordance with the vision of sustainable development expected in the SDGs.

In the small, medium and large scale aquaculture industry, waste that pollutes waters comes from organic materials left over from fish feed, the use of drugs (chemotherapy agents) to treat fish diseases and the use of other chemicals, such as disinfectants to treat fish cultivation media before used for cultivation activities. To overcome this, there are several technologies that have been developed by academics and researchers, including the use of natural ingredients or probiotic bacteria to treat fish diseases and treatment of cultivation media as well as the application of IMTA (Integrated Multi Trophic level Aquaculture) technology which makes the remaining fish food in zero waste conditions.

In the fishery product catching and processing industry, waste can arise due to the use of additional ingredients to increase the value (value added) of fish products. All waste that appears in the aquaculture, capture fisheries and processing industries has so far received little attention from business actors. The emergence of the blue economy concept launched by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, one of which is to emphasize and remind again the importance of managing waste resulting from fishing activities so that it does not pollute the environment so that the environmental ecosystem is still maintained.

In fish cultivation activities, CBIB (Good Fish Cultivation Practices) is a standard set for fish farmers to guarantee the cultivation process, the quality of cultivated fish and waste output from cultivation activities must comply with the established standards. Internationally, for fish farming activities, there are several standards set by international certification bodies, such as the Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) certification body, where the standards set by this body must be met if farmed fish are to be purchased by the destination consumer. One of the important points that must be fulfilled is that waste output from activities must not pollute the environment or change and damage the natural ecosystem. This is relevant to the blue economy concept launched by the government.

The blue economy is actually a symbol of industrial activities, especially the pro-environment fishing industry. Even without this concept, fisheries business actors should implement activities that comply with environmental safety standards. For business actors who have advanced thinking or whose business scale is very well established, organizing environmentally sound industrial activities is something that must be done. Apart from personal awareness, another thing that causes it is market demands (buyers) which often require that fishing activities must be pro-environment, but for small and medium business actors, thinking in this direction has not yet become a priority. So it is a big task for related parties, especially those who initiated the blue economy program, to care, pay attention and promote fisheries businesses, especially small and medium scale, so that their businesses are more pro-ecosystem. If this can be realized, the blue economy which is integrated with the fisheries industrialization program will be more successful and advance the fisheries sector.

In Bangka Belitung currently, fisheries activities, especially aquaculture activities, are starting to move towards a pro-environment aquaculture concept. Several ponds or ponds have started to obtain CBIB Certificates. This means that cultivators who obtain this certificate have obligations, one of which is the obligation to maintain cultivation output so as not to disturb the aquatic ecosystem. This is a positive point for fish farmers in Bangka Belitung in indirectly implementing the blue economy concept. However, unfortunately, while the aquaculture sector continues to improve in activating an environmentally friendly fisheries sector, there are other sectors that often put aside pro-environmental activities.

Several mining activities were carried out without any effort to recover the damage that occurred and continues to hit the Bangka Belitung region. The impact of damaged land, murky water and heavy metal content in water due to mining operations is a problem. However, cursing and lamenting a problem is not a wise action. It turns out that the

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other side of mining activities provides opportunities for fishing activities, especially aquaculture. Utilizing ex-mining water cannot necessarily be used to support fisheries activities. There needs to be treatment for degraded water quality. This is where the importance of science and technology. With science and technology, synergy between the fisheries and mining sectors will be realized, giving rise to the concept of a blue economy in both the fisheries and mining sectors.

"Blue and Green Economy (BGE)" is important because the maritime and fisheries economic sector is an abundant resource that promises profitable businesses and can absorb large numbers of workers. In other words, management of marine and fisheries resources can overcome high rates of unemployment and poverty. By developing the maritime economic sector, centers of prosperity will be created spread throughout the archipelago. This can solve the nation's chronic problems in the form of development inequality between regions, brain drain and urbanization. The concept of 'sustainability development with equity' (sustainable development with equality) is Indonesia's guide and animates all development planning. In applying the BE and GE concepts in Indonesia's development planning, the ultimate goal is to increase income, which also means that people's welfare increases. The foregoing explanation implies that development planning in Indonesia must pay attention to the protection and management of the environment and biological resources in a balanced manner so that its sustainability is guaranteed, can contribute to economic growth, and ultimately can improve the welfare of the Indonesian people (community). welfare).

Blue Economy is the concept of appropriate economic development. This sector is able to create jobs and improve community welfare fairly, maintaining the carrying capacity and quality of the coastal and marine environment. Blue Economy principles use raw materials from nature efficiently, leaving no waste, providing a broad social impact. a production system that is sustainable and does not damage the environment, as well as rich in innovation and adaptation of environmentally friendly technology. To implement the Blue Economy in coastal areas and small islands, there is a tourism interest, namely empowering local communities with local employment programs, souvenirs made from waste, environmentally friendly innovation and technology, and many more. With these several things, it is easy to implement a Blue Economy that will improve the welfare of society. The expected results from implementing the Blue Economy are adding economic value with zero waste, will open up new business opportunities and are directly proportional to the increase in the number of jobs needed. All raw materials used will not cause waste so that business continuity and natural resources are guaranteed.

CONCLUSION

In utilizing marine resources, Indonesia has extraordinary potential as an archipelagic country with a long coastline and vast sea areas that cover most of its total area. This potential provides great opportunities in developing the fisheries sector and marine economy, which is the main focus in stimulating production growth and increasing exports of marine products. However, challenges such as illegal fishing and the welfare of coastal communities remain matters that must be taken seriously. Protecting marine ecosystems and empowering coastal communities is the key to maintaining the sustainability of the fisheries sector. Serious efforts are needed to optimize the utilization of marine potential, including increasing supervision and law enforcement, developing technology, and building supporting infrastructure. Implementation of the Blue Economy concept, with a focus on sustainable and inclusive development, is the key to making this happen sustainable development accordingly Lobsters 3,718 824.7 billion Grass 9,060,000 28.45 trillion Sea Tilapia 1,300,000 32.35 trillion Support from various parties, including the government, universities, business world, media and society, is needed to develop this sector so that it can improve. One important strategy is with the SDGs. Strategic steps such as digitalization of the aquaculture industry, technology development, access to capital, supporting infrastructure, and price stability and market access need to be improved to support sustainable growth of the aquaculture sector. Thus, through collaboration between various parties and implementing the right strategy, Indonesia can optimize the potential of its marine resources in a responsible and sustainable manner, in accordance with the vision of sustainable development expected in the SDGs.

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