

Analysis of existing and previous initiatives on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance in the Africa-Europe Partnership

This mapping of existing and previous initiatives and projects related to Ocean and Blue Economy complements the Scoping Report produced by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) on “Ocean Governance and Blue Economy: An Emerging Agenda for the Africa-Europe Partnership”. It is a non-exhaustive list of projects and initiatives implemented in Africa that have either shaped or could inspire the development of an Africa-Europe partnership on the ocean.

This mapping has been produced by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) to primarily inform the work of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance that is being set up with the support of the European Commission and in partnership with the African Union Commission. More precisely it will serve the Group to identify priority areas of focus for joint cooperation and co-design a roadmap for action that can enhance the ocean governance partnership.

This list has been built upon a series of meetings with relevant stakeholders interested in the Africa-Europe ocean relationship, and complemented by online research to identify a large array of projects and initiatives that currently shape the two continents exchanges. It lists a number of projects/initiatives supported by the EU or its Member States, African parties and international organisations working in Africa, as well as Africa-led initiatives and projects that currently contribute to the continents’ aspirations towards the ocean.

It provides a structured overview of a selection of projects/initiatives, with a brief description and state-of-play, complemented by a short analysis providing an assessment of impact to date, or yet untapped.

Structured in four parts, the mapping covers the following themes:

1. Science, Data, Education and Training;
2. Blue Economy;
3. Ocean Governance; and,
4. Protection of the marine environment and Pollution.

This mapping demonstrates that Africa-Europe cooperation on the ocean is currently scattered in a patchwork of initiatives, programmes and projects at different governance levels (national, regional and continental) and with various institutional and development actors.

Yet, the mapping reveals the richness of Africa-Europe ocean cooperation, and highlights the need for a more coordinated strategy, building on projects/initiatives on a range of sectors including: Scientific Collaboration; Data Knowledge and Sharing; Information Exchange and Capacity Building; Policy Development and Decision-Making; Marine Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Blue Economy Opportunities; Partnerships. The mapping does not include projects/initiatives on maritime security.

It also highlights that the Africa-Europe partnership has not only been strengthened and defined through political and policy engagements at the European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) levels but also advanced at bilateral and multilateral levels, through a number of projects and initiatives of common interest, where broader policy agendas have served as platforms for cooperation in trade, development, security, and issues related to the management of natural resources and climate change.

As readers go through this document, it is essential to recognise the shared ocean seascapes between and around the two continents as being central to strategic areas of cooperation.

This document reflects the views only of the Africa-Europe Foundation, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Ocean Governance and Blue Economy in the context of the AU-EU partnership

At the 5th EU-AU Summit in 2017, Leaders adopted the “Abidjan Declaration” in which they committed to “strengthen [their] cooperation and partnership (...) to address illegal exploitation and unsustainable management of natural resources, impact of climate change, maritime security”. They also committed to “promoting responsible and sustainable public and private capital (...) This will focus on value-adding, human investment and skills sectors with the highest potential for sustainable job creation and low-emissions climate resilient and sustainable development, such as (...) the ocean economy”.

In 2018, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly adopted a Resolution that describes opportunities and challenges of the blue economy for ACP States.

In January 2019, following up on the commitment made in Abidjan, the first annual EU-African Union Ministerial meeting was held in Brussels. The joint Communiqué states that: “Ministers undertook to strengthen joint high-level policy dialogue to adopt a more coordinated approach and converging positions in international negotiations. They agreed to continue to implement and cooperate on priorities including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the AU Agenda 2063. A post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, ocean governance, (...) are, among others, examples of areas where cooperation can make a difference.”

The 6th AU-EU Summit, held in February 2022, was guided by a need to deepen further cooperation between the two continents. It committed leaders from the AU and the EU to a Joint Vision for a renewed Partnership to build a common future underpinned by key areas of cooperation, including green transition, digital transformation, peace and governance, migration and mobility, and a renewed commitment to multilateralism.

The final declaration of the 6th AU-EU Summit further notes that African and European leaders “pledge to work towards more converging positions in multilateral fora to reduce global inequalities, strengthen solidarity, promote international cooperation, fight and mitigate climate change and improve delivery on ‘global public goods’, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063.”

However, the final declaration of the summit allows for a potential shift towards this area. Leaders pledged to work towards more converging positions in multilateral fora to reduce global inequalities, promote international cooperation, and improve delivery on 'global public goods', in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063. The underpinning financial package unveiled alongside the final declaration, the Global Gateway Investment Package for Africa, aiming to boost large-scale sustainable investments, will consider the priorities and needs of African countries, including those related to the ocean and blue economy.

It is essential to recognise the shared ocean seascapes between and around the two continents as being central to strategic areas of cooperation and its role in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. As such, ocean governance and the development of blue economy strategies and joint delivery mechanisms can potentially reinforce the partnership and underpin collective human prosperity and sustainable development. Nonetheless, while reference is made to the need for cooperation between the AU-EU on ocean governance, it needs to become a central feature of the AU-EU partnership and translate into action to move beyond summit diplomacy

Post-summit, the EU has launched several initiatives that align with this focus. These developments indicate a growing emphasis on ocean governance and the blue economy in future AU-EU collaborations.

Initiatives/Projects	Description & State-of-play	Impact for the Africa-Europe partnership
Science, Data, Education & Training		
<p>Africa Knowledge Platform Joint Research Centre (JRC)</p>	<p>The JRC is partnering with African countries through the African Union to develop tools and methodologies for monitoring and assessing the sustainability of ocean management policies and practices.</p> <p>Using satellite data, the JRC has long-standing expertise in providing continuous and detailed information on important marine bio-physical parameters and indicators of change. Data and maps on the coastal environment are available through a web-based marine information system. Initially developed for Africa, this system became global in 2012, enabling the scientific and managerial user community to create maps and conduct basic environmental assessments at national and regional scales. The JRC also organises training courses in Africa in support to the EU Development Cooperation policy on environmental issues such as climate change, marine resources management and water quality monitoring.</p>	<p>The Platform facilitates knowledge exchange, research collaboration, capacity building, and evidence-based policy development. Its impact is manifested in improved research capabilities, informed policy decisions, socio-economic development, and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.</p> <p>Its work is directed towards knowledge-based policies, integrated planning, greater cooperation on data</p>
<p>The Copernicus Marine Service (or Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service) of the EU</p>	<p>It provides free, regular and systematic authoritative information on the state of the Blue (physical), White (sea ice) and Green (biogeochemical) ocean, on a global and regional scale. It is funded by the European Commission and implemented by Mercator Ocean International. It is designed to serve EU policies and International legal commitments related to Ocean Governance, to cater for the needs of society at large for global ocean knowledge and to boost the Blue Economy across all maritime sectors by providing free-of-charge state-of-the-art ocean data and information.</p>	<p>Its impact on the Africa-Europe partnership can be observed in several ways: (1) Scientific collaboration: it fosters scientific collaboration between Africa and Europe by providing valuable oceanographic data and information products, including for the development of blue economy, adaptation, and early warning systems strategies; (2) Capacity Building: it supports capacity building efforts in African countries by offering training programs, workshops, and technical assistance.</p>

<p>GMES & Africa</p>	<p>Launched in 2014, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa programme (GMES and Africa) is the main vehicle of Europe-Africa cooperation on Earth observation and data processing systems, and their applications in a user-driven approach. It supports ocean public policy-making on both continents using space technology. The program is a partnership between the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU), with the support of other international partners.</p>	<p>The impact of GMES and Africa in the Africa-Europe partnership can be observed in several ways: (1) Data Knowledge and sharing; (2) Policy Development and Decision-Making. It allows to improve coordination between international organisations, focused on capacity building, investment in ‘blue’ science and innovation, international ocean research, innovation and science partnerships, ocean observation, data and marine accounting</p>
<p>EU4OceanObs – Mercator Ocean International</p>	<p>The EU4OceanObs Action is funded by the European Commission. It is implemented by Mercator Ocean International, a non-profit company created in 2010, providing ocean science-based services of general interest focused on the conservation and the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. Under this project, the EU has committed to fostering Africa-Europe cooperation, focusing on the blue economy and the opportunities it offers to both continents.</p>	<p>The EU4OceanObs initiative brings value to the Africa-Europe ocean partnership by promoting data sharing, capacity building, sustainable ocean management, integrated governance approaches, and resilience to climate change. Through its activities, the initiative strengthens cooperation and collaboration between Africa and Europe, fostering the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices in ocean observations and management.</p>
<p>Digital Twin of the Ocean (DTO) Digital Twin Ocean (mercator-ocean.eu)</p>	<p>A Digital Twin of the Ocean (DTO) is in development. Supported by the EU, it will provide highly accurate predictions of future developments at global seas. The digital twin's insights on marine ecosystems will inform sustainable tourism practices, the development of offshore renewable energy projects, and the valuation of ecosystem services, leading to economic growth and job creation in both Africa and Europe.</p>	<p>The impact of the Digital Twin of the Ocean DTO on the Africa-Europe partnership can be multiple: (1) Improved understanding of the ocean; (2) Enhanced collaboration and knowledge exchange; (3) Data-driven decision-making; (4) Marine Resource</p>

		Management; (5) Climate change adaptation; (6) Economic opportunities.
Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) capacities of Regional Centres of Excellence (RCoEs) related to green transition in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)	Ocean (including coastal areas) is one of the six sectors included in this EU-funded programme. The envelope put aside for the ocean component amounts to EUR 5 million.	In the context of the European Digital Twin of the Ocean (DTI) and the European Commission’s support to the UN Ocean Decade, this programme could support Ocean Prediction, in regions that require capacity building
AtlantECO (www.atlanteco.eu) Atlantic Ecosystems Assessment, Forecasting & Sustainability	It is an EU-funded project that aims to develop and apply a novel, unifying framework and provide knowledge-based resources to better understand and manage the Atlantic Ocean and its ecosystem services. It brings together experts and pioneers from Europe, South America and South Africa. <u>The All-Atlantic ocean research and innovation alliance builds upon the success of two existing cooperation agreements – the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation signed by the EU, the USA and Canada in 2013, and the Belem Statement on Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation cooperation signed by the EU, Brazil and South Africa in 2017- as well as on several other bilateral and multilateral agreements. The Alliance is supported by the EU.</u>	Works directed towards ocean research, innovation and data & digitalisation. This project facilitates collaborative research programs and knowledge exchange, including a platform that facilitates information sharing, capacity building, and scientific cooperation between African and European institutions.
Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO): 2022-2025	An international partnership of institutions involved in oceanographic observations, scientific research, operational services, education, and training. POGO has 37 member institutes, including several consortia, from 19 different countries, and works closely with other international and regional programmes and organisations. Research and Innovation projects dedicated to the Atlantic Ocean, relevant for African countries bordering the Atlantic, complete list available here. (2022-2025) .	POGO's work has the potential to impact various regional and international collaborations, including those between Africa and Europe: (1) Scientific collaboration; (2) Data Sharing; (3) Capacity Building; (4) Policy and Decision-Making; (5) SDGs
Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans)	Pan-European intergovernmental platform, to increase the impact of research and innovation for a sustainable, healthy and productive ocean. 19+1 member	Work directed towards safeguarding the natural environment, conserving biodiversity, and enhancing climate

	<p>countries. The member states’ national strategies and priorities are the main building blocks for a joint Strategy Framework to address marine and maritime issues (2021-2025).</p>	<p>resilience through the use of research and science.</p>
<p>Centers of Excellence established by the AU</p>	<p>The AU adopted 5 Centres of Excellence on fisheries, on illegal fishing, and on all the ecosystem of fisheries, in the 5 regions of our continent. For northern Africa, we have the Centre of Excellence on Fisheries in Egypt. For West Africa, we have Centres in Sierra Leone and in Côte d’Ivoire. In Central Africa, it is in Cameroun and Gabon. In Southern Africa, it is located in Angola, Namibia and South Africa. In the East Africa region, we have Centres in Mauritius, Kenya and Djibouti. Those are the Centres of Excellence where we are going to build capacity and for our experts to start delivering on those thematic.</p>	<p>The establishment of AU-Centres of Excellence will greatly benefit the continent by raising public awareness, offering technical guidance, providing leadership, and training its future professionals. He further highlighted that the COE will be extremely helpful in achieving the goals and visions of the African Union’s Agenda 2063. The formation of the AU-Centers of Excellence is a tremendous milestone in transforming and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture, and blue economy in Africa aligned to Agenda 2063.</p>
<p>Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap</p>	<p>The of the Africa Ocean Roadmap, supported by the Governments of Norway and Sweden, is to generate ocean-based solutions resulting from the best available knowledge, including indigenous and local knowledge, and aided by innovation, technology, and capacity development. This will contribute to creating an enabling environment for achieving sustainable development in Africa and the vision of the UN Ocean Decade – ‘the science we need for the ocean we want’.</p>	<p>The implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, could help strengthen collaboration, align priorities, and leverage resources to address key ocean-related challenges in a coordinated manner. The roadmap provides a framework for joint initiatives, research projects, capacity building, and technology transfer that can contribute to sustainable development, conservation, and responsible governance of the oceans in both Africa and Europe.</p>

Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) Network Programme	UN Ocean Decade Endorsed Programme providing training and capacity sharing programmes for youth. It aims at empowering the next generation of Ocean Leaders. Target countries: Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Senegal and Morocco. Aimed at creating a global network of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) to foster collaborations across geographies, disciplines, and sectors to address and coordinate action towards achieving the objectives of the Decade; provide opportunities for ECOPs all around the world to elevate their collective voice and participate in relevant ocean sustainability dialogues, particularly under the auspices of the Decade; identify, create, and share professional development opportunities to advance ECOP careers while paving the way for the next generation, particularly for under-represented groups.	Work directed towards developing new forms of governance and collaboration to engage with youth and build a blue and skilled workforce. Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship within the blue economy sector can stimulate economic development and job creation. Such programme can facilitate information sharing, capacity building, and scientific cooperation between African and European actors/institutions.
Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) - http://www.odinafrica.org/en/	The Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa is a project of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange programme (IODE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC). With the support of IOC-UNESCO and the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium), the network strives to address the challenges faced in ensuring that ocean and coastal data and information generated in national, regional and global programmes are readily available to a wide range of users in an easily understandable format. It brings more than 40 marine related institutions from 25 countries in Africa.	The focus of the current phase of the project is strengthening the pan African network of National Oceanographic Data Centre (NODCs), and marine related institutions, as a sustained mechanism for application of data, information and products in marine and coastal management in Africa. This includes the development of linkages with data generators (including on-going large-scale projects on the African coasts), and the development of targeted products and services for national and regional end users.
Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa	Independent non-profit research organization serving as a hub for marine and conservation in the western Indian ocean, with projects across the Indian Ocean. Mainly focusing research (bridging marine science and conservation practice); local marine resource management (supporting communities and local institutions in sustainable practices); policy and governance (influencing ocean and marine	CORDIO East Africa has been working on projects related to climate change adaptation in coastal areas. They assess the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change impacts, such as rising

	<p>conservation policy development): CORDIO East Africa has significant knowledge and experience in (1) reef monitoring and conservation; (2) Climate Change Adaptation; Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); (4) Fisheries Management; (5) Community Engagement and Capacity Building; (6) Data Information and Management.</p>	<p>sea levels and increased storm intensity, and develop strategies to help communities adapt and build resilience.</p>
<p>West Africa Marine Science Symposium (WAMSS)</p>	<p>In August 2023, In Ghana, the West Africa Marine Science Symposium (WAMSS) will bring together marine and coastal experts, storytellers, youth, government bodies, non-governmental organisations, funders, and National Geographic Society Explorers from and working in West Africa. Engagement with early-career professionals and youth. WAMSS plans to highlight career paths and funding opportunities, grant writing workshops. It also plans to identify successful marine research and conservation models.</p>	<p>This marine science symposium will play a role in advancing scientific knowledge, fostering collaboration among researchers, and promoting the sustainable management of marine resources. Activities aimed at early-career professionals can help strengthen scientific skills, promote research careers, and support the development of marine science expertise.</p>
<p>GEO Blue Planet</p>	<p>The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Blue Planet project is a global initiative supported by the European Commission. It aims to improve the understanding and management of marine and coastal ecosystems through the use of Earth observation data.</p>	<p>The impact of the GEO Blue Planet project on the Africa-Europe partnership: (1) it promotes scientific collaboration between Africa and Europe in the field of marine and coastal ecosystem research; (2) it supports capacity building efforts in Africa and Europe by providing training programs, workshops, and technical assistance. While the project's focus is global, it has the potential to impact the Africa-Europe partnership in several ways. Bridging ocean and coastal observational data and societal needs: it promotes open data policies and platforms, making Earth observation data and derived products accessible to</p>

		researchers and stakeholders in Africa and Europe.
James Michel Foundation	<p>Funding and supporting projects that focus on blue economy and climate change. “Blue diplomacy”, research and development in the blue economy, scholarships and training programmes, maritime and food security, energy efficiency and renewable energy, seed funding and incubation.</p> <p>Among the many projects of the Foundation, the Blue Economy Incubator is a programme that encourages young, ambitious Seychellois entrepreneurs to develop innovative business ventures that will become leading ventures in the Blue Economy. The Foundation may provide funding, technological and administrative support, as well as introductions to potential partners and investors.</p>	This initiative supports startups and entrepreneurs in developing sustainable blue economy ventures, including ocean conservation, renewable energy, and marine biotechnology. It is directed towards developing new forms of collaboration to engage with youth and build a blue and skilled workforce. The incubator fosters innovation and job creation, encouraging cross-pollination of ideas between Africa and Europe. It stimulates economic growth while addressing environmental challenges.
Ocean Watch WRI	The Ocean Watch open data platform delivers science to policy makers developing sustainable ocean economies and operationalizing integrated ocean management. Work directed towards Knowledge-based policies, integrating planning, greater cooperation on data.	Ocean Watch's research efforts can foster collaboration between African and European scientists, researchers, and institutions. Through joint research projects and knowledge exchange, the initiative can advance scientific understanding of marine ecosystems, identify conservation priorities, and inform policy development related to marine resource management, climate change adaptation, and sustainable coastal development.
Blue Economy, including fisheries		
Team Europe Initiative on Blue Economy (Tanzania)	Launched with Tanzania, and its initial investment package of EUR 110 million was recently increased. The initiative involves AfDB, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, AFD, AEIB, and KfW. It focuses on sustainable and integrated management of coastal ecosystems and river deltas, sustainable and	The impact of the Team Europe Initiative on the Blue Economy and Tanzania will depend on the specific projects, programs, and activities implemented under the initiative. Additionally, the

	<p>productive marine and coastal ecosystem use, and local, national and international ocean governance.</p>	<p>successful implementation and sustainability of the initiatives will require strong collaboration and coordination between the European Union, its Member States, partner countries, local institutions, and stakeholders. Regular monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management will be crucial to ensure the desired impact and benefits are achieved.</p>
<p>Global-Europe, multi-annual indicative programmes (MIPs) Global Europe - Programming (europa.eu)</p>	<p>The Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument is the main financial tool of the EU's international cooperation for the period of 2021-2027. More than EUR 29 billion have been allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly 30 countries have included ocean-related priorities and actions in the multi-annual indicative programmes.</p>	<p>The impact will depend on the implementation of the MIPs. But the fact that so many countries have flagged ocean-related issues as a priority, demonstrates the importance and potential of these issues in the development of an Africa-Europe ocean partnership.</p>
<p>FISH4ACP programme 2019-2024</p>	<p>An initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), implemented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and funded with EUR 47 million from the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BmZ). This programme works on making fisheries and aquaculture value chains more productive, sustainable and socially beneficial, with an emphasis on supporting women. Its inclusive approach to all stages of the value chain promotes small and medium-sized medium-size businesses, creates jobs and improves working conditions, finds sources of investment and finance, and seeks to avoid harm to the environment.</p> <p>The programme is focused on enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of 12 fisheries and aquaculture value chains in 12 ACP countries, while ensuring that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness. Out of the 12 countries, 9 are in Africa: Cameroon, Côte</p>	<p>The FISH4ACP program has the potential to enhance sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices, strengthen governance frameworks, promote capacity building, and foster collaboration between Africa and Europe in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. These efforts contribute to the achievement of shared goals in ocean conservation, economic development, and sustainable resource management within the Africa-Europe ocean partnership.</p>

	d'Ivoire, Gambia, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.	
ECOFISH Programme 2019-2024	<p>Programme launched in 2019 by the five Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) member states and three East African countries (Kenya, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania) with EUR 28 million in funding over five years from the European Development Fund. It aims at supporting monitoring, control and surveillance action plans to deter IUU fishing, support to small-scale fisheries communities, and promoting the implementation of conservation measures based on scientific evidence.</p> <p>Its work is directed towards fighting illegal fishing and sustainable management of ocean food resources regionally, global maritime spatial planning, regional fisheries management; and enhancing equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region.</p>	The programme promotes sustainable fisheries management, by enhancing food security and livelihoods, building capacity, conserving marine ecosystems, and fostering stakeholder collaboration in the Eastern African region.
PESCAO – West Africa 2018-2023	Implemented jointly between the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea, the programme (2018-2023) dedicates EUR 15 million to improve regional fisheries governance through better coordination of national policies. Actions include the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. They cover 13 member countries: Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.	Work directed towards fighting illegal fishing and sustainable management of ocean food resources regionally. Collaborative efforts can include capacity building, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing to enhance the sustainability and productivity of fisheries.
EurAfrica Gateway Cable	As part of the Global Gateway, the EU intends to invest in digital and green transition, including through the construction of a EURAfrica Gateway Cable, a submarine fiber-optic cable connecting Africa with the EU along the Atlantic Ocean coast. Its aim is to foster digital sovereignty, infrastructure, and cross-continental data flows, in line with AUDA-NEPAD's PIDA PAP II projects.	By enhancing connectivity, expanding broadband access, and investing in digital services and technologies, the project aims to foster economic growth, enhance regional integration, and drive the digital transformation of African

		economies. It will also contribute to the Africa-Europe partnership by promoting digital connectivity, enabling digital trade and services, and fostering collaboration in the digital domain between Africa and Europe.
Fisheries Governance Project 2 (FishGov 2) 2021-2025	<p>The project implementation period is jointly implemented by AU-IBAR and AUDI-NEPAD under funding by the European Union. This project aims at enhancing sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa, and accelerating reform of the sector, in line with the AU’s Agenda 2063 objectives, notably in terms of food security, livelihoods and wealth creation.</p> <p>FISHGOV2 is a follow-up of the First phase of the Fisheries Governance Project (FishGov 1) that was implemented between 2014 and 2018. Specific achievements and impacts of FishGov1 vary across different countries and regions where the project was implemented.</p>	The project aims at strengthening fisheries governance and policy frameworks across African countries. By providing technical assistance, capacity building, and support for policy reforms, the project can help enhance governance structures, transparency, and accountability in the fisheries sector..
Programme Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture 2017-2024	Supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EUR 2 million), and implemented by GIZ, (€64M for the period from 2017-2024), the programme works along the fish value chain and involves all stakeholders — from fisheries authorities to pond farmers. Government officials are advised to improve conditions for sustainable artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. Intermediary organisations such as training and research institutions are strengthened to ensure a long-term offer of needs-based advisory services. Fishers learn how to manage fish stocks sustainably so that they continue to produce viable yields in the future. Pond farmers learn how to build new ponds, choose fingerlings and operate profitably in the long run. Efficient processing techniques help to reduce the waste of fish. Public campaigns promote fish as a healthy food.	Work directed towards increasing the supply of sustainable sources fish, boost jobs and incomes, curb illegal fishing, protect natural resources, empower women. Countries involved include: Malawi, Zambia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Uganda & Mozambique.
Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture EU-funded projects	On 1 January 2021, the fisheries and aquaculture portfolio stood at EUR 450 million, divided across more than 40 projects around the world and consisting of regional, continental and cross-continental and bilateral projects. Programmes cover marine	

	<p>and inland capture fisheries and aquaculture. Overall, Africa is the main recipient of EU funds for fisheries and aquaculture, receiving nearly EUR 200 million. With nearly EUR 151 million, Asia is the second priority area of intervention, followed by the Pacific region with nearly EUR 62 million.</p>	
<p>Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing</p>	<p>The EU is working to close the loopholes that allow operators to profit from IUU fishing activities. The EU regulation to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (in short: the IUU Regulation) entered into force on 1 January 2010. The Commission is working actively with all stakeholders to ensure coherent application of the IUU Regulation. Only marine fishery products accompanied by catch certificates validated by the competent flag state can be imported into the EU. The EU regularly updates the IUU vessel list. It includes IUU vessels identified by regional fisheries management organisations.</p> <p>The IUU Regulation can take steps against states turning a blind eye to illegal fishing activities: the Commission first issues a warning (yellow card), then if the country is still not complying, it will identify the country as non-cooperating. (the so-called red card) and place it in the list of non-cooperating countries. Fisheries products from the country in question will then be banned from the EU market (see the fact sheet below).</p> <p>The IUU Regulation also applies to EU operators operating anywhere in the world and under any flag.</p>	<p>CATCH is the first IT tool to streamline checks and verifications of catch certificates for fishery products entering the EU market.</p> <p>In March 2023 the EU joined the IUU Fishing Action Alliance. The EU fully supports the main objectives of the Alliance through the IUU Regulation: internally with Member States by means of the EU Catch Certification Scheme and externally via IUU dialogues with third countries, actions on international ocean governance, maritime safety and labour conditions.</p>
<p>Sustainable Fisheries Partnerships Agreements</p>	<p>The EU has bilateral sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) with 12 African countries providing funds for sectoral support. SFPAs aim to address issues related to sustainable fisheries management, including overfishing, illegal fishing, environmental impact, and economic development. The agreements promote sustainable fishing practices, reduce bycatch and discards, and ensure compliance with regulations. The goal is to ensure that fishing activities are environmentally and economically sustainable and contribute to the long-term conservation of fish stocks and marine ecosystems.</p>	<p>SFPAs exist within the framework of the external dimension of the EU’s Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and enable EU vessels to fish surplus stocks in the partner country’s EEZ within an agreed framework of bilateral agreements with several African countries.</p> <p>However, within the context of increasing concerns about the</p>

		<p>overexploitation of fish stocks and the ever-evolving nature of the fisheries environment, commitment to sustainability is crucial to ensure that SFPAs can effectively benefit the EU and African states in a complex and evolving fisheries supply chain environment, faced with several significant challenges that must be addressed.</p> <p>These include the pressing need for enhanced information transparency, more accurate reporting of captured data, and increased cooperation with local conservation and management initiatives.</p>
<p>Blue Economy Mediterranean Partnership</p>	<p>Launched at COP27 by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), EIB, KfW and EBRD, with the political support from the European Commission. The partnership aims to support the transition to a sustainable blue economy in the region, including through a new financial vehicle to pool contributions from donors and beneficiary countries targeting capital expenditure and technical assistance grants for sustainable blue economy projects. The financial vehicle is expected to close an estimated €6 billion investment gap in the next 8 years.</p>	<p>The Partnership aims at fostering blue economy sectors such as fisheries and aquaculture, maritime transport, coastal tourism, renewable energy, and marine biotechnology. It remains too early to say if the partnership has facilitated investments, job creation, and economic growth in these sectors, contributing to the overall development and prosperity of Mediterranean countries.</p>
<p>BlueInvest Africa</p>	<p>BlueInvest Africa is an initiative of the European Commission. It is a business-oriented, match-making event between investors and African entrepreneurs active in the blue economy. The 2022 event took place in Seychelles, with 500 participants. This event reflected the principles of EU-Africa cooperation, which include addressing the needs of the African population in terms of food security, sustainable development, and increasing economic opportunities.</p>	<p>Work directed towards Ocean-related investment: public-private partnerships and innovation. This initiative promotes entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic growth in both Africa and Europe. It encourages the scaling up of</p>

		<p>promising projects and attracts private sector investment.</p> <p>The second BlueInvest Africa event will take place in Kenya in 2024.</p>
<p>Go Blue initiative in Kenya 2021-2024</p>	<p>Team Europe, together with the Governors of six coastal counties in Kenya, the Ministry of Devolution and the Blue Economy Secretariat, launched the Go Blue initiative in Kenya in 2021, to be implemented by GiZ, AICS, Expertise France, UN Environment with UN Habitat. This four-year programme is a EUR 25 million initiative funded by the European Union with support from EU Member States. The programme aims to harness important coastal and marine resources to achieve a sustainable blue economy and bring jobs to over 3,000 youth and women: the initiative is comprised of 3 key components: Go Blue Growth; Go Blue Environment; Go Blue Security.</p> <p>The overall objective of the programme is to unlock the potential of sea-land opportunities in coastal urban centres for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth with employment impact, while conserving and sustainably using the coastal and marine environment as well as promoting effective and integrated maritime governance:</p>	<p>The initiative is relatively new and has not gained significant visibility.</p> <p>A key activity is the establishment of Centres of Excellence that provide industry-led Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) courses on skills that are relevant for blue economy value chains. These Centres of Excellence provide local small businesses on-going access to business development services that improve their engagement in selected coastal aquaculture value chains. The project being in its final year, the CoEs could provide a platform to grow a skilled blue workforce.</p>
<p>AquaVitae Project 2019-2023</p>	<p>The AquaVitae project (Horizon 2020) is a consortium of 36 partners from Europe and countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean (including Namibia and South Africa). Project Duration: 2019-2023. Overall budget €8.8M, among which 8M comes from the EU. The project is coordinated by NOFIMA AS (Norway). They are working towards sustainable aquaculture production and the development of new low trophic species in aquaculture value chains, including macroalgae, Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA), shellfish, echinoderms and finfish.</p>	<p>AquaVitae develops sustainable aquaculture practices in both Africa and Europe, ensuring food security and reducing overfishing. By promoting responsible aquaculture, the project enhances local livelihoods, reduces pressure on wild fish stocks, and fosters cross-regional collaboration in technology transfer and knowledge sharing.</p>

<p>PROBLUE</p>	<p>PROBLUE is an Umbrella Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) administered by the World Bank, designed to help countries chart a course towards a Blue Economy approach. PROBLUE supports the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14, Life Under Water) and is fully aligned with the World Bank’s twin goals of ending extreme poverty and increasing the income and welfare of the poor in a sustainable way. PROBLUE is part of the World Bank’s overall Blue Economy program, which takes a multi-pronged, coordinated approach to ensuring the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. PROBLUE is supported by Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.</p>	<p>PROBLUE focuses on four key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture - Addressing and preventing the threats posed to ocean health by marine pollution, including litter and plastics - Supporting the sustainable development of key oceanic sectors such as coastal tourism, maritime transport and offshore renewable energy <p>Helping governments build their capacity to manage their marine and coastal resources in an integrated fashion to deliver more and long-lasting benefits to countries and communities, including the development of nature-based solutions to climate change.</p>
<p>Blue Economy for Resilient Africa Program (BE4RAP) - World Bank</p>	<p>Launched at COP27, the programme aims at catalysing finance and providing an operational response to development challenge in coastal-marine areas of the African continent. Concretely, the program seeks to respond to the challenge faced by coastal communities and spur economic growth, reduce poverty, while adapting to the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>A series of 12 thematic BE4RAP Solutions Papers were launched, showcasing impact from existing World Bank programs and financing opportunities that can be brought to scale for Africa to unleash the full potential of a resilient economy.</p> <p>The Blue Economy for Resilient Africa Program is set to convene a “Focus on Africa Blue Marketplace” in 2023</p>
<p>Make-IT in Africa Blue Tech Networks in Africa</p>	<p>Supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by GIZ, this network works towards</p>	<p>Through innovation, knowledge exchange, sustainable resource</p>

<p>2020-2024</p>	<p>activating Blue Tech Networks in Africa; Capacitating ESOs/ISOs on the topic of Blue Tech; Fostering Ventures in the Blue Tech Space. Its focus is on Namibia (2020-2024)</p>	<p>management, policy development, and financing support, the initiative promotes collaboration and mutually beneficial outcomes in the blue economy sector. By leveraging technology and entrepreneurship, the initiative fosters sustainable economic growth, environmental conservation, and social development, contributing to the objectives of the Africa-Europe partnership in the ocean realm.</p>
<p>Beolobe - Coastal Business Incubator Fellowship program</p>	<p>Madagascar’s first national platform that brings together the island’s community-led conservation initiatives. Aimed at empowering small-scale fishers to design and implement projects that meet their needs. This program aims to establish financially sustainable conservation enterprises in the coastal regions of Madagascar, creating a regenerative blue economy that directly benefits the coastal communities while delivering conservation outcomes.</p>	<p>The program selects 12 local entrepreneurs from three coastal regions of Madagascar and provides them with capacity building in simplified management, entrepreneurship, leadership, and public speaking. Beolobe also assists these individuals in developing their project proposals, which will be launched to investors and companies in Madagascar and Africa. Such incubator fosters innovation and job creation, encouraging cross-pollination of ideas between Africa and Europe. It stimulates economic growth while addressing environmental challenges.</p>
<p>Blue Tourism project</p>	<p>Implemented by Cordio-East Africa and Eco-Union, the project focuses on understanding and evaluating the Environmental Impacts of Coastal and Marine Tourism, at an international level (and in particular with a Mediterranean focus) in order to identify enabling conditions for the integration of environmental planning and sustainable management strategies.</p>	<p>The project has the potential to make a positive impact on sustainable tourism practices, marine conservation, community empowerment, and economic development in coastal areas. By promoting responsible tourism,</p>

		engaging stakeholders, and fostering collaboration, the project aligns with the goals of the Africa-Europe partnership in promoting sustainable coastal and marine management, inclusive growth, and the conservation of ocean resources.
Ocean Hub Africa	A pan-African ocean-impact catalyst based in South Africa focused on ocean impact entrepreneurship, connect, and invest in the ocean impact ecosystem. The acceleration program provides personal, product, and business development for startup market and investor readiness. It also focused on consulting services, with a specific focus on blue economy and entrepreneurship development support in Africa. The third pillar is on ecosystem support via thought leadership, matchmaking and convening within African Blue Economy. It also organises the Ocean Innovation Africa Summit to advance a global ecosystem for ocean solutions.	Work directed towards an ocean-related conducive environment and enabling conditions for business and public-private partnerships. Overall impact: 24 African-based ocean-impact startups supported to date; based in 28 countries across Africa; 80% ventures have successfully raised external funding; 7.5M external funding raised by startups.
Confédération Africaine des Organisations de Pêche Artisanale (CAOPA)	Promotion of sustainable artisanal fishing. Members’ organization representing 26 African countries. Stimulating African development of sustainable artisanal fisheries for the well-being of artisanal fishing communities, and to contribute to the food security of the populations. An influential network that has significant experience of local knowledge.	Work directed towards social actions, economic empowerment, underpinned by inclusivity with a particular focus artisanal fishing communities. Advancing knowledge sharing between this network and the EU reinforces the sharing of best practices.
Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)	Multi-sector collaboration between governments, financial institutions, the insurance industry, environmental organisations and stakeholders from the Global South, for private investments and blended finance into coastal natural capital. The aim is to drive \$500 million by 2030, and at least 15 novel finance products by 2025 and build the resilience of at least 250 million climate-vulnerable coastal people adapting to climate change, by 2030. Projects include the Ocean Resilience Innovation Challenge (ORIC), which acts as an incubator by providing mentoring, leadership training and, for some, funding to help promising projects to scale.	Work directed towards creating an ocean-related conducive environment and enabling conditions for business and public-private partnerships. ORIC launched its third Challenge in January 2023. Individual innovators, experienced implementers as well as start-ups, hubs and accelerators were encouraged to apply. Final projects from

		<p>Africa of the Second Challenge included: (1) Abalobi, South Africa; (2) Aqua-Farms Organization (AFO) / Sea PoWer, Tanzania</p>
<p>Sustainable blue future in the Western Indian Ocean – Institutional Strengthening through Science, Capacity, AssimiLAtion for a Sustainable BLue Economy - SCALABLE.</p>	<p>SCALABLE is a three-year grant from Sida to WIOMSA to support Blue Sustainable Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. WIOMSA will implement projects in science, capacity and policy in 10 WIO countries. WIOMSA projects aim to contribute to a WIO blue economy that: 1) supports a productive and regenerative marine and coastal environment, 2) provides solutions geared toward achieving a circular economy, and 3) is productive for the benefit of people. In addition, the two components will accelerate the implementation of: 4), an Integrated and responsible ocean governance in the WIO.</p> <p>SCALABLE also aims to the WIO and African countries in cooperating to respond to international, regional and national regulations, recommendations, and policy strategies, e.g., the frame of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDG), the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, the Roadmap for the Ocean Decade of Science in Africa, the new global Biodiversity framework, the Decade of Ocean Restoration and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-design of research between WIO and European institutions can lead to enhanced ocean knowledge as well as impactful research and innovation solutions. - Partnership will led to strengthened cooperation in response to international, regional, and national policy and regulations, recommendations, and policy strategies. - Innovative governance frameworks that benefit marine and maritime communities, including strengthening resource management skills and ocean monitoring capacity, contributing to useful regional information and data systems. - Improved measures for mitigating the negative impacts of climate change on ecosystems and people.
<p>Ocean Governance</p>		

<p>EU-Africa Global Gateway Strategic corridors</p>	<p>Creating strategic, sustainable, and secure transport corridors and supporting value chains, services and jobs will benefit industries in both Africa and Europe. The Strategic Corridors underpin the territorial organisation – rural and urban – through reliable networks and services.</p> <p>Eleven strategic corridors aligned with the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA PAP 2) have been identified for an enhanced and greener EU-Africa connectivity. These corridors will facilitate trade and mobility within Africa as well as between Africa and Europe. They will also support investment in sustainable, efficient, and safe connectivity between the continents, thereby developing value-chains that benefit industries both in Africa and Europe.</p>	
<p>Marine Regions Forum</p>	<p>The Marine Regions Forum (MRF) is a multi-stakeholder platform on regional ocean governance. It has been developed and implemented by scientific institutions and think tanks working together within the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG): the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and Think Tank for Sustainability.</p> <p>The first MRF took place in Berlin in 2019. It covered all major ocean governance dilemmas, including ecosystem-based management, climate change mitigation and adaption as well as protection of marine biodiversity. Also the blue economy, for example marine tourism, was on the agenda.</p>	<p>The next edition of the MRF will take place in Tanzania in November 2023, with the support, among others, of the European Commission and Sweden. The spotlight will be put on the Western Indian Ocean. Participants will engaged on outcome-oriented discussions and support the implementation of key ocean-related processes like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the High Seas Treaty.</p>
<p>Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) 2020-2024</p>	<p>Commissioned by BMZ, operated by GIZ and The Nairobi Convention Secretariat. This initiative is about food security, employment, and economic development of the countries in eastern and southern Africa and adjacent island states, including La Réunion (France). Supporting the Nairobi Convention in its environmental goals in the WIO region. Coordination and communication to strengthen partner capacities</p>	<p>WIOGI promotes effective governance, sustainable management, capacity building, stakeholder collaboration, and climate resilience in the Western Indian Ocean region.</p>
<p>Protection of marine environment and Pollution</p>		

<p>‘NaturAfrica’</p>	<p>This is a flagship conservation initiative under the European Global Gateway’s global biodiversity strategy. The EU is working with African partners (governments, local communities, private sector) to implement the initiative in 31 countries.</p> <p>This programme has already supported Gabon in creating marine protected areas and extended its practice to coastal landscapes of West Africa (from Mauritania to Ivory Coast), focusing on sustainable fisheries and the protection of mangroves.</p> <p>Provisional areas for support also include the West Indian Ocean (from the South of Somalia to the North of Mozambique).</p>	<p>The impact of NaturAfrica on the ocean in the context of the Africa-Europe partnership, is still to be assessed.</p>
<p>AU-IBAR Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy 2021-2024</p>	<p>The African Union - InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), with funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), is implementing a project on “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy’, for three years (October 2021 - 2024). The Project’ sets out an agenda for action to “Enhance institutional capacity of African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the utilization, conservation and protection of aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.”</p> <p>The specific objectives of the project are: (1) Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity) (2) Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes (3) Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment. (4) Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management</p>	<p>The promotes sustainable practices, biodiversity conservation, and the development of a responsible blue economy in Africa. It strengthens the capacity of African countries, fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange, and contributes to the Africa-Europe partnership by aligning goals, sharing experiences, and working together towards sustainable and inclusive ocean governance.</p>
<p>The Great Blue Wall 2022-2030</p>	<p>It is a Western Indian Ocean (WIO)-born, African and action-driven initiative to response to the three interconnected crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, and economic decline. Operated by IUCN, UNECA, AU.</p>	<p>3 objectives have been set by 2030 – (1) the Great Blue Wall will fairly and effectively protect 2 million km2 (30% of</p>

	<p>The Great Blue Wall initiative strives to unleash groundbreaking nature-based recovery initiatives by forming a transformative movement that significantly expedites and expands ocean conservation actions. Simultaneously, it seeks to bolster socioecological resilience and foster the growth of a regenerative blue economy. This ambitious endeavour aims to achieve its objectives by fostering political leadership and securing financial backing.</p> <p>Work directed towards the development of a just and sustainable blue economy, with a particular focus on safeguarding the natural environment, and enhancing climate resilience through Nature-based Solutions.</p>	<p>the WIO) and will advocate and provide support at a Pan-African level; (2) will have achieved net-gain of critical blue ecosystems compared to 2020 by conserving and restoring more than 2 million ha of critical ecosystems and will have sequestered more than 100M tons of carbon; (3) will unlock regenerative livelihood opportunities for 70 million people in the WIO, create 10 million blue jobs and support other regions engaged in equivalent efforts.</p>
<p>Varuna program 2022-2026</p>	<p>Funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and implemented by Expertise France for a duration of 48 months starting in January 2022, and with an envelope of 10M euros, it aims to contribute to halting biodiversity loss in the southwest Indian Ocean islands, through raising the awareness of private actors on the issues related to ecological transition. In this context, Varuna’s teams announced on May 5th, 2023 the creation of the Indian Ocean Business-Biodiversity fund, intended to companies and business federations located in Madagascar, Union of Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles. This fund, with an overall budget of 2.5 million euros – is meant to support the projects led by economic actors, in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs). The fund will finance actions that promote biodiversity, in terms of preservation and restoration of marine and/or terrestrial ecosystems, projects which are economically viable, exemplary and reproducible on a regional scale.</p>	<p>Outcomes of the Varuna Program will be assessed against the results of its Indian Ocean Business-Biodiversity Fund. The fund was announced in May 2023.</p>
<p>The Mami Wata Project “Enhancing Marine Management in West, Central and Southern Africa through Training and Application”</p>	<p>The project is implemented by GRID-Arendal and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), through its International Climate Initiative (IKI).</p> <p>The project applies tools and strategies to improve the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity in the 22 Abidjan</p>	<p>The Mami Wata Project's impact in the Africa-Europe partnership can lie in its contributions to marine conservation, sustainable fisheries management, climate change adaptation, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building.</p>

	<p>Convention countries, covering a combined Economic Exclusive Zone of approximately 4.8 million km².</p> <p>. The project develops capacity through a dual approach, by providing knowledge sharing and training to practitioners, and by applying the Integrated Ocean Management tools in pilot projects.</p>	
<p>Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME)</p>	<p>Supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), and implemented by the Benguela Current Commission (BCC). Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) sustainably governs the maritime economy in the Benguela Current ecosystem, while helping to maintain a healthy ecosystem by integrating conservation objectives for marine biodiversity into the planning process. It operates in Angola, Namibia, and South Africa (2014-2022)</p>	<p>The BCLME project has facilitated cross-border collaboration among Angola, Namibia, and South Africa, as well as engagement with European partners. By fostering dialogue, knowledge sharing, and capacity building, the project has strengthened regional cooperation and promoted the exchange of best practices in marine conservation and sustainable use. This collaboration enhances the effectiveness of conservation efforts, facilitates joint management of shared resources, and contributes to the Africa-Europe partnership by promoting shared responsibility for sustainable ocean governance.</p>
<p>Transboundary conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity</p>	<p>The project is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)/ European Union, and implemented by GIZ aims to develop a scientific baseline analysis of biodiversity resources (identification of biodiversity hotspots); Strengthening multi stakeholder processes/platforms (joint identification and creation of new Protected Areas)</p> <p>Creation of 4 new Coastal and/or marine protected areas of which one is transboundary. Alternative income opportunities for coastal communities. The focus is currently on Kenya/Tanzania.</p>	<p>The project focuses on the conservation of aquatic biodiversity in African waters. By promoting sustainable fishing practices, the protection of critical habitats, and the management of key species, it contributes to the preservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. This has positive impacts on both African and European stakeholders by</p>

		ensuring the sustainable use of aquatic resources and maintaining the ecological balance of marine ecosystems.
Blue Action Fund	<p>Blue Action Fund was founded in 2016 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in conjunction with KfW Development Bank. Subsequently, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), and Irish Aid became funding partners.</p> <p>Blue Action Fund is now one of the world’s largest public funders promoting marine conservation and sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities. Public funders promoting marine conservation and sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities. Targeted grants to non-governmental organisations active in developing countries. List of grants and projects.</p>	While the Blue Action Fund has supported several impactful projects in the context of the Africa-Europe ocean partnership, it's important to note that the specific projects and their impact may vary depending on the funding cycles and focus areas of the Blue Action Fund.
Reducing Plastic Leakage into the Ocean	<p>Supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ),and implemented by LafargeHolcim/Geocycle in partnership with GIZ, the project (2017-2021) worked on environmentally and socially sound waste management solutions for reducing plastic leakage into the ocean.</p> <p>The project supports selected municipalities in urban areas of Egypt and Morocco to improve their solid waste management systems. These not only contribute to the prevention of plastic pollution but also create employment opportunities. It supports local partners in understanding the pathways of plastic leakage and works with them to develop effective solutions.</p>	Addressing marine pollution is crucial for both Africa and Europe. Collaborative projects can target the reduction of plastic waste, including promoting recycling and waste management infrastructure. Additionally, efforts can be made to minimize pollution from industrial activities, shipping, and oil exploration, while encouraging the use of clean technologies.
Mangrove Blue Carbon Pilot Program – BE4RAP & West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA)	Launched at COP27, the \$13.5 million program includes financing from IDA, PROBLUE, World Bank, Orsted (Denmark). The funds will go for planting, technical assistance, and maintenance over 20 years of 3,000 hectares of mangrove in Ghana, under the World Bank-financed West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA).	Specific achievements and impacts of the Mangrove Blue Carbon Pilot Program will depend on the implementation strategies, stakeholder engagement, and local contexts in the target regions. Regular monitoring and evaluation will be crucial to assess the

	<p>The program focuses on harnessing the blue carbon potential of mangroves by quantifying and verifying their carbon sequestration capacity. This helps in positioning blue carbon as a valuable asset for climate change mitigation and carbon market opportunities.</p>	<p>program's outcomes and ensure that its goals and objectives are effectively achieved.</p>
<p>Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Professional Network (WIOMPAN)</p>	<p>The Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Management Network (WIOMPAN) is a network of MPA practitioners in the WIO. The Network bring together MPA practitioners from 10 countries in the WIO – Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius, Somalia, Madagascar and Reunion (France). The Network was established to facilitate exchanges between WIO MPA practitioners to deal with common issues in different local contexts. MPAs in the WIO context include all formal marine protected and managed areas under government, communities (LMMAs) and privately managed MPAs Work towards peer-to-peer networking, MPA practitioners’ networks, MPA toolkits</p>	<p>WIOMPAN's impact in the Africa-Europe ocean partnership lies in its contributions to MPA management, regional cooperation, capacity building, community engagement, and knowledge sharing.</p> <p>Exchange learning programmes with similar networks in Europe – MEDPAN-</p> <p>WIOMPAN through WIOMSA has the only MPA professional certification programme that Europe can learn from</p>
<p>Ocean & Climate Platform</p>	<p>The OCP now gathers more than 90 members – research institutes, NGOs, aquariums, private sector, French institutions and international agencies, local authorities.</p> <p>Through its role of interface between science and policy, the Ocean & Climate Platform fosters reflection and exchanges between the scientific community, civil society and policy-makers. Its ambition is to mobilize the largest number of actors for better consideration of the scientific message on the interactions between the ocean, climate and biodiversity by policy-makers and the general public.</p> <p>Projects include (1) consulting and mobilising civil society for the UN Ocean Conference 2025; (2) Sea’Ties, supporting around 30 cities against sea level rise.</p>	<p>Given the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change impacts, joint efforts can be directed towards enhancing climate resilience and adaptation. Projects can include coastal zone management, climate change monitoring and assessment, and the implementation of nature-based solutions to protect against coastal erosion and sea-level rise.</p> <p>This Sea’Ties project strengthens community resilience, safeguards coastal infrastructure, and supports sustainable livelihoods. Collaborative efforts between Africa and Europe can</p>

		bring expertise and resources to tackle shared challenges.
<p>MIHARI Network</p>	<p>An innovative network of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) in coastal communities in Madagascar, formulating recommendations for regulations for public authorities and promoting responsible consumption and extractive practices by empowering artisanal fishers in local biodiversity management, including through community service.</p>	<p>The network's community empowerment, conservation efforts, knowledge sharing, and potential policy influence could make it a valuable initiative in advancing sustainable marine resource management. By promoting bottom-up approaches and community engagement, the MIHARI Network contributes to the broader goals of the Africa-Europe partnership in achieving sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and responsible ocean governance.</p>