Global Gateway

Funded by the European Union

WEST AFRICA SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PROGRAMME

▶ SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

BLUE VALUE CHAINS FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE

Circular solutions in West Africa for a regenerative blue economy

PROJECT LEADER:
Plastic Odyssey Foundation

PLASTIC ODYSSEY

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

PLASTIC ODYSSEY FACTORIES

NEBEDAY · biosfera · TECH HUB

AREAS OF OPERATION:

- **Senegal** (Palmarin-Fimela and Saint-Louis – 2 marine protected areas / UNESCO and 2 fishing zones);
- **Cabo Verde** (Mindelo and Santa Luzia);
- **The Gambia** (Banjul-Tanbi – fishing zones / protected mangrove park)



DURATION:
24 months
(September 2026 – September 2028)

TOTAL BUDGET:
€1 million

TRANSFORMING COASTAL PLASTIC WASTE INTO RESOURCES, JOBS AND SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENT TERRITORIES



OBJECTIVE

To establish systems for the collection, recycling and recovery of marine and coastal plastic waste by developing integrated supply chains, with a view to creating jobs and generating income for coastal communities and contributing to the preservation of ecosystems.

CONTEXT

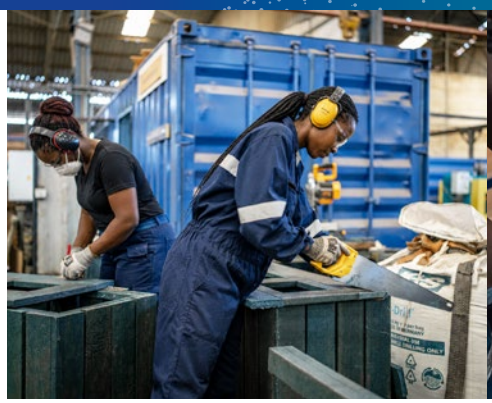
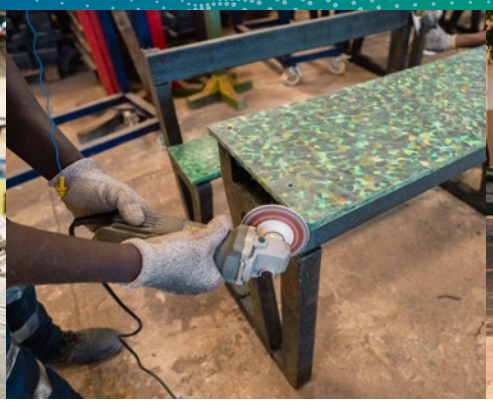
Plastic pollution undermines ecosystems, fishing activities and the appeal of coastal areas to tourists. At the same time, these regions often lack local processing facilities, technical expertise and economic outlets capable of transforming waste into local economic resources.

PROJECT ACTIONS

- ▶ Assess and organise waste streams (mapping, agreements, traceability)
- ▶ Deploy and operate the recycling hubs (installation, commissioning, maintenance)
- ▶ Co-design and market products with industry sectors (testing, quality, partnerships)
- ▶ Train and support entrepreneurs and teams (certification, coaching, networking)
- ▶ Capitalise on and disseminate best practice via WASOP (documentation, cross-country exchanges)

TARGET GROUPS

Stakeholders in the small-scale fishing sector; stakeholders in coastal tourism; managers of marine protected areas and environmental organisations; collectors/informal workers; supported entrepreneurs and trained technicians.


FINAL BENEFICIARIES

Coastal communities in the target areas (households, young people, women dependent on fishing, tourism and services), local authorities.

KEY EXPECTED RESULTS

- 4 regional plastic recovery hubs established, strengthened or consolidated in Mindelo, Banjul-Tanbi, Palmarin-Fimela and Saint-Louis;
- Economic models and technical solutions documented to facilitate their replication and scaling up in other coastal areas;
- A cumulative processing capacity of up to 2,400 tonnes per year, rising to 4,000 tonnes per year once fully operational;
- 8 to 12 entrepreneurs supported;
- 80 recycling technicians and operators trained, 40 per cent of whom are women;
- 200 informal waste collectors integrated into organised chains;
- 20 tourist establishments and 5 Marine Protected Areas involved;
- Ranges of recycled products tailored to the needs of stakeholders in the fisheries, tourism and conservation sectors;
- Documented business models and technical solutions.

TARGETED CHANGES

- Improving the attractiveness of territories;
- Development and professionalisation of the recycling sector within integrated value and logistics chains in partnership with major companies (such as AGL, Damen, and Quiksilver) with the aim of increasing impact and scaling up operations across three priority sectors:

▶ 1. Artisanal fishing — Generate supplemental income

Purchasing plastics collected by fishermen. Setting up collection and sorting points near landing sites; transforming waste into equipment useful to communities: fish bins, benches for canoes, construction materials, canoes, and utility boats.

▶ 2. Coastal tourism — Repurposing waste to develop sites

Collection of waste in partnership with tourism establishments and managers of beaches and natural areas. Transformation of plastics into locally manufactured furniture and infrastructure: footbridges, beach equipment, trail markers, construction materials for eco-lodges, and furniture.

▶ 3. Biodiversity and Coastal Resilience — Clean Up and Protect Natural Areas

Collection of plastics in mangroves and marine protected areas, repurposing into conservation equipment: recycling bins, observation shelters, and monitoring equipment. Testing solutions to limit erosion and support mangrove restoration.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE WASOP OBJECTIVES

- Support for local entrepreneurship, the development of circular value chains, technological innovation and the creation of green jobs.
- Reducing plastic pollution, protecting marine and coastal ecosystems, resilience of coastal communities.
- Developing solutions that can be replicated in other coastal areas of West Africa.

The project 'Blue Value Chains for Coastal Resilience – Circular Solutions in West Africa for a Regenerative Blue Economy' is one of four pilot projects funded by the European Union under the call for proposals for the WASOP Programme, Pillar 2 – Sustainable Blue Economy, implemented by Expertise France.

These four projects aim to test and develop sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic models in the coastal regions of West Africa. They share a common ambition: to make the blue economy a driver of shared prosperity, innovation, job creation and climate resilience.

With a budget of €59 million over five years, the WASOP – West Africa Sustainable Ocean Programme - stems from the European Union's Global Gateway Strategy.

EXPERTISE FRANCE
GROUPE AFD

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