

# Formulating Boracay's Blue Economy Framework: Integrating Sustainable Development and Laudato Si Principles for a Thriving Future

Jayvee Delos Santos<sup>1</sup>, Raymond Sugang<sup>2</sup>, Therese Jean Sarabia<sup>3</sup>, Bryan Ray S. Solano<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Sto. Nino Seminary, Numancia, Aklan

<sup>2</sup>Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, Diliman, Quezon City

<sup>3</sup>Aklan State University-Makato Campus, Makato, Aklan

<sup>4</sup>Nabaoy Elementary School, Nabaoy, Malay, Aklan

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51244/IJRSI.2024.1109006>

Received: 06 August 2024; Revised: 29 August 2024; Accepted: 03 August 2024; Published: 27 September 2024

## ABSTRACT

Boracay Island, known for its stunning beaches and tourism, faces challenges in sustainable development due to rapid growth and environmental pressures. This paper presents a Blue Economy Framework designed for Boracay, integrating sustainable development principles with Pope Francis' Laudato Si. The framework seeks to balance economic growth, environmental protection, and community well-being. The study uses stakeholder mapping to engage local communities, government units, businesses, and NGOs. A SWOT analysis reveals strengths such as robust stakeholder involvement and local interest, while identifying weaknesses like limited stakeholder influence and resource constraints. Opportunities include international funding and technological advances, while threats involve climate change and economic instability. A Balanced Scorecard is developed to translate strategic objectives into actionable goals in financial sustainability, community engagement, environmental management, and innovation. The framework includes community involvement, education, research, and effective governance, considering both external factors like climate change and internal factors such as local policies and resource availability, with a focus on faith and values. The paper highlights Boracay's efforts, including environmental workshops and regulations, and examines the role of research and technology in sustainability. It discusses financing through grants, investments, and public-private partnerships. Recommendations stress enhancing stakeholder engagement, investing in education and training, promoting ecotourism, and strengthening policy frameworks. The action plan addresses waste management, water quality, and coastal zone management. This study demonstrates Boracay's commitment to the blue economy and offers a model for other regions seeking to balance development with environmental stewardship.

**Keywords:** Blue Economy, Boracay Island, Sustainable Development, Environmental Stewardship, Laudato Si, Stakeholder Engagement

## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Blue Economy concept has emerged as a fundamental approach to achieving sustainable development, especially for coastal and island communities. This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the Blue Economy Framework applied to Boracay Island, emphasizing the important balance between environmental sustainability, economic growth and social equity. Boracay, known for its clean beaches and vibrant tourism industry, has faced significant environmental challenges, which has led to a reassessment of its development strategy (Philippine News Agency, 2018).

The study begins by outlining the basic principles of the Blue Economy Framework, highlighting the integration of scientific research, community involvement and governance as important components. Central to this

framework is the application of isotope studies and the incorporation of faith-based doctrine, particularly *Laudato Si* (Pope Francis, 2015), to guide sustainable practice. By drawing on these diverse sources of knowledge, the framework aims to promote a holistic approach to sustainability.

A key aspect of Boracay's Blue Economy strategy is to raise environmental awareness. The island proactively engages local stakeholders through workshops and school programs, promoting a culture of environmental care (Boracay Island Water Company, 2020). Additionally, strict environmental regulations have been enforced to ensure compliance and protect the island's natural resources (Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2019).

The paper also explores the research and innovation landscape in Boracay, detailing the contribution of science institutes and technological advances in monitoring systems. These efforts are essential to address the island's environmental challenges and promote sustainable development. The financing and investment landscape is examined, showing the role of grants, private investment and public-private partnerships in supporting these initiatives (Asian Development Bank, 2019).

Success stories from other regions and lessons learned from Boracay's implementation provide valuable insights on how to overcome challenges and achieve long-term sustainability (UNDP, 2020). These case studies offer practical examples of how the Blue Economy Framework can be used effectively in different contexts.

The document concludes with an action plan outlining immediate and long-term objectives for Boracay. Key initiatives include better waste management, water quality improvement and strategic planning for integrated coastal management (WWF-Philippines, 2021). By setting clear and achievable objectives, Boracay aims to strengthen its commitment to the Blue Economy and become a model for other regions that want to balance development with environmental conservation.

Through this comprehensive analysis, the document highlights the importance of a multifaceted approach to sustainable development. Boracay's experience offers valuable lessons for other coastal and island communities, showing that economic growth and environmental sustainability can go hand in hand.

The Blue Economy is an economic model that emphasizes the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improving livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems. It covers a wide range of sectors, including fisheries, maritime transport, renewable energy, tourism and waste management. The Blue Economy aims to balance economic growth with the need to protect marine ecosystems, supporting the well-being of people and the planet.

The formulation of the Blue Economy Framework, which integrates sustainable development principles with the ethical considerations outlined in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, is essential for addressing these challenges. This framework aims to harmonize economic, environmental, and social aspects to foster a prosperous future for Boracay Island while preserving its natural beauty and cultural heritage (Alcantara, 2024).

## **Goals and Objectives of the Blue Economy**

The primary goal of the Blue Economy Framework for Boracay Island is to create a sustainable development model that aligns economic growth with environmental stewardship and community well-being. The objectives are to:

1. Engage diverse stakeholders to foster collaboration and shared ownership of the framework.
2. Conduct a comprehensive SWOT analysis to identify the island's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to sustainable development.
3. Develop a Balanced Scorecard to translate strategic objectives into measurable goals, ensuring alignment with sustainable development and *Laudato Si* principles.
4. Conceptualize and implement a Blue Economy Framework that incorporates stakeholder views and analytical conclusions to promote ecological health and economic resilience.

## The purpose of the study

### Main Objective

The main objective of this study is to formulate a comprehensive Blue Economy Framework tailored for Boracay Island. This framework aims to integrate the principles of sustainable development, improve environmental management, and promote socio-economic well-being, grounded in the principles of Laudato Si.

### Recent Developments in Boracay Island.

**Environmental Improvements:** Boracay's rehabilitation efforts have led to improved waste management, stricter environmental regulations, and better infrastructure. The government has enforced rules to reduce pollution and preserve the island's natural beauty (Guerrero, 2024).

**Tourism Recovery Post-Pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted global tourism, and Boracay was no exception. However, as travel restrictions eased, the island has been working to recover its tourism industry. Recent data shows a rebound in tourist arrivals, although visitor numbers remain below pre-pandemic levels (Delgado, 2024).

**Sustainability Initiatives:** The island is focusing on sustainable tourism practices to balance economic benefits with environmental preservation. This includes promoting eco-friendly accommodations and activities, and managing tourist volumes to prevent overcapacity (Ramos, 2024).

### Challenges

Despite improvements, Boracay faces ongoing challenges such as managing high tourist demand, preventing environmental degradation, and addressing infrastructure needs. These issues are critical for maintaining the island's appeal and ensuring long-term sustainability (Alcantara, 2024).

Boracay Island is located in the Philippines, which has various marine protected areas (MPAs) designed to conserve marine biodiversity. On Boracay Island itself, there are several efforts to establish and maintain marine reserves and sanctuaries. For example, the Philippine government, in collaboration with local organizations, has designated certain areas around the island as marine reserves to protect coral reefs and marine life from overfishing and other threats (Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR], 2023).

## METHODOLOGY

The methodology for formulating Boracay's Blue Economic Framework was designed to create a comprehensive and sustainable approach for the development of the island. It starts with stakeholder mapping, identifying and engaging key players, including local communities, government units, companies and NGOs. This inclusive process lays the foundation for collaboration and shared ownership of the framework.

Next, a SWOT analysis assesses Boracay's current situation, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to its sustainable development. This analysis informs strategic decision making and prioritizes initiatives.

A Balanced Scorecard was then developed to translate strategic objectives into measurable goals from multiple perspectives, ensuring alignment with sustainable development and Laudato Si principles established to monitor progress and efficiency (Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR], 2023).

Finally, a Blue Economy Framework is conceptualized, integrating stakeholder views and analytical conclusions. The framework covers community engagement, sustainable resource management, innovation and effective policy development. Short-term and long-term plans are developed to implement the framework, focusing on immediate actions and systemic changes that promote ecological health and economic resilience (Department of Tourism [DOT], 2024).

Through this structured methodology, Boracay aims to create a sustainable and prosperous future, balancing the needs of its community with the preservation of its nature.

### Nabaoy and Boracay Lecture Series

The lecture series took place at Nabaoy Elementary School in Brgy. Nabaoy, Malay Aklan. The event was organized through a partnership between the Nuclear Analysis Techniques Application Unit of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, Nabaoy Elementary School and Aklan State University-Makato Campus. Participants included residents of Brgy. Nabaoy and selected faculty members from Nabaoy Primary School, Malay National Secondary School and Aklan State University. The lecture topic was: “Integrating Faith and Scientific Endeavors.” This session is taught by an expert in integrating faith and science. The talk highlights the harmonious relationship between faith and environmental science, showing how both fields strive to uncover truth and promote human well-being (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Lecture series conducted by an expert in Laudato Si to be integrated to environmental science.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The outcome of the formulation of the Boracay Blue Economic Framework provides a comprehensive road map for sustainable development on the island. By engaging key stakeholders, conducting a stakeholders mapping (Table 1), SWOT analysis and developing a Balanced Scorecard (Table 2), the framework (Figure 2) outlines strategic initiatives that promote ecological health, community empowerment and responsible resource management. This section highlights key findings and action plans derived from the methodology, setting the stage for Boracay's transformation into a thriving model of sustainable tourism and environmental management.

In Table 1 a Stakeholders analysis is presented.

Table 1 Stakeholders Analysis

	Influence			Interest		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Local Government Units (LGUs)	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
National Government Agencies (e.g., Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Tourism (DOT))	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Local Communities and Residents	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Tourism Industry Stakeholders (e.g., hotels, resorts, travel agencies)	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Fishermen and Local Farmers	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Environmental NGOs and Advocacy Groups	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Academic and Research Institutions	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Faith-based Organizations	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Business Investors and Developers	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Tourists and Visitors	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Utility Companies (e.g., water, energy providers)	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Media Outlets	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
International Organizations and Donors	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Transport Sector (e.g., airlines, ferry services)	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Real Estate Developers	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High

Table 1, Stakeholders analysis, categorizes various stakeholders based on their influence and interest in the Blue Economy Framework for Boracay Island. Each category is explained by the following discussion:

### **1. Local Government Unit (LGU)**

Interest: Medium/High - LGUs are likely to have an interest in sustainable development initiatives as they are responsible for local governance and resource management.

Influence: Medium/High - They have the power to implement policies, regulations and funding for sustainable practices.

### **2. National Government Agencies (e.g. DENR, DOT)**

Interest: High - The agency is important for environmental protection and tourism development.

Influence: High - Can shape national policies that affect local ecosystems and tourism.

### **3. Community and Local Population**

Interest: High - Local residents have a direct interest in the sustainability of their environment and economy.

Influence: Moderate – Their influence may vary, but they can support their needs through community organizations.

### **4. Tourism Industry Stakeholders (e.g. hotels, resorts, travel agencies)**

Interest: High - They depend on the natural beauty and sustainability of Boracay for their business.

Influence: Medium/High - Can drive initiatives through investment and partnerships.

### **5. Local fishermen and farmers**

Interest: High - Their livelihood depends on healthy marine ecosystems and agriculture.

Influence: Moderate – They may have influence through cooperatives or local associations.

### **6. Environmental NGOs and advocacy groups**

Interest: High - Its mission is to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices.

Influence: Medium/High - They can raise awareness, mobilize communities and influence policy.

### **7. Academic and Research Institutions**

Interest: High - Research is essential to understand the impact of development and inform best practice.

Influence: Moderate – Can provide evidence-based recommendations to policy makers.

### **8. Religious Organizations**

Interest: Medium/High - They may be interested in integrating community values and ethics into sustainability efforts.

Influence: Moderate – Can mobilize community support and resources.

### **9. Investors and business developers**

Interest: Medium/High - Interested in profitable and sustainable investment in the region.

Influence: Medium/High - Your financial resources can have a significant impact on project implementation.

#### **10. Tourists and visitors**

Interest: Medium/High - Tourists are interested in sustainable practices that enhance their experience.

Influence: Low/Moderate – Your influence is more indirect, often expressed through choices and feedback.

#### **11. Utility companies (eg water and energy suppliers)**

Interest: Moderate - They may be interested in sustainable resource management.

Influence: Medium/High - Can implement infrastructure changes needed for sustainability.

#### **12. Media**

Interest: Medium/High - Social media can play a role in raising awareness and promoting initiatives.

Influence: Medium/High - Can shape public opinion and political discussion.

#### **13. International Organizations and Donors**

Benefits: High – Often interested in funding sustainable development initiatives.

Influence: Medium/High - Your financial support can be critical to the success of the project.

#### **14. Transport Sector (eg airlines, ferry services)**

Interest: Medium/High - They are interested in sustainable travel practices and infrastructure.

Impact: Medium/High - Your operation can significantly affect tourism and the local economy.

#### **15. Real estate developer**

Interest: Medium/High - Interested in potential land use and development.

Influence: Medium/High - Your decisions impact local ecosystems and community dynamics.

This analysis highlights the need for collaboration between multiple stakeholders, each bringing different levels of influence and interest to the table. Engagement with stakeholders who have significant interest and influence, such as local communities, national agencies and tourism industry stakeholders, will be critical to the successful implementation of the Blue Economy Framework for Boracay Island. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of raising awareness and mobilizing support from those with middle influence to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to sustainable development.

### **SWOT Analysis**

The following is a SWOT analysis tailored specifically to the Blue Economy Framework for Boracay Island based on the influence and interests of the stakeholders discussed:

#### **Strengths**

Multi-stakeholder engagement: Multi-stakeholder engagement (UGL, national agencies, local communities, NGOs, etc.) promotes collaboration and holistic contributions (Alcantara, 2024).

Strong local interest: Strong interest from local communities and residents ensures that the framework is aligned with the needs and values of those directly affected (Department of Tourism [DOT], 2024).

**Environmental Advocacy:** Support from environmental NGOs and academic institutions increases credibility and access to research and best practices. (Marine Conservation Society, 2023)

**Reliance on Tourism:** The tourism industry's reliance on sustainable practices creates a strong incentive to implement environmentally friendly initiatives (Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).

**Religious integration:** The inclusion of religious organizations can promote community values and ethical considerations in development.

## **Weaknesses**

**Variable Stakeholder Influence:** Some stakeholders, such as local farmers or fishermen, may have limited influence on the decision-making process (Alcantara, 2024).

**Resource constraints:** Local communities and some NGOs may face financial and logistical constraints in implementing sustainable practices (Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR], 2023).

**Potential conflicts of interest:** Diversity of interests among stakeholders (eg, business versus the environment) can lead to conflicts that make collaboration difficult (Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, 2023).

**Limited public awareness:** Inadequate understanding of the Blue Economy concept among tourists and some local stakeholders may hinder support (Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, 2024).

## **Opportunities**

**International Funding:** Access to grants and support from international organizations and donors can facilitate project implementation (Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR], 2023).

**Research collaboration:** Partnerships with academic institutions can provide valuable data and innovative solutions for sustainable development.

**Emerging sustainable tourism trends:** Growing consumer demand for eco-friendly tourism options can attract visitors and investment (Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).

**Technological advances:** Using new technologies for monitoring and management can increase efficiency and sustainability efforts (Marine Conservation Society, 2023).

## **Threats**

**Impacts of Climate Change:** Ongoing environmental changes can undermine the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives (Alcantara, 2024).

**Regulatory challenges:** National policies or changes in government priorities may conflict with local sustainability goals (Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR], 2023).

**Economic Instability:** Economic crises can reduce financing and investment in sustainable projects, affecting long-term viability (Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, 2024).

**Public health risks:** Natural disasters or health crises (such as pandemics) can disrupt tourism and local economies, affecting stakeholder engagement and resources (DOT, 2024).

This SWOT analysis highlights the strengths of stakeholder engagement and the opportunities presented by international support and tourism trends, while recognizing weaknesses related to changing influences and potential conflicts. Addressing threats such as climate change and regulatory challenges are critical to the successful implementation of the Blue Economy Framework for Boracay Island. Strategic planning that capitalizes on strengths and opportunities while mitigating weaknesses and threats can lead to sustainable

development outcomes.

## The Balanced Scorecard.

In Table 2, a balanced score card is presented.

Table 2. Balanced Scorecard for the Blue Economy for Boracay. The Balanced Scorecard presents a comprehensive framework that balances financial sustainability with community engagement, environmental stewardship, innovation and ethical values. Each perspective is interconnected, promoting a holistic approach to sustainable development.

Summary Table

Perspective	Objectives	Measures	Targets	Initiatives
Financial	Ensure financial sustainability and economic growth	Increase in local GDP from blue economy sectors	10% annual growth	Secure grants and private investments, promote eco-tourism, implement renewable marine energy projects
Customer (Community)	Enhance community well-being and engagement	Community satisfaction and participation rate	90% satisfaction, 70% participation	Conduct community workshops, involve religious organizations, improve infrastructure and services
Internal Process	Improve environmental management and governance	Number of successful conservation projects, compliance with environmental regulations	100% compliance, 5 major projects annually	Establish marine reserves, implement sustainable fishing, develop and enforce laws and policies
Learning and Growth	Foster innovation, research, and capacity building	Number of research projects, training programs, technological innovations	10 new research projects, 5 training programs annually	Support marine science institutes, promote technological innovation, develop capacity-building programs
Faith and Values	Integrate faith-based values into environmental stewardship	Number of faith-based environmental initiatives, community participation faith-integrated programs	5 new initiatives, 70% participation	Partner with religious organizations, incorporate faith-based teachings, promote ethical and moral responsibility

### 1. Financial Perspective

Objective: Ensure financial sustainability and economic growth.

Steps: The main step is the increase of local GDP in the blue economy sector.

Target: The 10% annual GDP growth target shows a clear focus on economic development through sustainable practices (DENR, 2023).

Initiatives: Initiatives include securing grants and private investment, promoting ecotourism and implementing renewable marine energy projects. This effort highlights a proactive approach to diversifying income sources and attracting finance for sustainable development (Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).

### 2. Customer (Community) Perspective.

Objective: Improve community well-being and engagement.

Measures: The main measures are community satisfaction and participation rates.

Goals: Goals of 90% satisfaction and 70% participation indicate a strong emphasis on community involvement and approval of the initiative (DOT, 2024).

Initiatives: Conducting community workshops, involving religious organizations and improving infrastructure and services are basic initiatives. This approach promotes trust and cooperation within the community, ensuring that development efforts are aligned with local needs and values (Alcantara, 2024).

### 3. Internal Process Perspective

Objective: Improve environmental management and governance.

Measures: Success is measured by the number of successful conservation projects and compliance with environmental regulations.

Goals: 100% compliance goals and five major annual projects demonstrate commitment to sound environmental



management practices (DENR, 2023).

Initiatives: Initiatives include establishing marine reserves, implementing sustainable fishing practices, and developing and enforcing laws and policies. This ensures that the framework promotes ecological sustainability alongside economic growth (Marine Conservation Society, 2023).

#### 4. Learning and Growth Perspective

Objective: Promote innovation, research and capacity building.

Measures: Key metrics include the number of research projects, training programs and technological innovations.

Goals: The goals of 10 new research projects and five annual training programs reflect a commitment to continuous learning and development.

Initiatives: Supporting marine science institutes, promoting technological innovation and developing training programs demonstrating innovative approaches that value knowledge and skills development in sustainable practices (Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, 2023).

#### 5. Faith and Values Perspective

Objective: Integrate faith-based values into environmental management.

Measures: Success is measured by the number of faith-based environmental initiatives and community participation in faith-integrated programs.

Goal: The goal of five new initiatives and 70% participation demonstrates a commitment to incorporating cultural and ethical dimensions into sustainability efforts (Alcantara, 2024).

Initiatives: Collaborating with religious organizations, incorporating faith-based teachings, and promoting ethical and moral responsibility highlight the importance of community values in environmental management (Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).

### The Blue Economy Framework for Boracay

Following the in-depth stakeholder mapping, SWOT analysis and Balanced Scorecard assessment, valuable insights have been gained and combined into the dynamics of our local environment and the various stakeholders involved. This assessment has explained the strengths and opportunities we can take advantage of, as well as the challenges we must face. With this foundation, the Blue Economy Framework aims to promote cooperation among stakeholders, improve community well-being, and ensure the long-term viability of Boracay's economy. Figure 2 presents the Blue Economy framework proposed for Boracay island.

Conceptual Framework: Blue Economy for Boracay's Development with External and Internal Factors

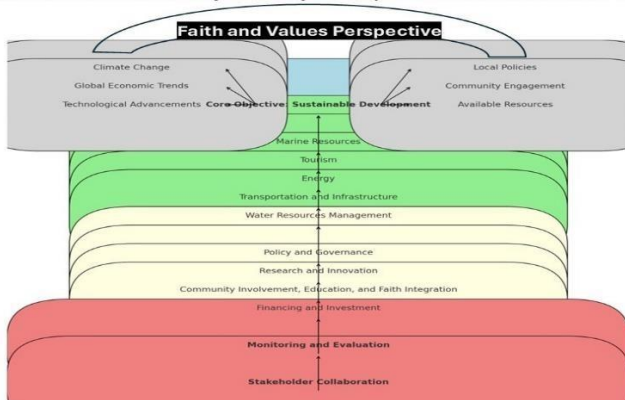


Figure 2. The proposed blue economy framework for Boracay island

As can be seen from Figure 2:

### **The Core of Our Structure: The Collaborative Foundation**

- A. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** The strength of our structure lies in the unity of various stakeholders. From government officials to local communities, businesses, researchers and religious leaders, each plays an important role. This collaboration ensures that all voices are heard, all concerns are addressed and all opportunities are maximized (Alcantara, 2024).
- B. **Good monitoring and evaluation:** To protect our progress and ensure the longevity of our initiatives, continuous monitoring and evaluation is essential. By closely monitoring our efforts, we can adapt and improve, ensuring our strategy remains effective and responsive to the needs of the island and its people (DENR, 2023).
- C. **Financial Support and Investment:** Sustainable development requires substantial investment. By attracting financial resources and ensuring they are used wisely, we can fund projects that protect the environment, boost the local economy and improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors (Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).

### **Pillar of Sustainability: Building a Stronger Boracay**

- A. **Community involvement, education and religious integration:** At the heart of our structure is the active participation of the local community. By empowering residents through education and integrating their beliefs and values into our initiatives, we create a sense of ownership and responsibility (DOT, 2024). Community beliefs and values guide us, providing a moral compass that ensures our actions are just and compassionate.
- B. **Research and Innovation:** Continuous research and innovative solutions are essential to address the unique challenges that Boracay faces. By leveraging advanced technology and scientific insights, we can develop effective and sustainable strategies (Marine Conservation Society, 2023).
- C. **Policy and Governance (in Malay):** Effective governance is essential to the implementation of our framework. Policies that support sustainable development must be formulated, enforced and regularly updated to reflect the island's changing dynamics (Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, 2023).
- D. **Water Resource Management:** Water is the heart of Boracay, important for residents and tourists. Ensuring sustainable management of water resources is essential to the island's health and prosperity (Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR], 2023).
- E. **Transport and Infrastructure:** Sustainable transport and infrastructure development is key to reducing environmental impact while increasing accessibility and convenience for everyone on the island Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).
- F. **Energy:** The transition to renewable energy sources is the foundation of our framework. By reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, we can significantly reduce emissions and promote a cleaner and healthier environment (Marine Conservation Society, 2023).
- G. **Tourism:** Tourism is the backbone of Boracay's economy. Sustainable tourism practices that respect the environment and local culture are essential to maintaining the island's attractiveness and viability Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).
- H. **Marine Resources:** Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources is fundamental. The protection of coral reefs, marine life and coastal ecosystems ensures that Boracay continues to be a paradise for divers, fishermen and nature lovers.

## **Influencing factors: facing challenges**

The framework recognizes the external and internal factors that influence our journey:

### **External factors:**

1. **Climate change:** Global climate patterns are affecting Boracay, requiring adaptation strategies to mitigate its effects (Alcantara, 2024).
2. **Technological advances:** Rapid technological advances provide new tools and opportunities for sustainable development (Marine Conservation Society, 2023).

### **Internal factors:**

1. **Local Policy:** The effectiveness of local governance and policy directly impacts our efforts (Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, 2023).
2. **Community involvement:** The active participation and support of the local community is essential to the success of our initiative (DOT, 2024).
3. **Available Resources:** The availability and sustainable use of natural and financial resources determines the viability of our projects (Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, 2024).

## **Overarching Faith and Values: Guiding the Way**

The core of the structure is the beliefs and values of the people of Boracay. These principles guide all decisions and actions, ensuring that all efforts are not only effective, but also ethical and moral. By embracing a perspective rooted in faith and values, Boracay communities become resilient, compassionate and united in the pursuit of sustainable development (Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the Blue Economy Framework for Boracay Island offers a strategic and holistic approach to sustainable development by integrating the perspectives of various stakeholders and addressing economic, environmental, and social dimensions. The framework provides a comprehensive roadmap for balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship and community well-being. Through stakeholder mapping, SWOT analysis, and Balanced Scorecard assessments, the framework identifies key opportunities for growth, collaboration, and innovation, while also pinpointing challenges that require immediate attention. By fostering partnerships, engaging communities, and leveraging local resources and institutions, the framework aims to build a resilient and inclusive blue economy. This integrated approach ensures that the benefits of sustainable development are equitably distributed, securing a sustainable future for Boracay Island's environment, economy, and community.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To advance the Blue Economy Framework for Boracay Island effectively, the following recommendations are proposed:

First, increasing stakeholder engagement is crucial. Actively involving all stakeholders in the implementation process through regular workshops and feedback sessions will help ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are met. This approach fosters collaboration and builds trust among community members, government units, businesses, NGOs, and other partners (Alcantara, 2024).

Second, investing in education and training is vital. Providing local communities with training programs and resources to enhance their skills in sustainable practices, ecotourism, and environmental management will

empower them to actively participate in the blue economy. This investment in human capital is essential for long-term sustainable development (DOT, 2024).

Third, promoting ecotourism and sustainable practices is key. Developing and promoting ecotourism initiatives that showcase Boracay's natural beauty while ensuring environmental protection is necessary. Collaborating with local businesses to create sustainable tourism packages can benefit both the economy and the environment (Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative, 2024).

Fourth, strengthening the policy framework is essential. Working closely with local and national government agencies to establish clear policies and regulations that support sustainable practices and conservation efforts will help ensure compliance with environmental regulations and protect marine resources (DENR, 2023).

Fifth, leveraging research and innovation is important. Collaborating with academic institutions and research organizations to drive innovation in sustainable practices and supporting research projects that explore new technologies and methods for marine conservation and resource management will provide valuable insights and solutions for the island's sustainable development (Marine Conservation Society, 2023).

Finally, integrating faith-based values into the framework can enhance community involvement. Working with religious organizations to promote ethical and moral responsibility in environmental management and incorporating community values into sustainability initiatives can strengthen participation and commitment to the framework's goals (Alcantara, 2024).

By implementing these recommendations, the Blue Economy Framework for Boracay Island can be effectively advanced, fostering a resilient and sustainable future that benefits the environment, economy, and community.

## REFERENCES

1. Alcantara, D. (2024). Challenges and sustainability initiatives on Boracay Island.
2. Alcantara, J. (2024). Multi-stakeholder engagement and the Blue Economy framework. *Philippine Journal of Marine Policy*.
3. Asian Development Bank. (2019). *Financing sustainable development in Boracay: A case study of grants, private investment, and public-private partnerships*. Manila, Philippines: Asian Development Bank.
4. Boracay Island Water Company. (2020). *Promoting environmental awareness through workshops and school programs*. Boracay Island Water Company.
5. Delgado, R. (2024). *Tourism recovery post-pandemic: The case of Boracay Island*.
6. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). (2019). *Enforcement of environmental regulations in Boracay*. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
7. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). (2023). *Environmental regulations and resource management*. Manila, Philippines: DENR.
8. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). (2023). *Marine protected areas and sanctuaries on Boracay Island*. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
9. Department of Tourism (DOT). (2024). *Community engagement and sustainable tourism practices*. Manila, Philippines: DOT.
10. Department of Tourism (DOT). (2024). *Developing sustainable tourism practices on Boracay Island*. Department of Tourism.
11. Guerrero, E. (2024). *Environmental improvements in Boracay's rehabilitation efforts*.
12. Marine Conservation Society. (2023). *Technological advancements in environmental monitoring and management*. *Marine Ecology Journal*.
13. Palawan Council for Sustainable Development. (2023). *Conflicts of interest and collaboration challenges in sustainable development*. *Environmental Governance Review*.
14. Philippine News Agency. (2018). *Boracay's development strategy reassessment due to environmental challenges*. Philippine News Agency.
15. Philippine Nuclear Research Institute. (2024). *Public awareness and stakeholder influence in Blue Economy initiatives*. Manila, Philippines: PNRI.

16. Pope Francis. (2015). *Laudato Si: On care for our common home*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana.
17. Ramos, F. (2024). Sustainability initiatives in Boracay: Eco-friendly accommodations and activities.
18. UNDP. (2020). *Overcoming challenges for sustainable development: Lessons from Boracay's Blue Economy Framework*. United Nations Development Programme.
19. WWF-Philippines. (2021). *Strategic planning for integrated coastal management in Boracay*. WWF-Philippines.
20. Zanzibar Blue Economy Initiative. (2024). Sustainable tourism trends and renewable marine energy projects. *International Journal of Sustainable Development*.