

WEST AFRICA SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PROGRAMME

- Gouvernance des océans
- Économie bleue durable
- Préservation des écosystèmes

Blue Facility
11/17/2025

Implemented by:



Organisation des Nations Unies
pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture



Commission Sous-Régionale des Pêches
Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission



FCWC
Fisheries Committee for
the West Central Gulf of Guinea



In partnership with:

This document was produced as part of pillar II of the WASOP "sustainable blue economy" project under the supervision of Expertise France, in particular Laure Kuhn Bruma, Director of the WASOP Sustainable Blue Economy project, Fabris Compaoré, Deputy Director, and Théodore Anthonioz, Head of the Blue Facility. The main experts who contributed to the preparation of this note are:

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PILIER 1 : GOUVERNANCE DES OCÉANS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	3
BACKGROUND	4
A. PRESENTATION OF WASOP	4
B. OBJECTIVES AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PILLAR II OF WASOP	5
OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE BLUE FACILITY	6
A. OBJECTIVES OF THE BLUE FACILITY	6
B. EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE BLUE FACILITY	7
IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH	8
DESCRIPTION OF TYPES OF ASSISTANCE	10
A. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON FUNDAMENTALS	10
B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR STRUCTURAL FINANCING	11
C. REGIONAL WINDOW	12
D. NATIONAL WINDOW	15
E. BUDGET	16
BENEFICIARIES OF THE BLUE FACILITY	17
A. BENEFICIARIES	17
<i>Beneficiaries of the country envelope</i>	17
<i>Beneficiaries of the regional envelope</i>	17
B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	18
C. EVALUATION CRITERIA	18
GOVERNANCE AND OPERATION OF THE BLUE FACILITY	19
A. GOVERNANCE AND OPERATION OF TA AT NATIONAL LEVEL	19
<i>Preliminary stage: Launch of the Blue Facility and introductory webinar</i>	19
<i>Step 1: Expression of interest</i>	19
<i>Step 2 : Technical assistance request</i>	19
<i>Step 3: Analysis and selection of technical assistance requests</i>	19
<i>Step 4: Support Plan/Terms of Reference</i>	19
<i>Step 5: Implementation of technical assistance</i>	20
<i>Step 6: Closing report, capitalization, feedback</i>	20
B. GOVERNANCE AND FUNCTIONING OF "REGIONAL" TA	20
C. KEY PARAMETERS	20
<i>Leverage</i>	20
<i>A rigorous monitoring system to measure the leverage generated</i>	21
D. COMMUNICATION	21
APPENDIX 1: DRAFT APPLICATION EVALUATION GRID	23
APPENDIX 2: TA PACKAGES ON « FUNDAMENTALS » AT NATIONAL LEVEL	25

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFD	French Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
BCEAO	Central Bank of West African States
BE	Blue Economy
BF	Blue Facility
BOAD	West African Development Bank
CFP	Call for Projects
EBID	ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EF	Expertise France
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FICS	Finance in Common Summit
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
NSIA	Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority
SIBE	Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy
TA	Technical Assistance
WA	West Africa
WAEMU / UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WASOP	West Africa Sustainable Ocean Program
WB	World Bank

Background

A. PRESENTATION OF WASOP

The West Africa Sustainable Ocean Program (WASOP), funded by the European Union with €59 million, is a major initiative to support the sustainable and integrated management of marine and coastal resources in the region. It is a strategic investment that aims to reconcile ecosystem protection and economic development, in a context where oceans represent both vital natural capital and a key driver of growth.

West Africa (WA) is characterized by a very high dependence on its coastal areas: more than a third of the population lives along the coast, and maritime activities—fishing, aquaculture, maritime transport, energy exploitation, and coastal tourism—contribute to more than 55% of regional GDP. However, these resources are seriously threatened. Around 40% of fish stocks are already overexploited or depleted, coastal erosion is gaining ground, mangroves and seagrass beds are declining, and the effects of climate change are exacerbating vulnerabilities. Added to this are governance issues, with fragmented institutional and regulatory frameworks that struggle to curb illegal fishing or effectively protect biodiversity.

Faced with these challenges, WASOP aims to build a coherent and integrated response, in line with major international initiatives, notably the African Union's Agenda 2063, which advocates for a "blue and prosperous Africa," and the European Union's Ocean Pact, which places marine sustainability at the heart of external partnerships. The program is based on the "Seascape" approach, which considers the marine and coastal landscape in all its dimensions—ecological, economic, social, and institutional—and favors concerted solutions at the regional level.

The overall objective of WASOP is to promote shared and sustainable ocean governance that can enhance food security, stimulate inclusive economic growth, and preserve the ecosystems that support people's lives and livelihoods. To achieve these ambitions, the program is structured around three complementary pillars:

1. **Pillar I – Strengthening ocean governance and promoting sustainable fisheries:** this involves effectively combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, improving the scientific management of fishery resources, and harmonizing regional regulations. This pillar also emphasizes the central role of small-scale fisheries and the strengthening of professional fishermen's organizations to ensure the sustainability of resources and fairness in their distribution.
2. **Pillar II – Developing a sustainable and inclusive blue economy:** the blue economy is seen as a driver of innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation, particularly for young people and women. The program aims to support sustainable and emerging sectors, such as responsible aquaculture, marine renewable energy, and plastic waste recovery. It also seeks to attract private investment through innovative financing mechanisms and strengthen institutional capacities so that blue growth benefits all West African societies.
3. **Pillar III – Protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems:** at the heart of this pillar is the preservation of the region's natural capital. WASOP will contribute to developing and connecting a coherent network of marine protected areas, in line with the international "30x30" biodiversity protection targets. It will also encourage mangrove restoration, the creation of cross-border

conservation areas, and the direct involvement of local communities through participatory mechanisms and small-scale financing.

The program will be implemented from 2025 for a period of five years, covering thirteen coastal countries in West Africa: Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.¹ Its governance is based on close collaboration between the ECOWAS Commission, specialized regional organizations, and a core group of operational actors: Expertise France, which provides overall coordination of the program through the *Blue Hub* and leads pillar II; FAO, ICCAT, EFCA, and subregional fisheries commissions (CSRP and CPCO) for pillar I; and finally IUCN for pillar III.

WASOP is not just a cooperation program: it is an ambitious regional initiative that seeks to transform ocean challenges into opportunities for sustainable development. Its ambition is to enable West Africa to harness the immense potential of its marine resources to build a more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient future, where the benefits of the blue economy are shared by all.

B. OBJECTIVES AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PILLAR II OF WASOP

Pillar II of WASOP, dedicated to the development of a sustainable and inclusive blue economy, is part of the European Union's Global Gateway strategy, which aims to establish balanced and respectful connections between people and their environment. In West Africa, where oceans and coastal areas are both a source of wealth and an area of vulnerability, this pillar has an ambitious goal: to promote the emergence of an economic model based on innovative, inclusive, and climate-resilient practices. The idea is to view the blue economy as a lever for shared prosperity and food security, while ensuring the protection of the marine and coastal ecosystems on which local populations depend.

Pillar II aims to mobilize all stakeholders in the region, including public institutions, the private sector, researchers, civil society organizations, and technical and financial partners. It adopts an integrated approach that combines governance, resource conservation, and the promotion of sustainable economic activities.

Its implementation is based on a set of concrete mechanisms designed to support policy formulation, technical support, pilot project financing, and the creation of cooperation networks.

These mechanisms include the "Blue Facility," a service platform designed to meet the specific needs expressed by national and regional institutions in West Africa.² It will be mobilized to provide tailored technical assistance, support the design of strategies and regulatory frameworks, and strengthen local skills through targeted training. It will also facilitate the selection of regional and international experts and offer support in mobilizing financing, directing stakeholders towards existing financial mechanisms and promoting the structuring of bankable projects. The Blue Facility (BF) thus aims to create an environment conducive to investment in the blue economy, by reducing technical and institutional barriers.

Inclusiveness is a guiding principle, with particular attention paid to the participation of women, young people, and local communities, to ensure equitable distribution of benefits and strong social anchoring.

¹ The working languages of WASOP are French, English, and Portuguese. All official and public documents produced by WASOP will be available in these three languages.

² Pillar II of WASOP also provides for the creation of a call for projects to support concrete pilot actions in the various areas of the sustainable blue economy and the establishment of a "Blue Economy Practitioners Network" (see specific presentation documents).

As such, Pillar II is not limited to one-off project support or isolated technical assistance. It aims to support the establishment of a genuine ecosystem conducive to the emergence of a competitive and resilient blue economy in West Africa. By mobilizing skills, stimulating innovation, connecting stakeholders, and facilitating access to financing, it contributes to setting the region on a path to sustainable development, where ocean protection and the prosperity of populations are inextricably linked.

Objectives and expected results of the Blue Facility

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE BLUE FACILITY

The Blue Facility is one of the core operational instruments under Pillar II of the WASOP program. It was designed as an innovative cooperation mechanism between West African coastal countries, West African regional organizations, and the European Union with the aim of strengthening the protection and sustainable development of the ocean. This initiative is part of the Global Gateway and the European Pact for the Ocean, which aim to promote balanced, sustainable, and inclusive partnerships between Europe and its international partners.

The overall objective of the Blue Facility is to **support the development of a sustainable and inclusive blue economy at the national and regional levels in West Africa**. More specifically, the facility aims to provide responsive and flexible technical assistance to meet the needs of WASOP countries, taking into account their level of progress in developing a sustainable and inclusive blue economy and the challenges they may face in this regard, particularly in terms of governance and financing.

More specifically, the Blue Facility will pursue four operational objectives:

- **Provide flexible and tailored technical assistance:** the Facility will enable the rapid deployment of experts and support missions based on the needs expressed by countries or regional organizations. This support will cover a range of areas such as the development of regulatory frameworks, public policy planning, investment project preparation, and the integration of environmental and social standards into national strategies.
- **Strengthen institutional and human capacities:** a central component of the Facility will be to consolidate the skills of administrations, specialized agencies, local authorities, and private actors (including the banking and financial sector) involved in the blue economy. Training courses, workshops, mentoring programs, and skills transfers may be organized to provide countries with the expertise they need to plan and implement blue projects independently and sustainably.
- **Facilitating access to finance:** the Facility will act as an interface between project promoters and donors, supporting the structuring of bankable projects and assisting stakeholders in mobilizing appropriate financial resources. In particular, it will help link projects to international funding sources (Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, multilateral development banks) and regional financial institutions (BOAD, EBID).
- **Ensuring compliance with European and international standards:** the Facility will ensure that the policies and projects supported comply with the principles of environmental sustainability, good

governance, transparency, and social equity. It will promote the systematic integration of gender, youth inclusion, and socio-environmental impact assessment dimensions, in line with European Union standards and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

In summary, the Blue Facility acts as a regional catalyst, designed to support West African countries in their transition to a sustainable and inclusive blue economy. It aims to strengthen governance, fill capacity gaps, facilitate access to finance, and ensure that interventions implemented comply with sustainability and good governance standards.

B. EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE BLUE FACILITY

The Blue Facility will generate tangible and measurable effects at different geographic scales—national, regional, and international—and over various time frames—short, medium, and long term. The two main expected results are:

Expected result 1: An enabling environment for the development of a sustainable blue economy is established in West Africa

The first expected result of the Blue Facility is the establishment of a more conducive framework for the development of a sustainable and inclusive blue economy (SIBE) in West Africa. To achieve this result, the Blue Facility will:

- Support the process of developing, consulting on, and validating strategic documents at the national and regional levels.
- Promote multi-sector and multi-stakeholder governance and coordinated intervention by regional organizations and development banks in favor of the SIBE in WA
- Support innovation, entrepreneurship, skills building, education, and territorialization with a view to SIBE

Expected result 2: Access to finance for the sustainable blue economy in West Africa is improved

The second expected result of the Blue Facility is improved access to finance for the SIBE in WA. To achieve this result, the Blue Facility will:

- Promote and facilitate the mobilization of financing from various sources, including the use of innovative or market-based mechanisms
- Support the emergence of dedicated SIBE windows

The BF aims to generate a significant "leverage effect" to catalyze the development of the SIBE, with a targeted leverage ratio of 1 to 5 to 1 to 10. See the Section VI, "Leverage Effect", for further details.

The expected results can be grouped into three time horizons: short, medium, and long term.

Short term (1-2 years)

- **Targeted and responsive technical support:** WASOP countries will be able to quickly benefit from technical assistance programs tailored to their needs, enabling them to develop or update national blue economy strategies, prepare pilot projects, or strengthen regulatory frameworks related to fisheries, aquaculture, or coastal protection.

- **Initial projects structured:** initial projects supported in accessing national, regional, or international funding.
- **Synergy with the Practitioners Network, increased visibility of blue initiatives:** the dissemination of communication tools and discussion of TA projects supported by the BF within the practitioners network will also raise awareness of the solutions developed in the region and attract the attention of investors.

Medium term (2-4 years)

- **Consolidated pipeline of bankable projects:** the Facility will contribute to the structuring of "pre-appraisal ready" projects according to the criteria of the main financiers (World Bank/IDA & IFC, AfDB, EIB/EFSD+, BOAD, EBID, local banks, investment funds), covering various sectors (sustainable aquaculture, marine renewable energy, ecotourism, circular waste management, mangrove restoration, etc.) and will be able to support the establishment of links between financiers and investors.
- **Improved institutional capacity:** national administrations and regional organizations will have increased capacity to integrate the sustainable blue economy into their public policies, with coherent, harmonized, and better-funded strategies.
- **Capacity building for financing and emergence of regional benchmarks for financing the sustainable blue economy:** financial institutions (public/commercial) are trained/made aware of the potential and characteristics of the sector, the emergence of a taxonomy and "common" tools for the sustainable blue economy in the region, ESG benchmarks, analysis criteria, etc., including international standards, and benefit from peer exchanges and opportunities to build partnerships within the FICS ocean coalition.
- **Integration of social and inclusive dimensions:** improved consideration of gender in public policies on the sustainable blue economy, thereby improving social justice in blue industries.

Strengthening the capacities of the West African institutional framework for the sustainable blue economy business environment and using common standards within the region will improve regional visibility and attractiveness.

Long term (beyond 4 years)

- **Enhanced access to international financing:** supported projects will be able to mobilize new financial flows from the GCF, GEF, carbon market, IFIs (World Bank, AfDB, EIB, AFD, etc.), etc.
- **Access to innovative blue financing instruments/blue credit lines:** public and/or private blue financing tools/lines are developed with regional (such as BOAD/EBID) or national (public and/or commercial banks, including microfinance) financial institutions through strategic partnerships with IFIs and blue finance actors, including intermediation/blended/guarantee instruments, etc.
- **Regional synergies:** experiences gained in one country can be shared and replicated across the region, through the facilitation of the practitioner network.
- **Structural transformation of the blue economy:** the foundations laid with the TA of the BF (frameworks, capacities, pre-bankable pipeline, ESMS/taxonomy tools) enable, together with the lines operated by financial partners, the emergence of a more diversified, competitive, and resilient blue economic fabric that is better aligned with national and regional priorities.

Implementation approach

From fundamentals to structural financing

The Facility offers a wide range of interventions on demand. It offers both technical assistance (TA) aimed at establishing the fundamentals (strategy, investment plan, governance framework, SIBE-friendly environment, etc.) and assistance more directly focused on project structuring and access to appropriate financing, which only makes sense if the fundamentals are in place.

The Blue Facility will simultaneously support national and regional initiatives. It will offer technical assistance on the fundamentals to support the development of strategies, investment plans, and governance frameworks according to the needs and requests expressed by countries, while also offering technical assistance on "structural financing" in other countries or at the regional level. These projects will be undertaken jointly because the establishment of "fundamentals" in as many WASOP countries as possible is a prerequisite for achieving the results of the "structural financing" TA (regional TA, establishment of financing lines, etc.).

For example, the Blue Facility will support BOAD and EBID in developing a roadmap and internal tools dedicated to SBE ("fundamentals" TA) while supporting the establishment of a financing line in partnership with IFIs or the submission of an application to the Green Climate Fund (structural financing TA).

The complementarity of these different types of TA ensures a balance between short-term effectiveness (fundamental TA), which enables rapid results, and long-term ambition (structural financing TA), which is essential for research and planning. It secures short-term results, laying the foundations for a structural and sustainable transformation of the sustainable blue economy in West Africa.

On demand

The facility is deployed based on expressions of interest and requests from WASOP beneficiary countries (see Governance and draft form below). Once the request has been validated by WASOP, the facility is deployed with a precise initial framework for the intervention, which is jointly developed by WASOP and the beneficiary (see below).

Leverage

Leverage is the ability of a project financed by the Blue Facility to build on existing investments or partnerships or to attract other support or investments to amplify the impact and sustainability of the technical assistance requested.

For example, applicants may request the BF for specific needs that are blocking the development of their project (e.g., finalizing a standard, structuring a payment or financing model, etc.). The BF can help remove these technical or regulatory barriers.

Technical assistance requests will demonstrate a clear vision of this leverage effect by explaining:

- How the BF's expertise could improve the institutional/business environment, which cannot be achieved without technical assistance, or which guarantees achievement with technical assistance;
- That the applicant has successfully mobilized technical and financial partners or how it intends to mobilize other technical and financial partners to achieve the project's objectives.

In this regard, the Blue Facility can, in addition, mobilize partnerships in the design and deployment of technical assistance.

The "seascape" approach

The seascape approach is one of the cardinal points of the WASOP compass and constitutes a geographical/territorial reference framework defined at the scale of the entire intervention area (discrimination of seascapes at different scales depending on the intervention to have a common reference framework, for the sake of consistency). This approach is a starting point for structuring the intervention area spatially beyond administrative boundaries.

The seascape approach is also a design and capitalization tool. Indeed, the territory is an integration factor that promotes intersectoral synergies in a common space (integrated approach). This allows for the sustainable design of the intervention, considering the impacts of existing activities and the planned intervention.

The seascape approach aids decision-making to support the development of territorial projects by guiding the sustainable design of the intervention and encouraging the project developer to understand how their intervention fits into the marine landscape concerned. The BF can thus support the co-construction of landscapes that are not yet established or well documented. Requests for technical assistance will therefore be assessed in terms of how the requested intervention is consistent with the landscape approach and the attractiveness of the landscape in which it is located.

Description of types of assistance

A. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON FUNDAMENTALS

This technical assistance supports the establishment of a framework conducive to the development of the blue economy, capacity building, the structuring of bankable projects, and improved access to financing, based on a series of predefined and rapidly deployable packages.

General objective

To create a regional and national environment conducive to a sustainable and inclusive blue economy in West Africa and to offer structured, targeted, and flexible technical support to authorities and blue project promoters (public, private, financial, NGOs) with a view to strengthening their capacity to mobilize external financing and structure solid projects that meet donor criteria. This type of TA is suitable for contexts where the priority is to build capacity and align strategies.

How it works

The packages for this TA on fundamentals can be mobilized by beneficiary countries, regional institutions, or EUDs through a needs' expression process.

These packages facilitate and guide the emergence of priority and catalyst needs with menus that enable operationalization. This method allows for work on common frameworks, tools, and reference systems while leaving room for co-construction of the intervention with beneficiaries to ensure a good fit.

Table 1: Proposed packages for TA on fundamentals (TAF)

Package title	Description	Target audience
TAF1 – SIBE Strategy	Support for the development/finalization of strategic planning framework documents for SIBE (SIBE strategy, SIBE strategy investment plan, investment plan finance strategy and strategy deployment, institutional arrangements for good governance)	Ministries, agencies
TAF2 – SIBE Strategy Deployment	Support for the deployment of the SIBE strategy (diagnosis to boost the deployment of the strategy, integration of gender into the SIBE strategy, development of satellite accounts ³ related to the blue economy, support for the deployment of institutional arrangements for cross-sectoral governance, etc.)	Ministries, agencies
TAF3 – Governance framework	Support for the establishment of multisectoral and participatory governance frameworks for SIBE (clarification of institutional roles, interinstitutional coordination mechanisms, participation of the private sector and civil society, legal and regulatory framework)	Ministries, local authorities
TAF4 – Business climate conducive to SIBE	Support for improving the regulatory, fiscal, and institutional framework to attract blue investments (pro-investment reforms, incentives, administrative simplification, PPPs for blue projects)	Ministries, investment promotion agencies, private sector
TAF5 – Seascape approach	Support for integrated marine and coastal zone planning using an ecosystem approach (zoning, participatory mapping, integrated marine resource management, reconciliation of uses: fishing, tourism, conservation, maritime transport)	Local authorities, ministries of the environment, fisheries, tourism
TAF6 – Financial diagnosis of blue projects	Support for feasibility analysis, economic modeling, risk analysis (e.g., assistance to the EBID in developing its blue strategy)	Ministries, local authorities, operators
TAF7 – Preparation for certification/accreditation	Support for obtaining standards (sustainable fishing certification, biodiversity label, GCF accreditation)	Agencies, ministries, regional entities
TAF8 – SEA and Safeguard Measures	Support for environmental and social assessments, inclusive and gender approaches, and safeguard measures required during the appraisal of new projects	Ministries, agencies, financial institutions
TAF9 – Training and capacity building	Training sessions on blue finance, blended finance, and project structuring tools	Civil servants, financial institutions
TAF10 – Support for banks in creating a strategy/roadmap and internal tools adapted to SIBE	Assistance in translating the regional blue economy strategy into a well-defined operational plan	EBID, BOAD

B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR STRUCTURAL FINANCING

General objective

³ Satellite accounts are statistical tools that enable the development of alternative statistics on specific topics not specifically represented in the System of National Accounts (SNA). They are introduced to complement national accounts and provide detailed information on specific areas, in this case the SBE.

The overall objective of this type of TA is to support the region in catalyzing large-scale investments for the SIBE by supporting the establishment of strategic multi-donor partnerships combining technical assistance for the development of innovative instruments, financial intermediation, and financing capacity.

Functioning

- These packages provide technical assistance (advice, structuring, capacity building, pipeline identification).
- International partner IFIs (EIB, EBRD, etc.) and regional IFIs such as BOAD and EBID provide thematic credit lines, guarantees, or co-investment funds, backed by blue sustainability criteria.
- Projects identified by the Facility are supported until they become bankable (TA), then financed partially or totally through IFI windows.
- Close collaboration between donors is a prerequisite for success.

Table 2: Proposed packages for TA for structural financing (TASF)

<i>Package title</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Target audience</i>
TASF1 – Support for preparing climate/blue finance applications	Support for preparing applications to climate funds, IFIs, or bilateral donors (this could include assistance to BOAD in preparing applications for GEF/Green Climate Fund, for example)	Public institutions, NGOs
TASF2 – Support for the creation of local financial instruments adapted to SIBE	Assistance in setting up green credit lines, regional funds, guarantee mechanisms, blue carbon, blue bonds, etc.	Local banks, investment agencies, government
TASF3 – Support for integration and involvement in the FICS ocean coalition	Support from the financial partner to join the ocean coalition, understand the tools and standards proposed by the coalition, technical assistance for the adoption/adaptation of tools in internal policy, technical assistance for the preparation of project portfolios for pipeline reviews and to facilitate the mobilization of financing/co-financing	National public bank, national private bank
TASF4 – Support for the preparation of blue projects	Targeted technical support for the preparation of blue projects (studies, structuring, modeling, regulatory support).	Ministries, local authorities, public and private companies, financial institutions

C. REGIONAL WINDOW

While country teams prepare solid applications, the regional window creates financing channels, incentives, and common tools that accelerate absorption. ECOWAS enables consistency between countries and policy harmonization within an economic integration framework (ECOWAS), while BOAD and UEMOA provide leverage and added value through national action to catalyze appropriate and structuring financing for the region in support of their member states.

BOAD

Purpose: To provide BOAD with operational capacity dedicated to blue finance to pave the way for specific financing lines and risk-sharing mechanisms for the benefit of WASOP countries.

Proposed activities:

- Development of a "Blue Window" roadmap covering the public and private sectors.

- Dissemination and appropriation of environmental and social safeguards through the FICS Ocean regional framework and technical networks.
- Upgrade the internal environmental and social management system, including procedures, guides, forms, and quality control.
- Development of an internal taxonomy of blue projects aligned with international standards and adapted to the realities of UEMOA and beyond, if relevant.
- Preparation on the sponsor side of a Concept Note to the Green Climate Fund and a GEF PIF for a multi-country program.
- Technical and legal framing of two financing lines, one for the public sector and the other for the private sector, accompanied by an indicative scheme of guarantees and risk reduction mechanisms.
- Cleaning up an acceptable multi-country pipeline, with eligibility criteria, standard project sheets, and due diligence templates.

Targeted leverage effect:

- Targeted volume of lines between €40 million and €60 million over 18 to 24 months.
- Additional leverage through the adoption of taxonomy, which will facilitate replication among partner commercial banks.

Risks and countermeasures: Risks related to the climate lenders' schedule and internal workload. Countermeasures planned with a milestone schedule, a joint EF BOAD technical committee, and the activation of PPF or PPG requests to secure preparation resources.

BOAD "blue" lines (public & private) with climate backing

Objectives

Open two regional lines (public and private sectors) supported by a blue taxonomy, an upgraded ESMS, and climate deposits (CN/PIF) to improve the cost of capital.

Results/impacts & beneficiaries

Target volume €40–60 million over 18–24 months; public projects (cold chains, green ports, coastal restoration) and private/PPP projects (aquaculture, processing, circular economy, others to be confirmed). Beneficiaries: ministries/local authorities, private operators/SMEs.

Implementation partners

BOAD, sectoral/finance authorities, local banks.

Financial partners/funds sought

EIB, AfDB, World Bank/IFC, AFD; climate windows (GCF/GEF) via accredited entities.

Estimated amount to be mobilized

€40–60 million (initial phase).

Technical and financial requirements

Harmonized taxonomy/ESMS; standardized FB pipeline (Menus B/C); guarantee scheme.

Timeline (preparation → first closing)

18–24 months: roadmap, climate deposits, co-financing negotiations, implementation.

Probability of success

High, subject to meeting climate milestones and feeding the pipeline.

EBID

Purpose: Lay the foundations for an initial pilot blue line at the EBID and disseminate safeguards and reporting standards through existing regional frameworks.

Proposed activities to be financed:

- Development of an EIB blue finance roadmap with sectoral priorities and eligibility criteria.
- Dissemination and ownership of environmental and social safeguards through the FICS Ocean regional framework and technical networks.
- Technical support to the WAICSA initiative to align investment needs with coastal resilience frameworks.
- Internal readiness for the implementation of a pilot blue line including origination procedures, file formats, scoring grid, co-financing rules, and impact monitoring.
- Logistical and expert assistance for interactions with ECOWAS and countries to source an initial cohort of projects.

Expected leverage effect: pilot line size between €15 million and €30 million in 18 to 24 months.

Risks and countermeasures: Capacity and governance constraints. Countermeasures with step-by-step support, ready-to-use models, and close coordination with ECOWAS to reduce transaction costs.

ECOWAS

Purpose: To create regional conditions conducive to blue investment by acting on climate, trade, and customs policies and financing project preparation through readiness mechanisms.

Activities funded:

- Regional sustainable blue economy strategy with objectives, targets, and accompanying measures, including measures to harmonize and/or converge national policies in areas where regional intervention complements national action to develop the blue economy.
- Design of measures conducive (or incentivizing) to the development of a sustainable blue economy in the trade and customs frameworks, such as facilitating the import of green equipment, reducing duties on certain monitoring or restoration equipment, or standardizing tariff codes.
- Mandate and preparation of GCF readiness files via the ARAA to finance national and multi-country seed activities.
- Production of templates for terms of reference, expressions of interest notices, and shared evaluation frameworks to reduce transaction costs and speed up procurement.

Expected leverage effect: incentives and readiness can unlock several million euros in the form of preparatory financing and short-term public co-financing.

Risks and countermeasures: Delays in policy adoption. Countermeasures include targeting incentives with strong consensus, early consultations with finance and trade ministries, and a feasible phasing plan with quick wins.

UEMOA

UEMOA will participate in the actions deployed by the Regional Facility by contributing fully to the development of the ECOWAS regional economic strategy, particularly on issues of integrated coastal zone management and ecosystem preservation. WASOP will directly support the WAEMU investment bank and ensure close synergies with WACA+, which is expected to directly support WAEMU's sustainable blue economy action.

D. NATIONAL WINDOW

Technical assistance provided specifically at the country level will be based on the maturity of the blue economy framework of the country concerned, based on the following objective criteria:

- Existence of an adopted and up-to-date blue economy strategy;
- Operational interministerial governance and coordination;
- Funding already mobilized and active partnerships;
- Formalized investment plan with priorities, costs, and timetable;
- Bankability of the project pipeline, including pre-feasibility studies, economic models, sponsors, and targeted co-financing.

Some of these criteria will be considered prerequisites for implementing certain types of technical assistance at the national level.

The technical assistance packages on fundamentals (TAF) at national level, mentioned above, may consist of the following activities (non-exhaustive list):

- Package A.1: Framework and strategy with financing roadmap
- Package A.2: Framework and strategy with financing roadmap – deployment
- Package A.3: Governance framework
- Package A.4: Project bankability
- Package A.5: Access to climate and blue funds (pre-country filing)
- Package A.6: SMEs and MSMEs, compliance and ESG, and preparation of bankable dossiers
- Package A.7: Scaling instruments

See Annex 2: ‘Fundamental’ TA packages on fundamentals at the national level at the end of this document for more information on these packages.

Prerequisites

A country with a weak BE framework may choose Menu A as a priority to produce a usable strategy, a prioritized investment plan, and a financing roadmap, followed by Menu B to carry out two to three short pre-feasibility studies and obtain bankable ratings and simplified files. Targeted support from Menu D may be added if small businesses are directly affected by the priorities selected. Menu C is not recommended at this stage, except in duly justified exceptional cases, as it requires technical and institutional elements that are not yet in place. Menu E is not recommended in this scenario.

A country with a more mature BE framework may, for example, begin by finalizing its strategy (menu A) to fill in the gaps and draw up a short list of prioritized projects. A "menu B" TA may then be implemented to build the pre-feasibility studies and financial elements. Once a project reaches a sufficient level, it activates the TA from menu C in country preparation mode for climate funds, with selection of the appropriate accredited entity. Menu D can be used if SMEs are involved in the projects. Menu E is not recommended until the deliverables from menus A and B have been produced.

A country with a mature BE framework can focus its resources on menus B and C. Menu B allows for the rapid development of solid bankable notes and preliminary commitments from co-financiers. Menu C is a priority for preparing climate concept notes and project preparation requests, with no objection from the national authority. If an area stands out as particularly promising and a sponsor

and investor interest are identified, it is possible to start menu E on a single instrument. Menu A is only activated in the event of a strictly necessary targeted update.

Themes

The facility will place particular emphasis on the themes below, which appear in the priorities of existing country strategies for 2025. However, this list is not exhaustive and other themes may be addressed if deemed a priority/strategic for the development of a sustainable blue economy in the country submitting the request.

Table 3: Themes and activities

Theme	Identified typical activities
1. Cross-sectoral governance & national coordination	Creation or support for technical committees (CTEB, NIC, UCP), interministerial governance, national or regional coordination, institutional anchoring in the Prime Minister's Office/Presidency, support for the structuring of a national strategy (e.g., Gambia)
2. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)	Development of MSSP, strengthening the link between ICZM and MSSP, development scenarios, national GIS, methodological assistance
3. Structuring bankable projects & blue finance	Support for structuring bankable projects, support for blue SMEs, access to credit, blue bonds, Blue Funds, mixed financial instruments (guarantee funds, marketplaces, etc.)
4. Development of inclusive economic sectors	Support for sustainable aquaculture (multi-trophic, fish farming, oyster farming), fish processing, community tourism/ecotourism, blue jobs for women, promotion of local species, marine energy, marine waste recovery
5. Training & capacity building	Practical training on PSM, sustainable aquaculture, integrated management, sustainable fishing, blue taxation, local development, job creation, blue training platforms, youth mobilization
6. Support for innovation, research, and data	Support for marine research centers, pilot projects, data collection, participatory science, GIS, environmental monitoring, applied research
7. Ecosystem protection & blue carbon	Support for mangrove restoration, blue carbon enhancement, community co-management
8. Resilient infrastructure & port logistics	Support for port modernization, coastal resilience infrastructure, processing platforms, integrated logistics, coastal shipping, national fleet
9. Regional & cross-border cooperation	Cross-border MPA projects, regulatory harmonization, regional coordination platform (e.g., WACA), Blue Peace bonds, OMVG, exchange of expertise
10. Observatories & monitoring-evaluation	Support for the creation of national observatories, establishment of BE indicators, resilience monitoring, local/regional marine observatories

E. BUDGET

The total budget for the Blue Facility is €5.2 million (€5.2 million). €3.9 million will be allocated to country envelopes, i.e. up to €300,000 per country (13 countries). A budget of €300,000 will be pre-reserved until October 2027 for each of the 13 WASOP States. From October 2027 onwards, WASOP may decide to reallocate any uncommitted balances for the deployment of other activities.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE BLUE FACILITY

The Blue Facility is an inclusive mechanism capable of meeting the needs of a wide range of actors involved in building a sustainable blue economy in West Africa. There are no a priori restrictions on beneficiaries: the aim is to ensure broad and consistent coverage, ranging from the public sector to local communities, including the private sector, civil society, and regional organizations.

A. BENEFICIARIES

Beneficiaries of the country envelope

The public sector: public institutions are a key target group for the BF. These include ministries responsible for the sea or fisheries, the environment, the economy, finance, tourism, infrastructure, and energy, as well as specialized national agencies (maritime surveillance, coastal management, marine protected areas, marine spatial planning). Local authorities, particularly coastal municipalities and regions, are also eligible, given their growing role in coastal resilience management, spatial planning, and the implementation of local projects. The BF can support them through technical assistance missions to improve regulation or governance, develop national or local blue economy strategies, and strengthen their capacity to structure and finance projects.

The private sector: The Facility also targets economic actors, who are essential to the development of competitive blue industries that create jobs. Beneficiaries include:

- Chambers of commerce and industry, which act as natural intermediaries between the public sector and businesses.
- Employers' organizations and professional federations representing the fisheries, aquaculture, port, tourism, energy, and banking sectors.
- Private financial institutions, including commercial banks and microfinance institutions, which will be able to benefit from assistance in developing products tailored to the financing of blue SMEs (seasonal loans, guarantees, climate insurance).
- In some cases, private companies, particularly SMEs and start-ups engaged in innovative initiatives (sustainable aquaculture, marine waste recovery, marine renewable energy, ecotourism).

Support will consist of facilitating their access to finance, strengthening their project structuring capacities, and integrating them into regional innovation and partnership networks.

Civil society and local communities: particular emphasis will be placed on civil society organizations, community associations, and local cooperatives, which play a decisive role in preserving ecosystems, artisanal fishing, ecotourism, and raising public awareness. These actors, who are often marginalized in terms of access to financing, will benefit from capacity-building programs and support for structuring their projects. The BF will also seek to promote the inclusion of women, who represent nearly 45% of the workforce in fish processing and marketing, as well as young people, who often spearhead innovative entrepreneurial initiatives but are excluded from traditional financial channels.

European Union delegations (EUDs) in the region: EUDs may submit TA requests to the BF in accordance with the eligibility criteria described below.

Beneficiaries of the regional envelope

Regional and international organizations: Finally, the Facility will support the main regional organizations: ECOWAS/EBID, BOAD/UEMOA. These institutions are key players in regional integration, public policy coordination, and the mobilization of international financing. Their involvement will ensure better coordination between the national, regional, and international levels and promote the establishment of a coherent and sustainable blue finance architecture in West Africa. The planned interventions with regional organizations are defined in advance.

B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, the request must meet the following conditions:

- **Indicative amount of support requested:** is the estimated amount in line with the BF's available resources for the country in question? Yes/No
- **Availability of expertise:** check whether the area(s) of expertise relevant to this request suggest a reasonable probability of finding a qualified expert. Yes / No
- **Compliance with the thematic areas covered by the WASOP BF?** Yes / No
- **Compliance with WASOP Pillar 2 objectives:** check whether any overlap with Pillar 1 or 3 is acceptable. Yes / No
- **The requested intervention is aligned with the BF's modes of action:** Yes / No

C. EVALUATION CRITERIA

If the request is eligible, it will be evaluated based on objective, predefined criteria (rated from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest rating - to avoid average ratings).

- **Overall feasibility** (alignment between duration, resources required, relationship between resources and objectives);
- **Leverage effect 1:** the intervention has an acceptable financial leverage effect;
- **Leverage effect 2:** BF support is part of a structured process that is already underway;
- **Leverage effect 3:** the support requested from the BF makes it possible to unblock or accelerate a crucial ongoing process in the development of the blue economy (e.g., preparation of a national strategy);
- **Clarity of the request:** clear descriptions of the context, the request, its objectives, and expected results. In other words, is the drafting of the terms of reference a simple or complex matter?
- **Potential effectiveness:** to what extent can the Blue Facility's intervention be sufficient to solve the problems described in the application form? Or does the resolution of these problems also depend on many other factors?
- **Partnerships:** Can the expected effects of the intervention also translate into benefits for the applicant's partner institutions?
- **Pilot effect:** Does the intervention lead to results or the development of a technical roadmap or potentially replicable solutions? The issue addressed or the question asked are innovative.
- **Applicant credibility:** recognition and operational credibility of the institution represented by the applicant;
- **Thematic interest:** Are the themes addressed by the requested BF intervention considered a priority within the framework of WASOP, or are they rather peripheral?
- **Contribution to the Facility's objectives:** does the intervention contribute to the achievement of the Blue Facility's objectives?

GOVERNANCE AND OPERATION OF THE BLUE FACILITY

A. GOVERNANCE AND OPERATION OF TA AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Preliminary stage: Launch of the Blue Facility and introductory webinar

The Blue Facility will be launched on 28 November 2025 during a webinar presenting the Facility's service offering and how to access it. Those invited to this webinar will include individuals and organisations that participated in the launch of WASOP, WASOP focal points from countries covered by the programme, regional organisations, DUE, and any organisation interested in the FB's services that contribute to the Facility's objectives and results.

Step 1: Expression of interest

The first phase of the process itself will be the expression of interest, which will be made by completing an expression of interest form (accessible [here](#)). This simple form (2 pages) will describe the expression of interest, the issuing institution, the thematic area(s) concerned, etc. Any interested party may send an expression of interest.

The BF will analyse the expression of interest and respond within 30 days. There are three possible responses: 1) favorable opinion; 2) reserved opinion (request for clarification); 3) unfavorable opinion (reasoned refusal). In the event of a favorable opinion, an application form (see below) will be sent to the applicant.

Step 2 : Technical assistance request

When communicating its favorable opinion on an Expression of Interest, the Blue Facility will send the issuing entity a Technical Assistance request form. The Technical Assistance Request will be more detailed than the Expression of Interest. The applicant will provide information on the context, the problem(s) to be solved, the objective of the requested intervention, the expected results, the geographical areas concerned, the background to the request, and the potential beneficiaries and partners. The request will also detail the expertise required (number of experts, specialties, etc.) as well as the counterpart(s) and other contributions that can be mobilized by the applicant. The TA request will be sent by email to the Blue Facility. Validation of the Expression of Interest by the BF is a prerequisite for the evaluation of a TA request.

Step 3: Analysis and selection of technical assistance requests

Requests are analysed on the basis of an assessment grid distinguishing between eligibility criteria and evaluation criteria.

A Facility Committee is set up to analyse and select the requests for assistance to be supported. After consulting with the Facility Committee, the FB informs the applicant (within a maximum of 60 days after the request is submitted) of: 1) acceptance of the request; 2) request for clarification; 3) rejection with reasons.

Step 4: Support Plan/Terms of Reference

For each validated request, a support plan/TOR is jointly developed and validated by the BF and the beneficiary. This plan specifies the nature of the services (technical expertise, training, studies, project structuring, etc.), the intervention schedule, the budget allocated, the involvement of the requesting entity (contribution, counterpart, etc.), the expected results, and the monitoring and evaluation procedures.

Step 5: Implementation of technical assistance

Once the MoU/Support Plan has been validated, the BF implements the agreed technical assistance. Implementation (mobilization of experts, deployment of experts in the field, etc.) is carried out by the BF, in close collaboration with the entity that made the request.

Step 6: Closing report, capitalization, feedback

At the end of implementation, the Blue Facility prepares a closing report that summarizes the activities of the intervention and the results achieved, analyzes successes and failures, documents lessons learned, and certifies completion of the activity. This report will also aim to capitalize on the experience and provide a baseline for future activities. These lessons are shared at annual governance meetings and via the Blue Economy Practitioners Network.

B. GOVERNANCE AND FUNCTIONING OF "REGIONAL" TA

Technical assistance for regional entities (ECOWAS, EBID, BOAD, UEMOA) will follow a different approach and will be co-developed directly between WASOP and the entities. It will be preceded by memoranda of understanding (which could be signed at the launch of WASOP in Mindelo, Cape Verde, on November 4, 2025, or later).

WASOP and the BF will report on regional TA missions to the Facility Committee, the Technical Monitoring Committee, and/or the COPIL.

C. KEY PARAMETERS

Leverage

To maximize the systemic impact of the Blue Facility, significant financial leverage is targeted, estimated in a range of 1:5 to 1:10. This means that each euro mobilized by the Facility—whether in the form of technical assistance, structuring support, or financing for preparatory studies—should generate between €5 and €10 in additional financing from public donors, international financial institutions, or private investors. This leverage is fundamental to enabling the Facility to act as a catalyst, capable of triggering financing dynamics that are much broader than its initial budget.

The operational levers for activating this multiplier effect include:

- Reducing transaction costs and risks perceived by lenders through targeted technical support that improves the quality of projects submitted: better preparation of business plans, compliance with climate fund criteria, integration of ESG dimensions, alignment with national and regional priorities.
- Facilitating access to complex financing mechanisms, including blended finance, credit or performance guarantees, concessional or results-based financing, and promoting tax incentives that could facilitate the financing of multiple projects in the same sector. These mechanisms

require a high level of engineering, which is often beyond the reach of project developers, and for which the Facility can play a key role as a "technical translator."

- Encouraging regional/local co-financing, by structuring projects that fit in with countries' sectoral and budgetary priorities. This improves their political acceptability and their integration into multi-year programming, which makes them more attractive to donors.
- Targeting projects with high replication or demonstration potential, capable of attracting other financial partners at a later stage. Strategic intervention by the Facility in a pilot project can serve as proof of concept and trigger cascading financing in other territories or sectors.

To achieve this ambition, the Facility seeks to build structuring financial partnerships, involving in particular:

- International financial institutions and development banks (AfDB, AFD, KfW, World Bank, IFC, Proparco, etc.), which could co-finance certain components, provide blue credit lines, or contribute to the implementation of guarantees or risk-sharing funds;
- Thematic international funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the GEF, or other thematic donor funds for which the Facility can prepare solid dossiers and act as a technical interface;
- Private partners and impact investment funds, which could be mobilized in certain specific segments (marine resource development, eco-tourism, sustainable coastal infrastructure, etc.) once the initial risk has been reduced.

A rigorous monitoring system to measure the leverage generated

A specific monitoring and evaluation framework will be put in place. In particular, it will enable:

- Track the volumes of financing mobilized following the Facility's interventions (differentiating between technical assistance, co-financing, support for project development, etc.);
- Categorize the sources of financing mobilized (public, private, multilateral, concessional, philanthropic, etc.);
- Document the co-investments obtained and the financial commitments made after the Facility's intervention, including in terms of replication or extension of the projects supported.

This framework will contribute to the Facility's reporting and strengthen its credibility with donors and institutional partners.

D. COMMUNICATION

Communication is a strategic lever for ensuring the visibility, credibility, and ownership of the Blue Facility by all stakeholders. It aims not only to provide information about the existence of the mechanism and how it works, but also to promote a shared culture around the sustainable blue economy in West Africa.

The BF's communication strategy is based on several complementary objectives. First, it aims to ensure that information is clear, transparent, and accessible to potential beneficiaries so that they can easily understand how to submit an expression of interest, what types of support are available, and what

criteria are used to review applications. Secondly, it will help to promote the concrete results achieved by the Facility, highlighting the projects supported, good practices, and positive impacts on local communities, businesses, and ecosystems. It will also play a role in strengthening the Facility's regional and international profile, positioning it as a flagship mechanism for cooperation between the European Union and West Africa in the field of the blue economy.

Communication activities will be deployed across several complementary channels. A dedicated page on the Expertise France website will serve as the main entry point, providing information on the BF and a link to the expression of interest form. E-newsletters and newsletters will keep partners informed, while targeted communication campaigns on social media and in the regional press will broaden the audience among the general public. The production of visual materials (videos, infographics, project sheets) will facilitate the popularization and dissemination of concrete examples. The EUD will also be used as a communication channel.

Communication will also be based on key events. Participation in regional and international forums (BlueInvest Africa, Finance in Common, United Nations Conference on the Ocean, etc.) will enable the Facility's results to be presented and its position in global blue finance networks to be strengthened. Results will be disseminated regularly to share experiences, present interim results, and promote collective capitalization.

Finally, particular attention will be paid to local communication with local actors: fishermen's associations, cooperatives, SMEs, and local authorities. Specific actions, carried out in local languages where necessary, will ensure that information reaches the communities directly concerned.

Communication around the Blue Facility will ensure high visibility for the European Union and will comply with EU visibility guidelines.⁴

Through this strategy, communication on the Blue Facility will help to strengthen the confidence of financial and institutional partners, encourage private sector engagement, and stimulate the participation of local communities in the development of a sustainable blue economy in West Africa.

⁴ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/knowledge-hub/communicating-and-raising-eu-visibility-guidance-external-actions_fr

Appendix 1: Draft application evaluation grid

[This is a draft assessment grid that may be subject to adjustments.]

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Compliance with WASOP's geographical scope: Yes / No

Compliance with WASOP's timetable (2025-2029): Yes / No

Compliance with the thematic areas covered by the WASOP FB? Yes / No

Compliance with WASOP Pillar 2 objectives: check whether any overlap with Pillar 1 or 3 is acceptable? Yes / No

The requested intervention is aligned with the FB's modes of action: Yes / No

Indicative amount of support requested: is the estimated amount in line with the FB's availability for the country in question? Yes / No

Availability of expertise: check whether the area(s) of expertise relevant to this request suggest a reasonable probability of finding a qualified expert.

EVALUATION CRITERIA (rated from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest rating).

FEASIBILITY

Overall feasibility (alignment between duration, resources required, relationship between resources and objectives): rating 1-4

LEVERAGE EFFECTS

Leverage effect 1: The intervention has an acceptable financial leverage effect (1-4)

Leverage effect 2: The FB's support is part of a structured process that is already underway (1-4)

Leverage effect 3: the support requested from the BF makes it possible to unblock or accelerate a crucial ongoing process in the development of the blue economy (e.g. preparation of a national strategy (1-4).

CLARITY OF THE APPLICATION

Clarity of the application: clear descriptions of the context, the application, its objectives and expected results. In other words, is the drafting of the terms of reference a simple or complex matter? (1-4)

EFFECTIVENESS

Potential effectiveness: to what extent can the Blue Facility's intervention be sufficient to solve the problems described in the application form? Or does the resolution of these problems also depend on many other factors? (1 to 4)

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships: can the expected effects of the intervention also translate into benefits for the applicant's partner institutions? (1-4)

PILOT EFFECT

Pilot effect: the intervention leads to results or the development of a technical roadmap or potentially replicable solutions. The issue addressed or the question asked are innovative (1-4).

APPLICANT

Credibility of the applicant: recognition and operational credibility of the institution represented by the applicant (1-4)

WASOP THEMATIC INTEREST

Thematic interest: are the themes addressed by the requested FB intervention considered to be priorities within the framework of WASOP 2, or rather peripheral? (1-4)

COHERENCE STRATEGIES / POLICIES

National policy coherence: are the themes addressed by the requested FB intervention consistent with the country's strategic and policy priorities?

INCLUSION

Inclusion: are the gender and inclusion arrangements proposed by the applicant satisfactory?

Appendix 2: TA Packages on « fundamentals » at national level

The technical assistance packages on fundamentals at national level, mentioned above, may consist of the following activities (non-exhaustive list):

Package A.1: Framework and strategy with financing roadmap

Nature: Technical assistance – strategic and operational study.

Objective: To provide the country with an up-to-date, operational, and costed blue economy strategy, accompanied by a prioritized investment plan and a realistic 12–24-month financing roadmap, to feed a pipeline of pre-bankable projects and facilitate gateways to BOAD/EBID lines and, where relevant, climate windows.

Target: Ministries in charge of the blue economy (fisheries, environment, planning, finance, transport/ports, tourism), local coastal authorities, implementing agencies, climate focal point (NDA), and representatives of the private sector/SMEs and civil society concerned.

Expected results:

- Finalized or updated blue economy strategy, technically validated.
- Prioritized and costed investment plan (indicative capex/opex, anticipated sources), with a transparent prioritization matrix.
- Shortlist of 5 to 10 "pre-bankable" projects with standardized summary sheets.
- 12–24-month financing roadmap (targets, instruments, sequence of actions, milestones, responsibilities).
- Reusable toolkit: project sheet templates, prioritization grids, standard ToRs for additional studies, ESMS/gender pre-compliance checklists, M&E monitoring framework.

What this funds: Mobilization of experts to finalize or update the national blue economy strategy, establish a prioritized investment plan and a 12- to 24-month financing roadmap, conduct a light institutional review with operational recommendations, facilitate working sessions and a national validation workshop, and produce useful templates such as project templates, checklists, terms of reference, and monitoring sheets.

Typical eligible costs: fees for public policy, finance, and legal consultants; facilitation and drafting; reasonable workshop logistics; small data acquisitions; translation and formatting.

What it does not finance: complete drafting of laws or decrees, sovereign mandates (however, the facility may submit projects for consideration by the authorities), major legislative reforms, equipment, or any investment.

Package A.2: Framework and strategy with roadmap for financing and deployment

Nature: Technical assistance – strategic and operational study

Objective: To provide a diagnosis of the state of implementation of the blue economy strategy, provide missing documents (financing strategy), identify bottlenecks, analyze governance and its implementation, and provide a set of recommendations and an operational roadmap to improve deployment, including effective cross-sectoral coordination.

Target: Authorities in charge of the sustainable blue economy (fisheries, environment, planning, finance, transport/ports, tourism) with a sustainable blue economy framework/strategy wishing to boost the deployment of this strategy/policy.

Expected results:

- Comprehensive diagnosis of the level of implementation of the blue economy strategy, including institutional, technical, and financial strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints.
- Operational recommendations and deployment roadmap (12–24 months) incorporating priority actions, responsibilities, milestones, cross-sector coordination tools, and a monitoring and evaluation plan.

What this funds: Mobilization of experts to carry out an assessment of the strategy's implementation, identify bottlenecks and institutional needs, propose improvements to governance and inter-institutional arrangements, develop a missing or incomplete financing strategy, design an implementation roadmap with priorities, sequences, and actors, and facilitate a national feedback and validation workshop.

Typical eligible costs: fees for consultants in public policy, finance, governance, and institutional organization; reasonable logistical support for workshops and intersectoral meetings; collection and processing of additional data; production and formatting of deliverables; translation and facilitation.

What is not funded: detailed feasibility studies, major legislative reforms, works, equipment or capital expenditure, sovereign mandates, or the direct implementation of recommendations from the roadmap.

Package A.3: Governance Framework

Nature: Technical assistance – institutional and organizational support

Objective: To establish or strengthen an operational, inclusive, and effective governance framework for the implementation of the sustainable blue economy strategy, through better cross-sectoral coordination, a clear division of roles and responsibilities, and mechanisms for regular consultation between public, private, and civil society actors.

Target: Ministries and agencies involved in the blue economy, local coastal authorities, inter-institutional platforms, private sector organizations, professional associations, and relevant civil society actors.

Expected results:

- Diagnosis of existing governance and institutional mapping of stakeholders and their mandates.

- Formalized governance framework (interministerial committee, coordination platform, or thematic working group) with mandate, operating rules, and action plan.
- Mechanisms for private sector and civil society participation in place (advisory committee, partnership charter, annual forum, etc.).

What this funds: technical support to design and formalize a governance system adapted to the blue economy: institutional and organizational diagnosis, clarification of roles, development of terms of reference and operating manuals, support for the establishment of a coordination platform or national committee, facilitation of consultation workshops, and production of institutional deliverables (charters, action plans, memoranda of understanding).

Typical eligible costs: fees for experts in governance and institutional organization, moderation and facilitation, legal assistance for institutional framing, logistics for workshops and coordination meetings, production of institutional documents, translation, and dissemination.

What it does not finance: major legislative reforms, creation of new agencies or bodies, permanent salaries or allowances, works or equipment, or any material investment.

Package A.4: Project bankability

Objective: Transform two to three priority projects into short-term fundable projects by producing a technical and economic pre-feasibility study, a robust financial model, an environmental and social pre-screening in accordance with a banking ESMS, an indicative term sheet, and a light- e data room enabling referral to a public or private BOAD/EBID line, a local bank, or, if relevant, subsequent coordination with a climate window via Menu C.

Target: Public project owners and local authorities, private operators and SMEs, project management units, technical agencies, public-private partnerships, and their advisors.

Expected results:

- Two to three "pre-bankable" notes per country with a technical and economic summary and CAPEX/OPEX estimates.
- One financial model per project with assumptions, scenarios, and sensitivity analyses
- An ESMS and gender pre-screening with a compliance plan and milestones for future studies
- An indicative term sheet describing target financing sources and instruments, key conditions, and review stages
- A light data room per project: executive summary, model extracts, maps and diagrams, letters of interest where applicable

What this finances: rapid pre-feasibility studies for two to three priority projects to clarify technical options, demand, CAPEX and OPEX orders of magnitude and the economics of the model, financial modeling and an initial risk analysis, a draft term sheet indicating who finances what, environmental and social pre-screening with a compliance roadmap, co-financing mapping and an engagement plan with financiers, as well as the creation of a simplified data room per project.

Typical eligible costs: fees for sector specialists, financial modelers, and ESG advisors; targeted field checks; one-off purchases of images or data; and support in contacting investors.

What it does not finance: comprehensive feasibility studies, detailed engineering, ESIA and permits, works, equipment, or operating expenses.

Package A.5: Access to climate and blue funds (pre-country filing)

Nature: Technical assistance for project development and qualification for funds (GCF, GEF, other climate/biodiversity mechanisms).

Objective: To prepare, on the country side, one or two concept notes in line with the requirements of climate/blue funds and to obtain the administrative prerequisites (in particular the no-objection from the designated national authority) to enable an accredited entity (EA/EI) to quickly submit a complete application and access project preparation windows (Project Preparation Facility / Project Preparation Grant).

Target: Ministries and public agencies leading projects, climate focal points (NDA), national implementing agencies, and, where applicable, identified operating partners for implementation.

Expected results:

- Transparent selection of 1 to 2 project ideas aligned with national priorities (NDC/NAP/EB strategy)
- Concept notes ready for submission (GCF CN and/or GEF PIF), including impact logic, results framework, indicators, beneficiaries, and indicative budgets
- Environmental and social pre-screening, draft Gender Action Plan, stakeholder plan, and project-level grievance mechanism
- Preliminary co-financing plan (public/private sources, targeted instruments) and letter(s) of interest where possible
- NDA no-objection file prepared and review schedule agreed
- Matching with an accredited entity (BOAD, EBID, CSE, UNDP, FAO, etc.): roles and next steps confirmed
- Project preparation request(s) drafted (GCF PPF/GEF PPG) to finance the full study and structuring phase

What this funds: country-side preparation prior to submission by an accredited entity, including the selection of one to two ideas aligned with NDCs and the EB strategy, the drafting of GCF or GEF concept notes with theory of change and results framework, environmental and social pre-screening and a draft gender plan, preparation of the co-financing plan, support for the no-objection process with the designated national authority, identification of the most suitable accredited entity, and drafting of readiness or project preparation requests such as PPF or PPG.

Typical eligible costs: fees for climate finance, gender, and ESG specialists, consolidation of baseline data, consultations and documentation, support for the NDA process, and production of deliverables.

What is not financed: entity accreditation procedures, sponsor-side costs, structuring of regional credit lines or guarantees that fall under the regional level with BOAD and EBID.

Package A.6: SMEs and MSMEs, compliance and ESG, and preparation of bankable files

Nature: Applied technical assistance with targeted training, individual coaching, and peer-to-peer exchanges

Objective: To support a portfolio of five to ten coastal and maritime companies in formalizing their management, implementing ESG fundamentals, and producing complete and credible credit files ready to be submitted to local banks and future private BOAD or EBID lines

Target: SMEs and micro-SMEs in blue value chains, cooperatives and economic interest groups, professional associations, and young companies in the growth phase that already have an activity and turnover

Expected results:

- For each company, a "bank-ready" package including a business plan, basic financial statements, three-year projections, financing needs, and available guarantees;
- A basic ESG policy and action plan including occupational health and safety, waste management, and a simple complaints mechanism;
- A complete credit file formatted according to the requirements of local banks and blue lines, with at least three to five files actually submitted for the cohort;
- A short preliminary compliance note regarding a banking ESMS and a roadmap for the required additions;
- A directory of standardized supporting documents and a mini dashboard for tracking applications.

What this funds: support for a small portfolio of companies to formalize management, prepare bankable files with business plans, historical data, cash flow, and projections, implement a basic ESG policy with an action plan covering health and safety and complaint mechanisms, packaging credit applications and organizing introductions to local banks or future blue lines, as well as short training courses in financial management and reporting.

Typical eligible costs: fees for an SME coach, accounting support, and ESG advisor, group workshops, templates, and practical tools.

What it does not finance: working capital, inventory, equipment, guarantees, or any operating expenses.

Package A.7: Scaling instruments

Nature: Technical assistance with financial structuring (instrument design study, legal and operational framework, investor survey)

Objective: To design, for a priority area, an instrument ready to enter the set-up phase (guarantee facility, blending window, results-based contract, blue bond, or performance-based payment mechanism) by defining its impact logic, governance, eligibility rules, financial model, and launch schedule, with links to regional channels (BOAD/EBID) and country pipelines.

Target: Ministry of Finance and sectoral authorities, public banks/national DFIs, financial regulators where applicable, BOAD/EBID as potential sponsors, institutional investors/commercial banks, eligible private operators

Expected results:

- Validated instrument design note (theory of change, indicators, eligibility criteria, target pipeline, additionality)
- Instrument term sheet and cash flow model (cash flow waterfall, initial pricing, risk sharing, reporting/ESMS/taxonomy requirements)
- Governance note (roles, committees, delegations), draft operational manual, and standard documents (eligibility, application, monitoring)
- Legal framework document (regulatory analysis, institutional anchoring options, public procurement/concessions compliance if relevant)
- Market sounding report (investors/banks/guarantors) with letters of interest if possible and launch roadmap (milestones, responsibilities, set-up budget)

What this finances: pre-structuring work for an instrument chosen with the country, e.g., blue bond, guarantee facility, results-based contract, or blending window, including market sounding with investors and development finance institutions, comparison of options, and recommendation of a scheme drafting a governance note with eligibility rules and pipeline criteria, an implementation roadmap, and identification of the appropriate sponsor and legal anchor.

Typical eligible costs: transaction advisory fees, upstream legal framework, instrument modeling, and discussions with investors.

What it does not finance: bond issuance costs, collateral capitalization, fund endowments, contingent liabilities, works, or equipment.