



Expertise France and **the blue economy**



30

ongoing projects, representing a multi-year
business volume of €236m

11.7

million hectares benefiting from improved marine
biodiversity management practices in 2024

Marine and coastal ecosystems constitute the foundation of a variety of human activities. As our planet's blue lungs, they store carbon and produce half of the oxygen we breathe, contribute to people's food security and participate in the development of numerous economic activities that generate growth and jobs.

Expertise France supports the growth of a sustainable and inclusive blue economy in its partner countries, in four areas of intervention: (1) supporting the integrated governance of marine and coastal areas, as well as the surveillance, prevention and suppression of illegal activities at sea, (2) improving knowledge of marine and coastal ecosystems, (3) protecting, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, and (4) developing sustainable economic activities: renewable energies, the circular economy and the treatment of waste and pollution, support for innovation and maritime sectors, etc.

The Blue Economy vision – AFD Group/Expertise France

Marine and coastal ecosystems are among the most vulnerable ecosystems, because they are exposed to multiple anthropogenic pressures, with cumulative impacts: pollution, artificialisation of the coastline and destruction of natural habitats, overexploitation of sand and aggregates, deep-sea mining, destructive fishing practices, development of invasive species, increase in carbon-emitting maritime transport, etc.

Climate change is also affecting the way in which these ecosystems function: rising temperatures, acidification and deoxygenation, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, altered currents, etc.

The weakening and degradation of these ecosystems affects their ability to provide the services that are essential to the economic development of populations and sustained levels of social well-being.

In addressing the issues caused by the intensification and increasing density of human activity in marine and coastal areas, there is an urgent need to establish an appropriate, multi-sectoral, integrated and participatory governance structure in order to restore the balance between the protection of ecosystems, economic development and social well-being.

Expertise France supports the European Union's vision and AFD Group's strategy, which recognises the crucial role played by marine and coastal ecosystems in a sustainable future and bases its Blue Economy deployment strategy on protecting the health of marine and coastal ecosystems as the foundation for the development of our societies.

The "Blue Economy" approach developed by Expertise France is fully aligned with the commitments made by the AFD Group, which recognises the ocean as a shared living and development space and has set itself the task of helping to restore the balance between preserving its healthy ecological status and its numerous uses by mankind.

Expertise France's action in the field of the blue economy is based on four pillars of intervention

- 1 Develop an integrated and participatory governance of marine and coastal areas and contribute to the surveillance, prevention and repression of illegal activities at sea
- 2 Improve knowledge about ecosystems to promote the transition towards the blue economy
- 3 Restore, protect and repair marine and coastal ecosystems
- 4 Increase the socioeconomic resilience of coastal communities and develop sustainable economic activities

"Blue carbon" sink

The ocean is also a major natural carbon sink that currently absorbs almost one third of anthropogenic CO2 emissions, mainly through the accumulation of carbon in marine and coastal species. Blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass beds and coastal marshes can sequester up to four times more carbon per unit area than forests. Their formidable potential for mitigating climate change is coupled with the crucial role they play in adaptation, protecting coasts against erosion and storms, and strengthening the resilience of these areas. Blue carbon finance is the subject of fast-growing financing mechanisms.

The cross-cutting and inter-sectoral nature of the blue economy requires a governance structure that is tailored to marine and coastal areas, guarantees consistency with public policies, demonstrates why action is being taken at regional level and allows these issues to be dealt with territorially, from the supranational to the local level, based on the principle of subsidiarity.

Expertise France has developed a range of services covering all aspects of the blue economy.



Maritime and port security and safety



Entrepreneurship and innovation in the sectors of the blue economy



Development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors



Biodiversity, protection and restoration of ecosystems



Sustainable resources management



Circular economy and waste management



Social protection and risk prevention



Legal and judicial systems

Expertise France is involved at various levels of implementation:

- **The regional level**, enabling action to be taken at the level of an ecosystem, integrating the cross-border dimension of the Blue Economy
- **The national level**, developing Blue Economy public policy tools, going beyond sectoral "silo" approaches.
- **The local level**, defining and implementing governance and planning mechanisms for coastal and maritime areas, such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management.



Developing an appropriate governance system for marine and coastal areas

1

Develop an integrated, multi-sector and participatory governance system

The Blue Economy underpins the integrated, multi-sector, multi-level and participatory governance of coastal and marine areas. In 2022, the European Union introduced an international ocean governance programme which seeks to manage marine and coastal environments and their resources so that they are healthy, resilient to climate change and productive, for the benefit of current and future generations. Expertise France supports integrated maritime spatial planning processes at regional level or supports national initiatives by non-state bodies.

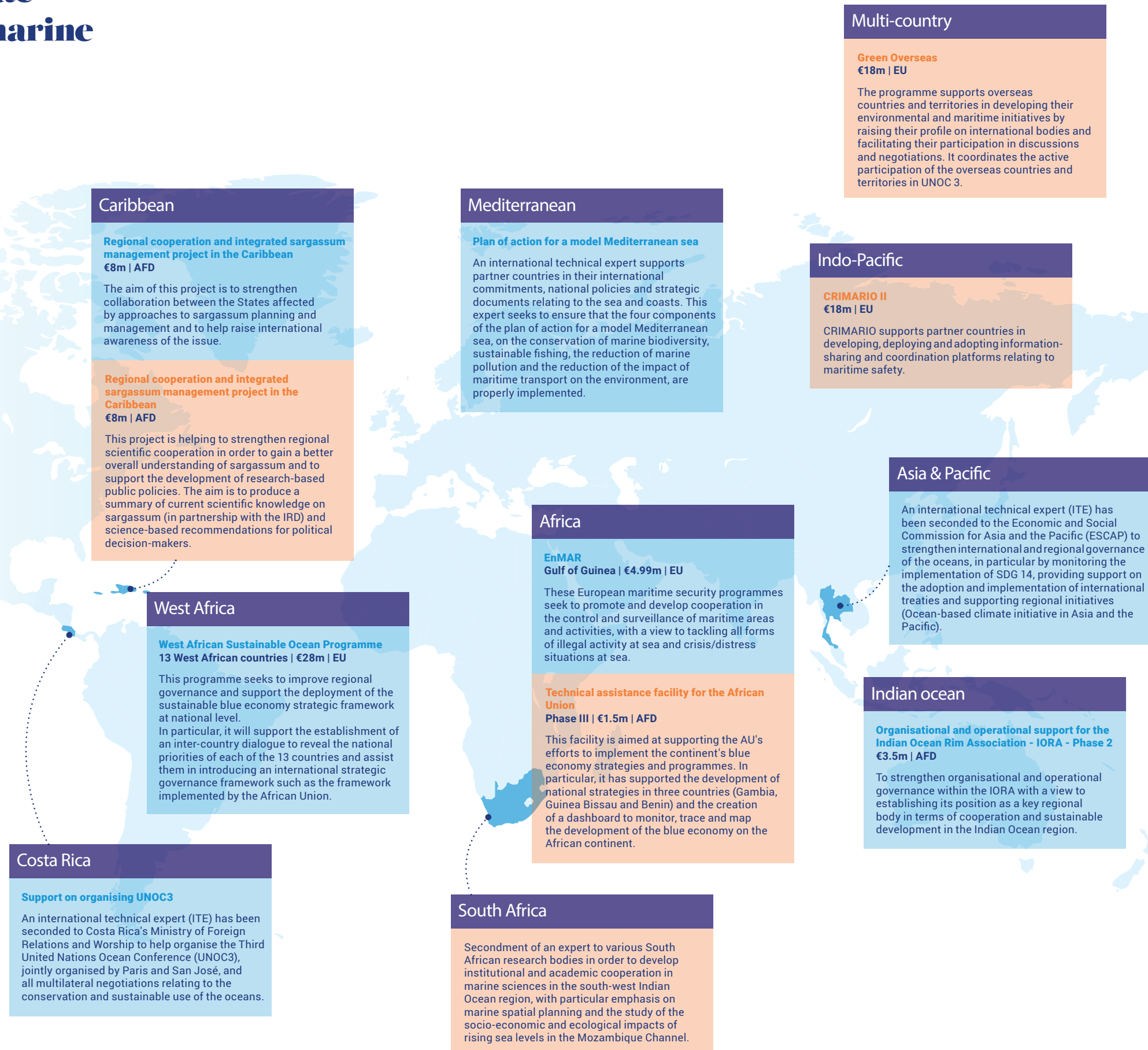
Expertise France also assists partner countries and institutions in detecting, investigating and prosecuting maritime crime in their maritime areas (illegal fishing, pollution, trafficking, piracy, etc.), in particular through its support for regional and national maritime surveillance centres.

2

Improving knowledge to promote the transition to the Blue Economy

Converting the theoretical concept of the Blue Economy into public policies and development projects that meet the specific needs of each region constitutes a real challenge. The development and use of new knowledge and data collection and processing systems must remain central to Blue Economy approaches. It is essential that knowledge that can be shared and appropriated by those involved in research, civil society and the private sector be produced, and that all stakeholders are informed and convinced of the benefits of the Blue Economy in order to trigger the political, financial and human commitments needed to implement it.

Expertise France supports partner countries and institutions in implementing knowledge production and management systems: creation of a Blue Economy observatory, development of a fisheries information system and IT platforms for sharing information and managing incidents that can receive AIS/radar data. Working in partnership with civil society bodies, Expertise France also supports community initiatives that raise awareness of marine issues.



Taking action in favour of resilient and productive marine and coastal regions

3

Protect, restore and sustainably manage marine and coastal ecosystems

The regulation of impactful economic activities is insufficient to maintain and/or restore the good ecological status of these ecosystems. Concrete action to protect and restore ecosystems needs to be taken if we are to achieve the targets of protecting 30% of protected areas by 2030 (known as the “30x30” target) and restoring 10% of the ecosystems set out in the global biodiversity framework (Kunming-Montreal agreement), as well as the high seas treaty, which is currently in the process of being ratified, and a global treaty on tackling plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which is currently being negotiated.

Expertise France contributes to the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems by raising awareness, networking, capacity-building and pooling the efforts of all public, private and civil society bodies. Through its projects, EF provides assistance to the managers of marine protected areas and supports the restoration of degraded and endangered coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs, for example through grants to local associations and training for those working in the field.

4

Strengthen the socio-economic resilience of coastal communities

The importance of maritime activities to the socio-economic development of coastal and marine regions varies greatly between regions and countries, depending on their specific climatic and geographical conditions and their position in relation to the principal fishing grounds and major maritime transport routes. In the regions in which we operate, the fishing industry plays a key role in tackling food insecurity by providing protein and means of subsistence to a large number of households.

The diversification of economic activities, the promotion of investment and entrepreneurship and the professionalisation of the various Blue Economy economic sectors offer genuine employment opportunities to local people and empowerment opportunities for young people and women. Expertise France supports its partner countries in developing inclusive and sustainable production models, including the implementation of a circular economy in marine and coastal areas.

Caribbean

RESEMBID
€40m | EU

The RESEMBID programme seeks to support civil society in protecting and preserving marine and coastal areas, in particular by funding around twenty CSOs and public institutions that work on the sustainable management of coastal and maritime resources.

Regional cooperation and integrated sargassum management project in the Caribbean
€8m | AFD

This project aims to support private stakeholders and coastal communities, including women's organisations, in structuring sargassum value chains.

Algeria

Blue Economy, Fisheries and Aquaculture
€20.7m | EU

The project is aimed at supporting the establishment of an institutional environment conducive to the development of the “Blue Economy” ecosystem, strengthening social welfare systems and improving working conditions for employees and self-employed workers in maritime economic sectors.

Multi-country

2023-2026
€10m | AFD

BIODEV2030 is helping 15 countries to implement the Kunming-Montreal agreement on biodiversity. Six of these countries are involved in issues associated with fisheries/the ocean (Fiji, Guyana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal and Vietnam). The project provides governments with the means of identifying sectoral public policy instruments aimed at reducing the pressure placed on biodiversity, and develops pilot regional projects based on multi-stakeholder dialogue in each country.

South-east Asia

ASEAN marine debris
€500k | AFD

The goal of this project is to improve the management of marine debris in the ASEAN region, notably through the development of a regional strategy on the sustainable management of marine debris, together with national roadmaps for member countries.

West Africa

West African Sustainable Ocean Programme
13 West African countries | €28m | EU

WASOP seeks to support efforts aimed at obtaining higher levels of funding for the blue economy sector, in particular by improving the blue economy in the region through supporting the establishment of strategic partnerships and funding blue economy pilot projects aimed at local communities, fishing cooperatives and local businesses, etc.

Indian ocean

Varuna, south-west Indian Ocean
€3.2m | AFD

The Varuna programme is aimed at supporting the creation of a network of managers of marine protected areas in the south-west Indian Ocean region and rallying support from the private sector in the protection and restoration of blue ecosystems.

An expert has been seconded to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat to oversee the implementation of the blue economy and sustainable fisheries work plan, promote knowledge-sharing and strengthen public policies within the 23 Member States and with the 12 dialogue partners.

Expertise France is a public agency and the interministerial actor in international technical cooperation, subsidiary of the Agence française de développement Group (AFD Group). As the second largest agency in Europe, it designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. Governance, security, climate, health, education... It operates in key areas of development and contributes alongside its partners to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For a world in common.

For more information: www.expertisefrance.fr



© Fald Hadji

EXPERTISE FRANCE

40, boulevard de Port-Royal
75005 Paris
France

 expertisefrance.fr

 facebook.com/expertisefrance

 x.com/expertisefrance

 linkedin.com/company/expertise-france

WorldInCommon