

WEST AFRICA SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PROGRAMME

- Ocean governance
- Sustainable blue economy
- Ecosystem preservation

Implemented by:



In partnership with:

ABOUT THE WEST AFRICA SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PROGRAMME

The West African Sustainable Ocean Programme (WASOP) aims at promoting sustainable use and management of marine and coastal resources across West Africa, boosting inclusive economic growth.



13

**coastal
countries**



€ 59

**million
initiative**



5

**years
programme**

WASOP is grounded in three pillars: strengthening ocean governance supporting a sustainable blue economy and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.

Aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 the EU's Ocean Pact and the "Seascape approach" the programme promotes sustainable blue economy as "Africa's future" and an integrated approach focused on local economic development and ocean governance, while preserving marine and coastal ecosystems. Crucial to the 360° Global Gateway approach, and anchored in its connectivity, sustainability and infrastructure development priorities, WASOP involves all sectors related to oceans seas and coasts—from marine-based activities to land-based operations—to ensure comprehensive action.

A coordinated and multi-stakeholder approach, the programme seeks to address key drivers of environmental, socio-economic, and climate-induced stressors affecting coastal communities by integrating climate-smart, inclusive, and innovative approaches for enhanced economic opportunities and long-term health of the region's resources. Overall, the initiative aims to contribute to a more prosperous and resilient future for West Africa, where the benefits of a sustainable blue economy are shared by all.

WEST AFRICAN COASTAL AREAS



~100 million people



56%¹ of West Africa's GDP

40% of fish stocks overexploited or depleted



90%² of imports and exports by sea



PILLAR I: OCEAN GOVERNANCE



Strengthen and implement policies and regulatory frameworks for effective marine resource management.

Key Focus Areas

- Ensure a **substantial reduction in IUU fishing** to support sustainable economic growth, safeguard biodiversity, and enhance the well-being of coastal communities for generations to come.
- Champion **scientific advice** for better management of shared stocks of small pelagic fishes.
- Facilitate the enhancement and enforcement of **regional fisheries governance**, policies, and multi-stakeholder cooperation.
- Advanced knowledge and empowerment of artisanal fisheries.



PILLAR II: SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY



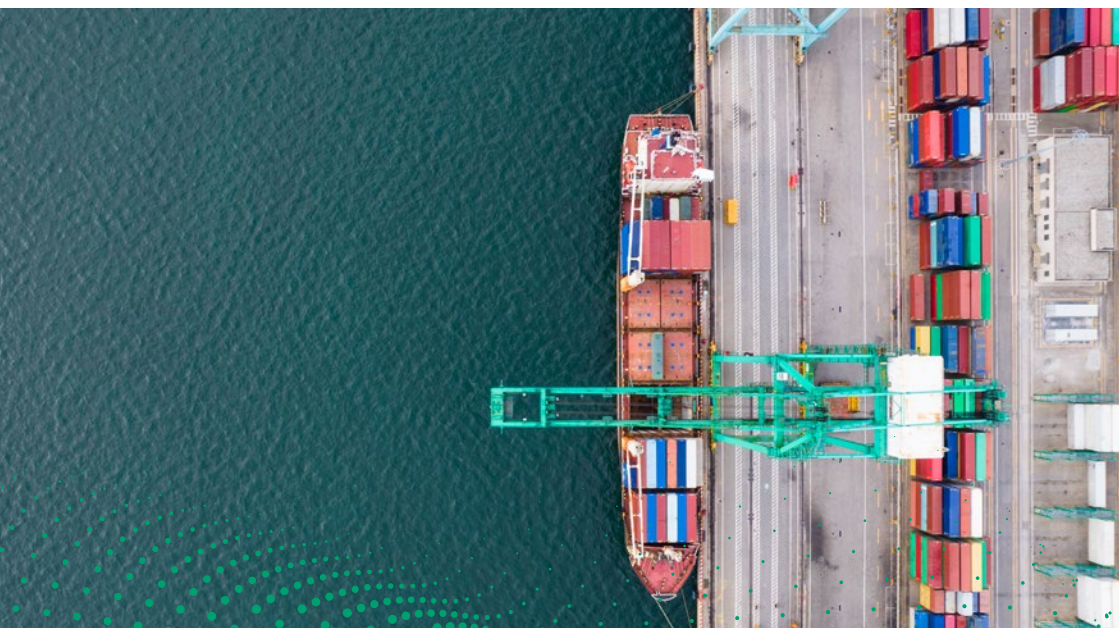
Balancing economic development with sustainability, by ensuring that ocean-based industries can thrive without degrading the environment. This initiative will be a powerful driver for innovation, entrepreneurship, economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction in West Africa, and this will be achieved through strategic collaboration and implementation of programmes that will promote sustainable blue economic activities and accelerate climate action.

Key Focus Areas

- Strengthen **regional and national blue economy policies, regulatory frameworks,** and institutional capacities, as well as promote **private-sector participation** in sustainable ocean-based industries and facilitate access to **sustainable financing mechanisms** to foster inclusive and long-term economic growth.
- **Raise awareness** of the potential of the sustainable blue economy and support a **practitioner network** to share good practices and foster partnerships.
- **Ensure efficient WASOP “3 pillars” implementation** through coordination services and overall programme management, monitoring and evaluation. **The programme is led from Cabo Verde with the Delegation of the European Union.**



**EXPERTISE
FRANCE**
GROUPE AFD





PILLAR III: MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION & RESTORATION

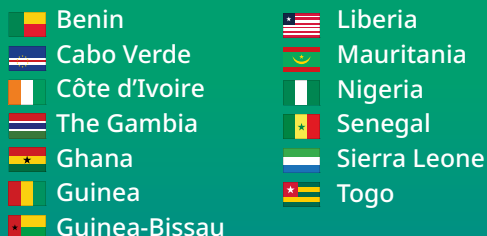


Enhancing the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems in West Africa.

Key Focus Areas

- Develop **innovative scientific knowledge, management and funding tools** for the effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- Support the establishment of a representative, coherent and functional **regional network of Marine Protected Areas** in support of West African countries efforts towards the 30x30 objectives (Global Biodiversity Framework).
- Promote **cross-border marine conservation dynamics** and the creation/extension of transboundary MPAs, extended to the deep-sea areas of Exclusive economic zone (EEZs) and international waters, in line with the Biodiversity (BBNJ) treaty.
- Support the involvement of local actors and communities to conserve biodiversity and strengthen community resilience through a small grant scheme.

The programme will be implemented across the 13 coastal countries in West Africa:



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Overall Coordination



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Commission Sub-Regionale des Pêches
Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission



FCWC
Fisheries Committee for
the West Central Gulf of Guinea

PILLAR 2

SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY



PILLAR 1

OCEAN GOVERNANCE

PILLAR 3

ECOSYSTEM
PRESERVATION



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

ECOWAS, WAEMU, EBID, BOAD, national public and private sectors

CONTACT

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