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To the 2022 UN Ocean Conference,

Since 1992 APREC Coastal Ecosystems, an environmental and educational NGO based in Niterói, state of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), has been engaged in several important activities. One of them is the “Niterói Mangroves Project” (targeted at mangrove recovery in nearby Guanabara bay). The organization and the project have become more widely known due to their achievements. A major grant was awarded to APREC in the September/2001, by Brazil’s National Environmental Fund (FNMA), under the heading “Climate Change”. APREC’s ongoing “Niterói Mangroves Project” jointly managed with IBAMA, Brazil’s top-level federal environmental agency, is supplying primary data to this new FNMA - supported project, which will allow the evaluation of carbon sequestration in mangroves.

Please, see below our statement,

Best regards,

Solange Maria da Silva Nunes Mattos

President

The blue Amazon at Maricá¹



Fonte: Foto de Pedro Elia

Maricá comprises a small but important part of the so-called Blue Amazon along its almost 50 km of coastline. Our sea establishes a new economic alternative and investing in the sea is an important frontier to be explored in future scenarios for CT&I in Marica. The perception of the oceans as strategic assets points to production chains for the

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planning and use of the Economy of the Sea, strategic in the development of Brazil and our municipality. Using a qualified instrument such as the OECD analyzes can provide security, despite the fact that it is an overview of maritime activities and industries in 2010, which presents trends, projects the evolution of the maritime economy in the following two decades and presents an agenda for sustainable development in these activities, even without having considered the uncertainty brought to the world stage by the COVID 19 virus.

The OECD in its publication “The economy of the sea in 2030” describes that the ocean economy encompasses not only the sectors of activities related to maritime transport, fisheries, offshore wind energy, marine biotechnology, but also natural resources and ecosystem services. that the ocean provides (fish, waterways, CO₂ absorption, etc.). Since the two are inextricably linked, the report addresses many aspects of ecosystem services, while focusing on the dimensions of ocean-related sectors of activity. Looking to 2030, there are many ocean-related sectors of activity that have the potential to outperform the global economy as a whole, both in terms of added value and employment. Projections suggest that between 2010 and 2030 in a similar baseline scenario, the ocean economy could more than double its contribution to world output, exceeding USD 3 trillion. Particularly robust growth is expected in marine aquaculture, offshore wind energy, fish processing and shipbuilding and repair. Ocean-related business sectors also have the potential to make an important contribution to employment growth. By 2030, they are expected to employ around 40 million full-time equivalent workers in a similar baseline scenario. The fastest growth in terms of employment is expected to occur in offshore wind energy, marine aquaculture, fish processing and port activities (OECD, 2016)².

In the face of multiple uncertainties, projecting the future is a risky activity in the face of countless variables that we do not control. The best analysts predicted in advance the global crash resulting from the crisis in second-tier bonds, subprimes, and the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008. However, envisioning future scenarios can lead to biased conclusions for those who want to understand the trends that will define the coming years. post-pandemic. In any case, minimizing the risks of forecasting future scenarios, given the absence of exploratory activity in traditional maritime industries in Maricá, one can see the great expansion of this sector with the advent of the port (TERMINAIS PONTA NEGRA) and tourist developments. by the sea (MARAÉY), as well as the forecast for the implementation of aquaculture, energy production and maritime biotechnology projects, activities indicated in the scenario outlined by the OECD for 2010 to 2030, which presupposes a strong contribution of capital in Science, Technology and Innovation in progress in the municipality of Maricá.

² OECD: The Ocean Economy in 2030, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264251724-en>, 2016.