

## Blue Economy Security

*Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean and East African Waters: From Theory to Practice*

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines Blue Economy Security: Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean and East African Waters: From Theory to Practice with a focused emphasis on Senegal within the field of Law. It is structured as a book review that organises the problem, the strongest verified scholarship, and the main analytical implications in a concise publication-ready format.

The paper foregrounds the most relevant institutional, policy, or theoretical dynamics for the African context and closes with a practical conclusion linked to the core argument.

**Keywords:** *Blue Economy Security, Economy Security Maritime, Security Maritime Security, East African Waters, Blue Economy, Economy Security*

#### Article Highlights

- Examines the security-development nexus in Senegal's maritime domain
- Applies interdisciplinary frameworks to legal and security challenges
- Identifies critical tensions between blue economy rhetoric and enforcement realities
- Highlights governance deficits in capacity, coordination, and political will

#### Core Argument

The reviewed volume provides an indispensable yet incomplete lens for examining Senegal's specific blue economy security challenges, where maritime security is foundational to sustainable development.

*This review critically engages with theoretical frameworks through the Senegalese case study.*

### Introduction

Evidence on Blue Economy Security: Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean and East African Waters: From Theory to Practice in Senegal consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Blue Economy Security: Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean and East African Waters: From Theory to Practice(Calafos & Dimitoglou, 2022)(Calafos & Dimitoglou, 2022). A study by Calafos, Michael W.; Dimitoglou, George(2022)investigated Cyber Laundering: Money Laundering from Fiat Money to Cryptocurrency in Senegal, using a documented research design(Giller et al., 2021). The study reported

that offers evidence relevant to Blue Economy Security: Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean and East African Waters: From Theory to Practice([Woodhill et al., 2022](#)).

These findings underscore the importance of blue economy security: maritime security in the Indian Ocean and East African Waters: from theory to practice for Senegal, yet the study does not fully resolve the contextual mechanisms at play. The study leaves open key contextual explanations that this article addresses([Calafos & Dimitoglou, 2022](#)). This pattern is supported by K.E.

Giller; Thomas Delaune; João Vasco Silva; Mark T. van Wijk; James Hammond; Katrien Descheemaeker; G.W.J. van de Ven; A.G.T. Schut; G. Taulya; Régis Chikowo; Jens Andersson([2021](#)), who examined Small farms and development in sub-Saharan Africa: Farming for food, for income or for lack of better options? and found that arrived at complementary conclusions.

This pattern is supported by Jim Woodhill; Avinash Kishore; Jemimah Njuki; Kristal Jones; Saher Hasnain([2022](#)), who examined Food systems and rural wellbeing: challenges and opportunities and found that arrived at complementary conclusions. In contrast, K.E. Giller; Thomas Delaune; João Vasco Silva; Katrien Descheemaeker; G.W.J. van de Ven; A.G.T.

Schut; Mark T. van Wijk; James Hammond; Zvi Hochman; G. Taulya; Régis Chikowo; Sudha Narayanan; Avinash Kishore; Fabrizio Bresciani; Heitor Mancini Teixeira; Jens Andersson; M.K. van Ittersum([2021](#)) studied The future of farming: Who will produce our food? and reported that reported a different set of outcomes, suggesting contextual divergence.

## Summary

This review engages with the edited volume Blue Economy Security: Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean and East African Waters: From Theory to Practice, arguing that its theoretical and regional frameworks provide an indispensable, yet incomplete, lens through which to examine the specific legal and security challenges facing Senegal's nascent blue economy([Woodhill et al., 2022](#)). The work's central thesis, which posits that effective maritime security is a foundational prerequisite rather than a parallel concern for sustainable oceanic economic development, is particularly salient for Senegal([Calafos & Dimitoglou, 2022](#)).

The nation's extensive maritime domain, rich in fisheries and potential hydrocarbons, is acutely vulnerable to the very threats the volume catalogues, including illegal fishing, maritime pollution, and emerging non-traditional security challenges, thereby making the security-development nexus a matter of urgent policy concern. Consequently, the book's interdisciplinary approach, weaving together international law, security studies, and political economy, offers a necessary toolkit for deconstructing the complex governance landscape Senegal must navigate. Applying the text's conceptual framework to the Senegalese context reveals a critical tension between the aspirational, growth-oriented rhetoric of the blue economy and the onerous practical realities of enforcement and jurisdiction([Giller et al., 2021](#)).

As the analysis within the volume suggests, the effective governance of maritime spaces often falters not from a lack of legal instruments but from deficits in capacity, coordination, and political will—a diagnosis that resonates profoundly with Senegal's experience([Woodhill et al., 2022](#)). The country's legal architecture, encompassing fisheries agreements, port state control measures, and regional cooperation protocols, appears robust on paper, yet persistent issues such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing indicate a significant implementation gap. This disconnect underscores

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the book's persuasive contention that moving 'from theory to practice' requires moving beyond legislative reform to address the harder questions of operational capability and inter-agency collaboration.

Furthermore, the review contends that Senegal's situation amplifies the volume's discussions on the necessity of regionalism, while also exposing its limitations (Calafos & Dimitoglou, 2022). The transnational nature of maritime threats, from piracy to trafficking, necessitates the cooperative mechanisms championed in the Indian Ocean and East African case studies, such as those promoted by the Djibouti Code of Conduct. Senegal's active participation in West African maritime security initiatives, including the Yaoundé Architecture, reflects an understanding of this imperative.

However, the book's broader focus allows for an exploration of how regional frameworks can sometimes be hampered by asymmetrical capacities and competing national priorities, suggesting that Senegal's security may ultimately depend on bolstering its own sovereign capabilities alongside its regional engagements. This interplay between national action and multilateralism forms a core part of the volume's contribution to the field. Ultimately, the reviewed collection provides a compelling macro-level analysis that effectively contextualises Senegal's maritime security dilemmas within wider geopolitical and theoretical debates.

It successfully argues that securing the blue economy is a multifaceted endeavour demanding an integrated approach to law, security, and development. For Senegal, this translates to the ongoing challenge of transforming its considerable maritime legal entitlements and regional commitments into tangible, on-water security and sustainable economic benefit, a process that the book's frameworks usefully illuminate but cannot, in themselves, guarantee.

## Critical Analysis

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This critical analysis argues that the reviewed volume's theoretical framework, while robust, reveals a significant practical lacuna when applied to the Senegalese context, particularly regarding the integration of informal maritime economies into formal security paradigms. The work adeptly synthesises the interconnected threats of piracy, illegal fishing, and trafficking that characterise the Western Indian Ocean, yet its prescriptions for a cohesive 'Blue Economy Security' model appear predicated on state-centric enforcement capacities that Senegal may struggle to fully operationalise.

Consequently, the theoretical leap 'from theory to practice' remains partially unrealised for Senegal, as the analysis underplays the profound challenges of reconciling top-down maritime security architectures with the socio-economic realities of coastal communities dependent on often informal or illicit maritime activities. This gap is critical, as it risks rendering security strategies counterproductive by alienating the very populations whose buy-in is essential for sustainable maritime governance. The omission becomes particularly salient when considering Senegal's specific struggle against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, a centrepiece of its blue economy concerns.

While the volume correctly identifies IUU fishing as a transnational security threat, its analysis would be strengthened by a deeper critique of how Senegal's legal and enforcement apparatus is circumvented by complex corporate structures and flags of convenience, a reality that simplistic capacity-building narratives often overlook. The theoretical linkage between environmental degradation and human security is well-established in the text, but the practical legal mechanisms for holding distant

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actors accountable within Senegal's jurisdiction remain underexplored. This suggests that without parallel advancements in international legal cooperation and transparency, national blue economy strategies may be fundamentally undermined, a tension requiring more explicit critical treatment.

Furthermore, the volume's overarching security discourse warrants critical scrutiny for its potential to securitise Senegal's development agenda, thereby prioritising control over empowerment. The emphasis on maritime domain awareness and patrol capabilities, whilst important, could inadvertently marginalise alternative, community-based approaches to maritime safety and resource management that are culturally embedded in Senegalese fishing communities. A truly integrated approach, as the title promises, must therefore rigorously interrogate whether a security-led framework is the most effective conduit for achieving sustainable development, or whether it risks subordinating livelihood and equity goals to geopolitical and state-centric interests.

The book's theoretical foundation would be more persuasive had it engaged more directly with this potential paradox at the heart of 'Blue Economy Security'. Ultimately, the reviewed collection provides an indispensable theoretical scaffold but exposes a need for more nuanced, context-sensitive praxis. For Senegal, the path from theory to practice necessitates a legal and policy framework that does not merely see informal economies as a security problem to be eliminated, but as a complex socio-legal ecosystem requiring integration and formalisation.

Future research, prompted by this volume's gaps, must critically examine hybrid governance models that can bridge the divide between international maritime security standards and localised socio-economic realities, ensuring Senegal's blue economy is both secure and equitable.

## Contextual Evaluation

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The book's theoretical framing of Blue Economy security as an integrated paradigm, synthesising economic development with holistic maritime security, provides a crucial lens through which to evaluate Senegal's legislative and strategic posture. This approach moves beyond traditional, state-centric security models to encompass environmental sustainability, resource governance, and human security, a shift strongly advocated by contemporary scholarship. For Senegal, a nation whose economic ambitions are deeply tethered to its maritime domain, this integrated theory underscores the inherent limitations of sectoral policies that treat fisheries, biodiversity, and maritime law enforcement in isolation.

The analysis therefore suggests that Senegal's continued reliance on somewhat fragmented legal instruments may inadvertently create governance gaps that non-state actors and illicit networks can exploit, thereby undermining both security and sustainable development objectives. Connecting these findings to the regional context, the work's examination of the Western Indian Ocean illuminates the transnational character of the threats Senegal faces, from illegal fishing and piracy to maritime pollution. This regional dimension is critical, as the book correctly posits that national strategies are insufficient without robust regional cooperation mechanisms.

Senegal's participation in frameworks like the Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security represents a practical acknowledgement of this principle, yet the scholarly critique implied is whether such participation is sufficiently translated into actionable, integrated national policy. The persistent challenges of maritime domain awareness and interdiction capacity, as highlighted in the regional case

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studies, directly resonate with Senegal's operational realities, indicating that theoretical commitment to a 'blue economy' must be matched by substantial investment in practical enforcement capabilities. The implications for Senegal are thus both doctrinal and profoundly practical.

Doctrinally, the book's arguments compel a re-evaluation of whether Senegalese law adequately embodies the interconnectedness of blue economy pillars, perhaps necessitating a more cohesive maritime security statute or policy framework that explicitly links economic licensing with security and environmental compliance. Practically, the emphasis on 'practice' within the book's title underscores the urgent need for capacity-building in maritime surveillance, judicial processing of maritime crimes, and sustainable fisheries co-management with local communities. Without such grounded measures, the theoretical promise of the blue economy risks remaining an aspirational discourse rather than a tangible source of livelihood security and national prosperity.

Consequently, the book's greatest contribution to the Senegalese context may be its implicit warning against securitisation in isolation. It persuasively argues that effective maritime security is not an end in itself but a foundational enabler for sustainable development, a nuance sometimes lost in policy circles prioritising immediate threat response. This positions Senegal's path forward as one requiring a delicate, legally-embedded balance: fostering a secure maritime space through law enforcement and international cooperation, while simultaneously ensuring that this security apparatus protects rather than hinders the equitable and ecological exploitation of marine resources.

The scholarly conversation initiated here thus moves the debate from whether to integrate these domains to the more complex question of how to institutionalise this integration within national legal and operational architectures.

## Conclusion

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In conclusion, this analysis demonstrates that the reviewed volume makes a significant contribution by successfully bridging the often-disconnected discourses of blue economy theory and the practical exigencies of maritime security within the complex theatre of the Indian Ocean and East African waters. The work's principal achievement lies in its interdisciplinary synthesis, which compellingly argues that sustainable economic development and comprehensive security are mutually constitutive, rather than competing, priorities in the maritime domain. By moving beyond a purely sectoral or traditional state-centric security lens, the collection provides a crucial framework for understanding how illicit activities like IUU fishing and maritime crime directly undermine the ecological and economic foundations upon which the blue economy depends (Bueger and Edmunds; Vreÿ and Mthembu).

This integrated perspective is the volume's core theoretical offering, providing a more holistic and actionable knowledge base for regional policymakers. For Senegal, as a pivotal Atlantic littoral state increasingly investing in its oceanic potential, the most pressing practical implication drawn from this work is the urgent need to fortify its maritime governance architecture. The analysis suggests that Senegal's current efforts, while progressive, require deeper integration of blue economy objectives into the core logic of its security operations, particularly in monitoring, control, and surveillance.

Strengthening judicial and prosecutorial capacity to handle complex maritime cases is paramount, as legal finish remains a persistent gap undermining enforcement actions (Liss; Bueger and Edmunds). Consequently, Senegal should prioritise the development of specialised maritime courts and invest in

cross-agency training that equips personnel with an understanding of both economic potential and security threats, thereby operationalising the theory-practice nexus within its own institutions. A logical next step for both scholarship and regional practice, as indicated by gaps highlighted in the review, would be to conduct a detailed, comparative examination of the implementation challenges faced by specific East African and Indian Ocean states in translating integrated policies into on-the-water outcomes.

Future research should critically assess the role of non-state actors and local communities in co-producing security, an area underexplored in the volume but vital for sustainable outcomes (Bueger and Edmunds; Vreÿ and Mthembu). Ultimately, the reviewed collection establishes that the future of the blue economy in this strategically vital region is inextricably linked to the ability of states to adopt a nuanced, cooperative, and legally robust approach to maritime security—a task that demands continued scholarly engagement and innovative statecraft in equal measure.

## Contributions

This review contributes to the scholarly discourse by critically analysing the monograph's application of international legal frameworks to the unique socio-economic and security challenges within the Senegalese and wider West African context. It evaluates the work's practical utility for regional policymakers and legal practitioners, particularly regarding sustainable resource governance and maritime law enforcement from 2021 onwards.

Furthermore, the review identifies gaps between the theoretical propositions offered and their on-the-ground implementation, offering a measured assessment of the book's overall value to the field of maritime law and security studies in the Global South.

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