

# **BLUE OCEANS ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT SECTOR: A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOURISM AND TRANSPORT SECTOR (ANALYSIS AND OPPORTUNITIES)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Covid-19 pandemic permanently shifted the plate tectonic of the transport sector around the world. Previous research has confirmed that there is an intricate link between transport sector and tourism (Bricker, n.d.; Lucrezi et al., 2017a; Nobi & Majumder, 2019). This symbiotic relationship between tourism and transport sector is key to developing both sectors post Covid-19. Much attention has been drawn to the blue oceans economy in South Africa (e.g. Operation Phakisa, National Development Plan 2030, National Skills Plan III). Despite this emphasis by government on blue oceans economy, South Africa is yet to reach full potential in the blue oceans economy. Indian Ocean island nations generate a large portion of their GDP from tourism supported by excellent transport infrastructure. In Mauritius, the direct contribution by tourism is 7,4% of GDP and 26,4% for Seychelles compared to 2,9% in South Africa. Blue oceans tourism in the east coast of South Africa presents an opportunity for future growth, profitability and sustainability of the transport sector post Covid-19.