

# POLICY BRIEF

## BOUGAINVILLE GREEN-BLUE ECONOMY POLICY

The Bougainville Green-Blue Economy (GBE) Policy is a visionary framework that guides the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) toward a sustainable, low-carbon, and inclusive economy. Rooted in Bougainville's unique ecological, cultural, and historical context, the policy addresses past environmental degradation while paving the way for climate-resilient growth and independence.

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Endorsed by the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC Decision 94/2024), this initiative aligns with Bougainville Vision 2052 and national, regional, and international climate and development commitments, positioning Bougainville as a model for climate leadership among Small Island Developing States.

### RATIONALE FOR TRANSITIONING

Bougainville's socio-economic history has been marked by conflict and environmental degradation, most notably resulting from the sustainable exploitation of its mineral resources. Today, the region faces acute climate vulnerabilities, particularly among atoll communities that are being affected by rising sea levels. In response, the GBE Policy proposed a bold and forward-looking shift toward an economy that values ecological sustainability, community empowerment, and inclusive growth.

Integrating the principles of both the Green Economy, which focuses on land, forests, and renewable energy, and the Blue Economy, which focuses on marine and coastal resource sustainability, the Policy seeks to unlock the full potential of Bougainville's natural assets. These include fertile agricultural lands, rich marine biodiversity, carbon sinks, and unique cultural landscapes, resources that can provide long-term wealth when managed responsibly.

### TOWARDS A RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE



"This GBE Policy embodies our collective aspiration for a future where we thrive economically while preserving the natural beauty and cultural heritage that define us. It is a roadmap to prosperity for all generations,"

stated President Ishmael Toroama



## POLICY VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Policy envisions a Smart, Resilient Society enabled by sustainable, inclusive, low-carbon growth, supported by efficient ecosystem services and strengthened community rights. The mission is to implement a coordinated framework that drives innovation, resilience and transformation across both land and ocean-based sectors. Ten strategic objectives guide this transformation:



### **Institutional and Legal Reform:**

Establish robust governance systems and policy frameworks that embed green-blue priorities across all levels of government planning and budgeting.



**Education and Awareness:** Foster a culture of sustainability through targeted campaigns, school curricula, and public engagement that aligns with traditional knowledge and values.



### **Human Capital Development:**

Build a skilled workforce capable of supporting and leading green-blue industries, from eco-tourism to climate-smart agriculture.



**Sustainable Financing:** Mobilise climate finance through public-private partnerships and international funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



### **Innovation and Technology:**

Encourage scientific research, digital transformation, and the adoption of emerging technologies to enhance environmental management and economic productivity.



### **International Cooperation:**

Strengthen Bougainville's visibility and influence in global climate and development platforms, including the Conference of the Parties (COP) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) forums.



### **Equity and Inclusion:**

Ensure that women, youth, persons with disabilities, and atoll communities actively participate in and benefit from the green-blue transition.



### **Stakeholder Participation:**

Promote collaboration across government, civil society, traditional leaders, and the private sector to ensure locally led solutions.



### **Resilient Infrastructure:**

Prioritise the development of sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure that supports livelihoods and economic activity.



### **green-blue Trade Integration:**

Help Bougainville's products meet international sustainability standards, for example, the EU Deforestation Regulation, enabling access to the premium market.

## IMPLEMENTATION AND PATH FORWARD

The GBE Policy outlines a roadmap that includes short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions, supported by a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism. Central to implementation is the creation of enabling legislation, investment in institutional capacity and an inclusive monitoring and evaluation framework. The Policy places a strong emphasis on community ownership and the role of customary landowners, recognising that sustainable development must be locally anchored. It also champions green-blue diplomacy, ensuring Bougainville's voice is heard in international efforts to secure climate finance, share technology, and protect the world's biodiversity.

**The GBE Policy has received strong political support from the highest levels of ABG leadership, including the President, regional parliamentarians, and ministers. It is a living document that calls on every Bougainville person, government officials, business leaders, community elders, women, youth, and development partners, to take part in building a future that is climate-resilient, prosperous and sovereign.**