



# **Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership Final Report**





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Contact: *CINEA EMFAF CONTRACTS*

E-mail: [CINEA-EMFAF-CONTRACTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CINEA-EMFAF-CONTRACTS@ec.europa.eu)

*European Commission*

*B-1049 Brussels*

*BELGIUM*



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Final Report**

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This report is the outcome of the work carried out by the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance since July 2023. The Group is an initiative of the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), in partnership with the African Union Commission. The initiative is implemented by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF).

The main recommendation of the Strategy Group is the design, institutionalisation and implementation of an Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. This partnership would consist in 1/ a joint vision for a mutually supportive relationship that will focus on equal benefit sharing through inclusive and equitable processes and 2/ concrete outcomes for the two continents on ocean policy and action, including the blue economy. The partnership should be designed to facilitate more effective cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance and blue economy issues, with a focus on sustainability, restoration, regeneration, and resilience.

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership would contribute to advancing a shared vision and Roadmap for an enhanced collaboration, and reinforce the capacities of both Africa and Europe through exchanges and joint understanding of respective development challenges for a strengthened international ocean governance framework and regenerative blue economy.

## Executive Summary

Recognising the growing global significance of the ocean, both the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) have acknowledged the imperative for advancements in ocean governance and sustainable blue economy within and between their respective continents. However, the potential of ocean governance including the blue economy as a pillar of Africa-Europe relations remains largely untapped, representing a missed opportunity for achieving the ocean-related sustainable development goal (SDG14) and implementing the 2030 UN Agenda as a whole.

In this context, the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance is calling for the development of a structured, formal and ambitious Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership (see definition below), encompassing Ocean Governance and Blue Economy. Such partnership would aim to promote sustainable, regenerative blue economy practices at national, regional, and continental levels, alongside the implementation of robust ocean governance mechanisms to support these efforts.

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership would centre on comprehending current ocean trends such as biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution and declining natural resources, and integrating sustainability, restoration, resilience, and regeneration into the ocean governance and blue economy frameworks of collaborating partners. The work of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance contributed to this joint vision and advanced a Roadmap to fully realise and operationalise the proposed enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. The Roadmap developed by the Strategy Group acknowledges the importance of knowledge-sharing, policy alignment, and joint action. It also aims to move beyond traditional models of development aid, which have often favoured one-sided approaches, and instead advocates for more equitable, collective responsibility and collaborative strategies where both Africa and Europe contribute with solutions.

The proposed Roadmap builds on the common development priorities and key workstreams identified for an enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, namely (1) Ocean Governance, (2) Capacity Sharing, and (3) Finance and Investment. It highlights activities to help translate these priorities into concrete proposals and initiatives, as well as aligning and harmonising policies for the development of ocean governance and blue economy across Africa and Europe.

To maximise the effectiveness of the proposed Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, overcome challenges, and ensure the delivery of the actions under the joint vision for ocean governance and blue economy across Africa and Europe, the roadmap suggests enabling actions to foster an effective partnership. It also outlines specific actions to facilitate continued cooperation and collaboration by defining



actions to structure and execute the Roadmap. In addition, the roadmap proposes to set-up an AU-EU Blue Resilience, Regeneration, and Restoration Hub (B3R-Hub) to function as a communications and networking platform and nexus. B3R-Hub would also serve as a mediation body for stakeholders participating in ocean and blue economy development under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. The total estimated cost of implementing all of the development activities described in the Roadmap amounts to 7.9 million EUR (Ocean governance: 2.2 million EUR; Capacity Sharing: 2.95 million EUR; Finance and Investment: 2.75 million EUR).

By strengthening the capacities of partners through exchanges and common understanding of respective development challenges, the Roadmap could facilitate increasingly effective cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance and the sustainable development of the blue economy throughout Africa and Europe. The full operationalisation of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership is a key opportunity to drive political momentum and coherence ahead of key international policy events. But it would require partner countries, programmes, and institutions to engage, collaborate, and contribute to a joint Africa-Europe vision of ocean governance and the development of a regenerative blue economy.

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## Acronyms

ABES	Africa Blue Economy Strategy
AEF	Africa-Europe Foundation
AFD	Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)
AU	African Union
AU-IBAR	African Union International Bureau for Animal Resources
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency - NEPAD
ARBE	AU's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment
BBNJ	Biodiversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
BE	Blue Economy
B3R-Hub	Africa-Europe Blue Resilience, Regeneration, and Restoration Hub
CBAM	EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

COE	Centre of Excellence
COP	Conference of the Parties (see UNFCCC)
DG MARE	European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
EU	European Union
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Money Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IUU fishing	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing
MCSCC	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NDICI	Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation (Global Europe development portfolio)
OG	Ocean Governance
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RECs	Regional Economic Communities (Africa)
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SFPA	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements
STYMP	Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the African Union Agenda 2063
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UAE	United Arabs Emirates
UN	United Nations

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNEP-FI	United Nations Environmental Programme Finance Initiative
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOC	United Nations Ocean Conference
UNOC3	United Nations Ocean Conference 3 (scheduled for 2025)
UNSG	United Nations Secretary General
WTO	World Trade Organisation

## Definitions

Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership	A joint vision for a mutually supportive relationship focusing on equal benefit sharing through inclusive and equitable processes and outcomes for the two continents on ocean policy and action, including the blue economy. The partnership should be designed to facilitate more effective cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance and blue economy issues, with a focus on sustainability, restoration, regeneration, and resilience. The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership would contribute to advancing a shared vision and Roadmap for an enhanced collaboration, as well as reinforcing the capacities of both Africa and Europe through joint exchange and understanding of respective development challenges for a strengthened international ocean governance framework and regenerative blue economy.
Regeneration	The process of renewing and revitalising ecosystems, not just restoring them to their original state but enhancing their health, resilience, capacity to thrive and ability to adapt to changing pressures. It involves activities that support the natural ability of ecosystems to heal and improve, such as fostering biodiversity, enhancing soil and water quality, and promoting sustainable practices that contribute to long-term ecological health and productivity.
Regenerative Blue Economy	An economic model that focuses on both restoring and enhancing the health of aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems with equitable and inclusive processes and outcomes. It goes beyond sustainability by actively improving natural environments through restoring degraded ecosystems, reducing waste through circular economy and low carbon approaches, and improving the delivery of ecosystem services by recognising the value of healthy ecosystems for the functioning of the economy. It also acknowledges the importance of knowledge-sharing, policy alignment, and joint action to achieve its objectives. It also aims to transcend traditional models of development assistance, and advocate for more equitable and collaborative approaches where both Africa and Europe contribute with solutions.
Restoration	Focuses on returning a degraded or damaged ecosystem to its original, pre-disturbed state, aiming to re-establish its historical structure, function, and services. It often involves specific actions to repair damage and restore ecological balance.

Sustainability	The ability to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It focuses on maintaining ecological balance, conserving resources, and ensuring long-term environmental health and economic viability. Sustainable practices aim to minimise negative impacts on the environment while promoting social and economic well-being.
Resilience	The capacity of an ecosystem, economic system or community to withstand and recover from disturbances, such as natural disasters, climate change, or economic shocks. It involves the ability to adapt, transform, and bounce back from adverse events while maintaining essential functions and structures. Resilient systems are robust, flexible, and capable of learning and evolving in response to changing conditions.

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## Introduction

The importance of the ocean is increasingly being recognised on a global scale in terms of sustainable development for all, geopolitical balance, the maintenance of global supply chains, food security, climate change, and in addressing long-lasting environment and climate challenges. North-South cooperation is thus crucial for leveraging the ocean for mutual benefit on inter-continental- and global scales. An Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership would represent a key development opportunity to drive political momentum and reinforce strategic cooperation on ocean governance at a cross-continental and global level, addressing contested issues, and ensuring the theme of ocean builds a strong platform for greater multilateralism. It should also be about developing policies and actions that combine sustainable use of socio-economic opportunities and include environmental protection as a key matter.

This includes working towards a joint Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership towards 2030 and beyond. Aligned with the longer-term aspirations of the two continents (2050/2063), the goal would be to inform decision makers across Africa and Europe on the necessity to invest on ocean governance and a sustainable blue economy for enhanced cooperation, employment opportunities, revenue generation, climate and biodiversity positive growth, and position Africa and Europe as drivers of an ambitious global ocean agenda.

A strengthened Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership could be underpinned by key Africa-Europe and international events, such as the upcoming AU-EU Ministerial Meeting (Belgium), BlueInvest Africa (Togo), the 8<sup>th</sup> OACPS Fisheries and ocean ministerial meeting (Tanzania), the UN Summit of the Future (United States), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Africa Blue Summit (Morocco), UNFCCC COP29 (Azerbaijan), the 7<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit (Africa), the Blue Economy Finance Forum – BEFF (Monaco), and the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Ocean Conference (France).

Ocean governance has, for long, remained an undervalued dimension of Africa-Europe relations and is seen as a missed opportunity to advance an ambitious ocean governance agenda. It is acknowledged with grave concern the fact that less than 1% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding is allocated to ocean development internationally, with SDG 14: Life Below Water being the most underfunded of all SDGs, with only [0.68%](#) of total SDG financing directed to it in 2021. In the context of Africa, it is estimated that 3% of ODA in 2021 were directed towards SDG14. Insufficient, misallocated, and mismanaged funding is a major challenge faced by nations in facilitating the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, among which low- and middle-income countries continue, among others, to face the challenges of accessing finance and at an affordable cost.



There has been limited integration of the blue economy and ocean governance concerns in the context of the institutional relationships between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU), and the context of the Africa-Europe Partnership on Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy is a key opportunity for further progress in this regard, especially considering the upcoming new political cycles of the commissions for both institutions. Both AU and EU recognise the need for progress in ocean governance while concurrently considering socio-economic opportunities at different levels of development across the African and European continents. The EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa adopted in March 2020, the EU's Communication on International Ocean Governance and a new approach for a sustainable blue economy, and the recently adopted AU's Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYMP) point to the need to increase investments in ocean governance, including sustainable fisheries and the blue economy. They identify the domain as an area of cooperation between Africa and Europe. Yet a potential partnership on the ocean and blue economy was absent from the main dialogues and conclusions of the 6th Summit of EU and AU Heads of State (held in February 2022); and also represented the least funded Sustainable Development Goal within the framework of Agenda 2030. Given the ocean shared seascapes between and around Africa and Europe, the health of the ocean is our common responsibility, and the proper management of marine resources around the world is of essence, it remains fundamental for the two continents to align, work jointly, seek mutual understanding and unlock opportunities to mainstream ocean and blue economy across their Partnership.

Against this backdrop, the European Commission decided to establish an Africa-Europe Strategy Group on ocean governance. The Group was set-up in partnership with the African Union Commission and facilitated by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) to strengthen the understanding and cooperation capacities of Africa and Europe by forging a joint and mutually beneficial vision towards 2030 for the two continents on ocean governance and the blue economy.

Consequently, the Strategy Group defined a Roadmap for an enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership that is the result of an inclusive and multi-disciplinary work process. The Roadmap seeks to increase the level of understanding between the two continents, expand sharing of knowledge and capacity building, and increase the momentum around ocean governance at cross-continental level, and worldwide, so to achieve and implement European and African aspirations, including the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below water), and other ocean-related targets.

### **The Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance**

The establishment of the multi-stakeholder Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance represents a concrete deliverable under the renewed Partnership between Africa and Europe. Composed of a wide variety of members and active observers from Africa and Europe, and co-chaired by two eminent personalities, Amb. Nancy Karigithu and Pascal Lamy, the setting-up of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance can be seen as a contribution towards enhancing the cross-continental Partnership.

Driven by a shared mandate of the two institutions, the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance is an initiative implemented by the Africa-Europe Foundation and led by the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), in partnership with the African Union Commission.

The core purpose of the Strategy Group is to promote closer cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance, building on and complementing the work already done and ongoing. Building on its mandate, the Strategy Group works to strengthen the understanding and cooperation capacities of Africa and Europe by forging a joint exchange and learning platform and creating a mutually beneficial vision for the two continents on ocean.

It seeks to increase the level of understanding between the two continents, expand sharing of knowledge and capacity building, and increase the momentum around ocean governance at cross-continental level, and worldwide, so to achieve and implement the EU and AU's aspirations, as well as the United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below water).

#### ***Objectives of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance:***

- Facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue (with 30 experts participating in working group and workstream discussions), catalyse collaboration and unlock opportunities that can transform dialogue into good will with potential associated socio-economic development and opportunities, centred around ocean governance, sustainable blue economy and sea basin strategies or initiatives.
- Contribute to reframe the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership at continental level and within the international arena, starting at an institutional level (AU-EU) – including upcoming presidencies of the EU Council and AU, and explore avenues for strengthened collective action.

- Identify a set of actions that can provide impetus for a solid Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, delivering practical solutions on the ground, and building on the results of past and on-going EU funded programmes and African initiatives on ocean governance and blue economy in Africa.
- Open fresh policy thinking on ocean by exploring both contentious topics that currently derail the Partnership and strategic foresight to create a common vision for both continents by 2030, with a set of proposals/initiatives needed to get there.
- Ensure lessons from this work are targeted at policymakers and the wider Africa-Europe community and associating key development actors to transform the output of the dialogue into policy influence and operational implementation.

The Roadmap proposes to advance the development of the regenerative blue economy at national, regional and continental scales and concurrently implement effective ocean governance mechanisms in contribution to this aim. A regenerative blue economy is more progressive than existing blue economy or sustainable blue economy approaches as it prioritises the restoration and revitalisation of aquatic and marine ecosystems, rather than merely maintaining their current state. While a sustainable blue economy focuses on the responsible use and conservation of aquatic and marine resources to ensure their availability for future generations, a regenerative approach actively seeks to improve the health and resilience of environments through initiatives that restore damaged habitats, enhance biodiversity, and create a net positive impact on the ecosystems, ultimately leading to more robust and resilient economies and societies. It recognises the need to advance effective ocean governance and is committed to invest in the blue economies of both the African and European continents, through a mutually supportive partnership anchored in the principles of sustainability, restoration, regeneration and resilience.

The Roadmap builds on current ocean trends of addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and resource depletion, and integrates the concepts of restoration, regeneration, and resilience into the blue economy and ocean governance structures of its partners by incorporating them into actions to improve policy frameworks, management practices and strategic planning. This can be achieved through various mechanisms such as regulatory reforms, incentives for sustainable practices, and collaborative efforts with stakeholders. It also acknowledges the importance of knowledge-sharing, policy alignment, and joint action to achieve its objectives. It aims to transcend traditional models of development assistance, and advocate for more equitable and collaborative

approaches where both Africa and Europe contribute with both traditional knowledge and innovative solutions.

### Roadmap context

Through the strategic Phase 1 Interim Report, the Group produced a mid-term report and consolidated results from the Strategy Group's first series of meetings and research. It identified common priority intervention areas and work streams of potential action, challenges, opportunities, and recommendations to strengthen the ocean partnership between the two continents. The Phase 1 Report, which paved the way to the Action Plan (also referred as the 'Roadmap'), discussed key insights and recommendations, including strategic dimensions, policy considerations, and actionable recommendations for strengthening the Africa-Europe Partnership on ocean governance and blue economy.

The Roadmap builds on the common priorities and key work streams identified for enhanced cooperation between Africa and Europe, under a proposed Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. It highlights activities to help translate the identified priorities into concrete proposals and initiatives, as well as aligning and harmonising policies for the development of ocean governance and blue economy across Africa and Europe. The Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, following a multi-stakeholder consultative process, identified three priority intervention areas to advance ocean policy outputs and transformative ideas in the short- and long-term: (1) Ocean Governance, (2) Capacity Sharing, and (3) Finance and Investment.

In its endeavour to strengthen the understanding and cooperation capacities of Africa and Europe by forging a joint and mutually beneficial vision towards 2030 for the two continents on ocean governance and the blue economy, the Strategy Group recommends formalising an Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership.

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership consists of a joint vision for a mutually supportive relationship focusing on equal benefit sharing through inclusive and equitable processes and outcomes for the two continents on ocean policy and action, including the blue economy. The partnership should be designed to facilitate more effective cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance and blue economy issues, with a focus on sustainability, restoration, regeneration, and resilience.

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership would foster an environment of mutual respect and collaborative learning, ensuring that the benefits of enhanced ocean governance and the sustainable development of a blue economy are shared in a responsible manner for the benefits of the two continents and the ocean, a global public good.

With its Roadmap, the Strategy Group seeks to address contentious issues that affect the Africa-Europe partnership on ocean governance and blue economy. As such, the Strategy Group calls for a more institutionalised cooperation between Africa and Europe on issues related to the ocean and the blue economy and proposes actions to generate a more favourable enabling environment for a solid Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership.

### Objectives

**Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance objective:** The Strategy Group aims to strengthen the understanding and cooperation capacities of Africa and Europe by forging a joint and mutually beneficial vision, taking the shape of a solid Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, towards 2030 for the two continents on ocean governance and the blue economy.

**Roadmap objective:** This Roadmap provides an Action Plan to the steering authorities of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, namely the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), and the African Union Commission, for the realisation of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, facilitated through the B3R-Hub, under three priority intervention areas: (1) Ocean Governance, (2) Capacity Sharing, and (3) Finance and Investment. This document also discusses various steps for the development of an enabling environment to facilitate continued collaboration between Africa and Europe and to execute the Roadmap.

**Objective of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership:** Advancing a joint vision for a mutually supportive relationship focusing on equal benefit sharing through inclusive and equitable processes and outcomes for the two continents on ocean policy and action, including the blue economy. Actions under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership should be designed to facilitate more effective cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance and blue economy issues, with a focus on sustainability, restoration, regeneration, and resilience. In its effort, the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership would contribute to advancing a shared vision and Roadmap for an enhanced collaboration, as well as reinforcing the capacities of both Africa and Europe through joint exchange and understanding of respective development challenges for a strengthened international ocean governance framework and regenerative blue economy.

### Joint benefits of adopting the Roadmap for an enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership

- The Roadmap serves as a tool to enlarge the Africa-Europe partnership to new and diverse actors, deepening concrete areas of cooperation, with the aim to unlocking dormant opportunities and

scaling-up existing activities, as well as opening-up space for fresh policy thinking and sustainable joint actions in the long-term.

- The Roadmap demonstrates that ocean governance and blue economy represent a strategic domain of cooperation which had been largely neglected – at both the multilateral level and in the framework of the EU-AU Partnership - but a domain which remains critical to accelerating global climate and biodiversity action and socio-economic development.
- The Roadmap evidences the impact of a first project of its kind, ‘to co-design an Africa-Europe multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to Ocean Governance and Blue Economy’. It also underpins the legacy strategy, evidencing a number of proposals/activities to significantly scale up the reach, visibility and political impact of EU-Africa cooperation on Ocean.
- The Roadmap demonstrates how the establishment of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group has moved the needle when it comes to mainstreaming Ocean Governance and Blue Economy in the AU-EU Dialogue. The Roadmap provides a repository of solutions for significant impact at a national, cross-continental and multilateral level.
- The Roadmap evidences that by working together, the EU and Africa could develop and implement more effective policies and practices to ensure the long-term health and productivity of ocean ecosystems. Collaboration in ocean governance can enhance the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources. This includes fisheries management, marine biodiversity conservation, and addressing pollution and climate change impacts.
- The Roadmap underpins that a robust blue economy partnership can stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities in both regions. This collaboration can facilitate investments in sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transportation, renewable energy, and tourism, leading to job creation and income generation for local communities in Africa and Europe alike.
- The Roadmap highlights that joint initiatives in ocean governance can promote innovation and knowledge exchange between Europe and Africa. This collaboration can facilitate the sharing of best practices, technologies, and scientific research, fostering mutual learning and capacity building to the benefits of both continents. By leveraging each other's expertise and resources, both regions can advance their understanding of ocean dynamics and develop innovative solutions to common challenges.

- The Roadmap supports that strengthened cooperation in ocean governance can enhance ecosystems resilience and climate adaptation efforts in both regions. Given the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change impacts such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and ocean acidification, collaborative action is essential to build adaptive capacity and mitigate risks. By working together, Europe and Africa can develop climate-resilient strategies and promote sustainable development, including greater joint action towards SDG14.
- The Roadmap underscores that a strategic partnership in ocean governance can strengthen diplomatic and geopolitical relations between Europe and Africa, and reinforce the partnership on the international stage. By engaging in cooperative initiatives to address shared maritime challenges, both regions can build trust and goodwill, paving the way for enhanced cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. This collaboration can also contribute to regional stability and security by promoting peaceful maritime coexistence and preventing conflicts over ocean resources.

### Strategic actions to structure and execute the Roadmap

Several challenges risk hindering ongoing and future Africa-Europe relations and collaborative efforts. They include contentious issues that have the potential to derail the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, to the detriment of progress in sustainable ocean and blue economy for the peoples of both continents.

The main common challenges are: (i) an internal and external breakdown in communication between different stakeholders as well as representatives; (ii) failure to make resources available in a timely manner and commensurate to the scope of the challenges; (iii) unsynchronised delivery of project outputs causing stakeholder and partner frustrations; (iv) differences in the prioritisation of development needs (at regional, national and continental level); (v) addressing imbalanced or inequitable access to the global commons (communal ocean resources) at varying resolutions; (vi) equitable participation of all parties concerned (including women, youth and indigenous populations and local communities); (vii) addressing knowledge gaps and ocean literacy (including those on sustainably financing the blue economy); (viii) a lack of data and technological resources for data-driven policy-making for addressing complex challenges; and (ix) maritime security challenges.

To overcome the above-mentioned challenges, shared by both continents, the establishment of the proposed Africa-Europe Partnership on Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy, and an appropriate enabling environment is needed to

ensure the delivery of the actions set out in this Roadmap under the proposed partnership. To facilitate the right enabling environment to structure and execute the Roadmap, the following actions have been identified as essential in facilitating the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership and its objective.

Specific actors are mentioned but different directorate-generals (DGs) of the European Commission and divisions of the African Union Commissions (AUCs) can also play a role in the execution of the activities, based on the scope of portfolios and related priorities. The delivery of the roadmap is not exclusive to DG MARE of the European Commission, and the Blue Economy Division of the African Union Commission. Beyond institutional actors, it is imperative to use direct on-the-ground implementation partners of all nature, in addition to international organisations, as well as to stress the necessity to prioritise synergies with existing actions that fulfil similar objectives to each of the individual "activities" identified in the report.

**Co-produce and institutionalise a *Memorandum of understanding and cooperation for the Africa-Europe Partnership on Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy, signed by the European and African Union Commissions*:** The signature of a memorandum of understanding and cooperation would facilitate a joint vision for future development in ocean governance and the regenerative blue economy across both the African and European continents. It would mark the official commencement of the Africa-Europe Partnership on Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy, reinforce the commitment the partners have in striving towards their common objectives, and describe the goals and limitations of their collaborative actions and interventions under the Africa-Europe Partnership. It would further adopt a regenerative blue economy approach, recognising the innovative and progressive approach needed to overcome the pervasive issues within the sustainable development approach.

**Co-Institute an Africa-Europe Blue Resilience, Regeneration, and Restoration Hub (B3R-Hub):** The role of the B3R-Hub would be to function as a communications and networking platform and nexus; and serving as a mediation body for different stakeholders participating in ocean and blue economy development under the Africa-Europe partnership. The purpose of the B3R-Hub would not be to support development activities (as this is the mandate of other projects and organisations), but instead to provide the necessary facilities and means to enable clear, effective communication; and contact points for partners wishing to collaborate; facilitate and disseminate the sharing of best practices from both the EU and the AU among different stakeholders; it would mediate the resolution of conflicts that may arise, and may otherwise serve as the authoritative institution (if adopted by both parties) on recommended ocean governance and blue economy practices. The hub would aim to advocate for the



concepts of sustainability, resilience, regeneration, and restoration of the blue economy throughout its activities, and to facilitate continued amicable and transparent communication and discussion between different parties for the delivery of ocean governance development priorities, and regenerative blue economy.

The Africa-Europe B3R-Hub will contribute to supporting the institutional AU-EU partnership and realise the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, enhance existing initiatives and contribute to the emergence of new collaborations for the restoration of the coasts and the seas as well as improving the resilience capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems in the context of disruptive climate change and anthropic effects. As identified by the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, the B3R-Hub will intervene in three main areas of cooperation for an enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership: (1) Ocean Governance, (2) Capacity sharing, and (3) Finance & Investment (see below).

The establishment of an Africa-Europe Blue Resilience, Regeneration, and Restoration Hub (B3R-Hub) has been strongly suggested to better facilitate the implementation of the Roadmap, as well as contribute to the development of an enabling environment for continued collaboration and cooperation between Africa and Europe. Through the multi-stakeholder B3R-Hub, the Roadmap would facilitate and strengthen cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance and the blue economy and forge a mutually beneficial vision in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the EU Communications on International Ocean Governance and a sustainable blue economy, and the AU's Agenda 2063.

Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the B3R-Hub should be developed to guide the actions and operations of the Hub in facilitating the effective partnership, communication, and relations between the multiple African and European partners on matters of ocean governance and the blue economy. The Terms of Reference can serve as a mandate for the organisation's operations under a set of common structuring objectives, and has the great advantage of being transversal on all issues relating to ocean governance and the blue economy.

**Co-establish an Africa-Europe Advisory Panel for the Africa-Europe B3R-Hub and Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership:** The establishment of an Africa-Europe Advisory Panel (or Working Group) to advise the Africa-Europe B3R-Hub (and by extension, the European and African Union Commissions) on critical ocean governance and blue economy topics is recommended. The aim of such an Advisory Panel would be to ensure that the objectives and development activities under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership are evidence-based and are informed and designed using scientific principles and data-driven conclusions. An Advisory Panel composed of a minimum of 12 experts in different

fields of ocean governance and the blue economy (6 experts from the EU and AU, respectively) is recommended, and can provide relevant insights through expertise in niche areas and contribute to the development of new innovations and mechanisms. The Advisory Panel would act as a central point for knowledge and capacity sharing within the B3R-Hub, and serve to connect with and develop networks with other experts under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, to facilitate informed decision-making and swift action when necessary.

**Enhance the working relationship between the AU Blue Economy Division and the EU Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE):** The African Union (AU) is leading the continent in the Ocean and Blue Economy, both through its leadership and defining continental priorities, as demonstrated through the 2023 Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa, as well as the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action, an outcome of the first Africa Climate Summit. Furthermore, the AU's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) leads the efforts to promote sustainable environmental management and agricultural development by boosting member states' rural economy development and agricultural transformation by supporting the adoption of measures, strategies, policies and programmes on agriculture. Such leadership must be matched by the international community to elevate and strengthen cooperation and realise Africa's aspirations, as enshrined in the AU-IBAR Africa Blue Economy Strategy of 2022 (ABES). Developing a strong relationship between the AU and the EU is thus necessary for delivering the common objectives of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership surrounding Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy, in different AU and EU member states. An enhanced EU partnership, through DG MARE, with the AU Blue Economy division of the ARBE would result in more effective coordination between development partners in relevant AU member states (such as RECs among others), contributing to the dissemination of best practices and sharing of knowledge, and contribute to the implementation of blue economy policy development and international agreements (such as multilateral environmental agreements) through specific development projects and programmes.

**Foster strong stakeholder coalition between AU Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the European Commission and European Union Member States:** The development of the blue economy is a significant opportunity for the development of national economies across Africa, and thus aligns with the objectives and mandates of AU RECs, as well as the Africa-Europe Partnership. Establishing a strong stakeholder coalition involving RECs, the European Commission and EU Member States would significantly improve the delivery of project outcomes on regional and national levels, contribute to amicable future collaborations, including bilateral partnerships, and would

continue to facilitate positive development initiatives under a joint Africa-Europe vision of ocean governance and the blue economy.

**Prioritise cross-cutting development activities rather than sectoral or siloed ones:** The Blue Economy specifies a holistic approach to sustainable development instead of the more conventional sectoral or siloed approach. This holistic approach differs in that it considers the future development needs of multiple ocean sectors when prioritising development opportunities, whereas the siloed approach focuses on the needs of only one sector at a time. The integration of this holistic view under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership facilitates optimal resource use by ensuring that development goals are achieved through prioritising development activities that are cross-cutting and thus confer benefits to multiple sectors instead of generating major trade-offs between singular ones.

**Advance a joint Africa-Europe research agenda on the ocean:** As part of development initiatives under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, a joint Africa-Europe Ocean research agenda should be developed to address key knowledge gaps surrounding ocean governance, the blue economy, and other relevant ocean related topics. This research agenda could then be used to complement and guide development projects and initiatives to address prioritised activities under the action plan. The research agenda also has the potential of building capacity for ocean literacy across Africa and Europe. This cross-continental research agenda can be informed from the progress achieved through the institutional AU-EU ocean research agenda.

**Promote and deliver joint Africa-Europe Ocean literacy programmes across both continents:** Ocean literacy is essential in understanding the dynamics that affect different ocean-related activities at various levels of resolution, and how to leverage them. It is thus necessary to develop joint ocean literacy programmes across both continents, and support current ocean literacy programmes where they exist (such as from the EU), as this will facilitate enhanced delivery of development project outcomes by stakeholders and project participants, as well as ensure long-term engagement with ocean-related development among the public. The implementation of ocean literacy programmes allows the public to explore ocean related ventures, blue businesses, and ocean-based incubation and acceleration programmes (whether entrepreneurial, academic, social or cultural), to gain perspective around ocean-related needs, and facilitate public participation in development initiatives where they may previously not have been able to do so. Ocean literacy programmes are also an opportunity to garner support and buy-in for development initiatives under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, thus further reinforcing its need and the benefits it can offer over the long-term.

**Elaborate a joint Africa-Europe plan to overcome maritime safety and security challenges as well as IUU fishing in Africa:** IUU fishing, maritime safety and security challenges, including piracy, have long been a significant challenge that has hindered the development of coastal countries in Africa. While these challenges are independent, some externalities can overlap. Given that there are at least 15 sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) between the EU and African countries, the issues of IUU fishing are highly relevant to the EU. The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership is an ideal opportunity to address these problems through its joint vision for ocean governance and the development of the blue economy, by developing a joint plan for overcoming these complex challenges. The EU can continue to provide significant logistic and financial support in strong collaboration with coastal countries that are facing these challenges, mediating negotiation challenges that may arise, between different African contexts, in a joint effort to overcome them. Ending IUU fishing in African coastal countries has benefits for the EU as well, as this may result in addressing overfishing and protecting the marine environment, enhancing biodiversity conservation and restoration, including the sustainable use of ocean, seas and marine resources.

**Organise joint Africa-Europe convenings and workshops with other agencies and programmes to facilitate strong working collaborations and increase reach:** The institutionalisation of joint Africa-Europe workshops with other organisations and development programmes is essential as opportunities for the sharing of knowledge and best practices concerning ocean and blue economy development. Exposure to different views and approaches to ocean governance can facilitate the development of unique solutions and policies with which to address complex problems across the African and European continents. These workshops would also be an opportunity to collaborate, integrate, and support development projects to facilitate the improved delivery of shared development objectives and goals. The creation and institutionalisation of an Africa-Europe Ocean Governance and Blue Economy Ministerial Summit under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership is recommended, with the inclusion of Ministers or designated national high-level representatives, to meet every 2 years to review progress and share development solutions between partners and stakeholders. In doing so, Africa and Europe could convene leaders from the two continents to elevate the bar politically and financially for the ocean. The Ministerial Conference could be supported by the work of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, the Advisory Panel of the Africa-Europe B3R-Hub, to advance continental priorities, seek common ground and mobilise a Team Europe and Team Africa approach for the benefit of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership.

## Priority intervention areas

The Roadmap for an enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership has been elaborated along three priority intervention areas:

- (1) Ocean Governance
- (2) Capacity Sharing
- (3) Finance and Investment

### Intervention Area 1: Ocean governance

Global recognition of the importance of the ocean for sustainable development, trade, employment opportunities, revenue generation, and the current geopolitical landscape, emphasises the need for effective and cohesive ocean governance approaches. Ocean governance has not been capitalised upon enough as a significant vector through which to advance sustainable development at national, regional, and international levels. The potential of effective and coherent ocean governance to facilitate enhanced trade, diplomatic relations, and development opportunities at varying scales is significant in the context of Africa-Europe relations.

As unprecedented times call for unity, solidarity, strengthened multilateralism and win-win partnerships, the new Samoa Agreement represents a collective approach to address some of the greatest challenges of our times - from climate change, ocean governance, migration, health to peace and security. Following up from Cotonou, it brings together 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and EU Member States around common priorities and interests. Thanks to its recent modernisation, the text provides a common basis for strengthening cooperation on resilience to natural disasters and a framework for better equipping ACP countries and the EU to face key growing challenges. The African Protocol within the Samoa Agreement is tailored to address the specific needs and priorities of African countries within the ACP group. It focuses on enhancing cooperation in areas such as climate change adaptation, sustainable development, economic growth, and governance. The protocol aims to strengthen resilience to natural disasters, improve food security, and promote sustainable management of natural resources. For the first time, both parties officially recognise in the text the essential role of the ocean for life on earth, sustainable development and food security, and commit to promote the blue economy and redouble their efforts to protect the ocean from the various pressures it faces. Both parties shall indeed promote dialogue and cooperation on all aspects of ocean governance, including issues related to climate change, sea level rise, seabed mining, fisheries, marine pollution and research and development. Furthermore, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a prime example of realising the growing importance of Africa as a strategic partner for Europe in areas such as ocean trade, investment, and security; and

presents a unique opportunity for increased collaboration surrounding ocean governance to facilitate trade and economic integration between Africa and Europe.

Cooperation and collaboration on ocean governance hold a strategic opportunity for both Africa and Europe to drive different aspects of the sustainable development agenda forward. The current multipolar global balance of power is full of opportunities for cooperation where Africa can exercise agency and use its soft power to advance foreign policy agendas through its many partnerships with traditional partners, such as the EU. With a joint position and common understanding of global treaties that are being negotiated, ratified and/or implemented, the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership could facilitate a greater number of ratifications to secure the operationalisation of key international agreements, as well as to contribute positively to ongoing multilateral processes. Examples include the Global Plastics Treaty, the BBNJ Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, WTO fisheries subsidies, regulations on deep-sea mining, climate and biodiversity COPs, the 7<sup>TH</sup> AU-EU Summit, and the third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) scheduled in 2025. Building on effective cooperation in the context of the Samoa agreement, the alignment of other frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), including international ones, provides a strategic opportunity to focus on governance, associated with the mid-term review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the latest UNSG SDG Summit and unmet SDG14, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, in addition to a next cycle of EU policy and programming starting in 2024 and the AU's Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership offers great potential for diplomatic success in negotiating additional international support for multilateral agreements and treaties, through collaboration opportunities in areas which have previously been identified as common development priorities, such as ocean governance. The EU has committed EUR 40 million to support the ratification of the BBNJ agreement by the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) in June 2025. Given that this financing will only be released in early 2025, the proposed partnership offers an opportunity to facilitate more seamless and rapid support for ratification given the small window between disbursement and UNOC3. Through the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, the two continents could facilitate a joint effort at multilateral level to address collective responsibility regarding the state of the ocean and strengthen international ocean governance. The development of a joint vision on ocean governance through the alignment of ocean governance policies (at national, regional, and continental levels) can facilitate greater cross-continental and global impact in terms of the protection, regulation, and optimal management

of ocean resources and services. It will also reaffirm the message that Africa and Europe are united on sustainable management and use of the ocean.

Positions on international agreements and treaties vary across different African and European countries. However, strong leadership can be leveraged to garner support for the ratification of international treaties and the development of a long-lasting Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. The 2023 AU Chairmanship of Comoros, a Small Island Developing State, and the recent Africa-led movement towards a regenerative blue economy following both the Moroni, Nairobi, and Tangier Declarations have demonstrated strong African leadership on ocean governance. It is in the interest of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership to leverage the leadership of the African continent, in addition to the consistent leadership from Europe and associated institutions on the blue economy to mobilise financial resources and investments, provide guidance and strategic advice on policies, programmes and initiatives, for the development of a joint vision on ocean governance and the development of a nature-climate-people positive blue economy. The engagement of the EU in high-level diplomacy events such as the African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Forums offer practical ways to negotiate, align and deepen the scope of Africa-Europe cooperation. This is to achieve a joint regenerative blue economy as well as secure Partnerships and commitments from the EU. The current momentum and traction established by African Leaders to build direct synergies and action-oriented Partnerships with Europe (such as through the Moroni, Nairobi, and Tangier Declarations on Climate Change, and the Great Blue Wall initiative, COST-Action, SEA-EU, UN Ocean Decade programme, among others) could play an instrumental role in translating the Africa-Europe Partnership into ambitious action and impact on the ground, through directed development programmes targeting specific joint-development needs.

The development of a common ideal of ocean governance, if pursued with honest intent and just implementation amongst and within countries, can provide a shared space for building peace, security, and an equitable vision of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership over the long term. Africa and Europe can work together as partners on ocean governance and strive towards a just and equitable sustainable blue economy for the benefit of the people and the planet.

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It is proposed that the following activities are included in the 'Roadmap for an enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership under the Ocean Governance intervention area:

### Activity 1.1 Support Africa-Europe Inter-Agency coordination through developing large, long-term and high impact programmes

Large scale projects offer the potential for significant impact in terms of sustainable development for communities across Africa and Europe. The long-term success of large-scale development projects is more likely ensured with the involvement of multiple stakeholders, as it allows for a greater pool of resources (financial, knowledge and expertise, technical capacity) to be sourced and directed at addressing a development need and ensures a measure of accountability between the partner organisations for the successful delivery of the project in question. In addition, the coordination of efforts between multiple agencies and organisations can be leveraged in the timely dissemination and implementation of best-practices and recent developments over a greater resolution (resulting in integrated development approaches), as well providing increased confidence for attracting donor contribution. This activity centres on building upon the progress of previous and current development programmes (such as regional ocean programmes under the NDICI - Global Europe portfolio) and enhancing the relationships between established development institutions to have even greater impact and reach through the development of ambitious large-scale projects through resource sharing and successful collaboration.

Activity 1.1	Support Africa-Europe inter-agency coordination through developing large, long-term and high impact programmes	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Ocean Governance	
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Facilitate enhanced coordination, communication, and collaboration between institutional and development agencies.</li> <li>ii) Harness synergies between agencies to develop large-scale programmes.</li> <li>iii) Attract donor funding through successful project partnerships between development agencies.</li> </ul>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to successfully implement projects and programmes that involve the coordinated efforts of multiple development organisations, to ensure project delivery.</p> <p>Examples include supporting projects surrounding joint ocean governance actions on the High Seas and areas</p>	



beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ treaty), such as increasing the implementation of effective area-based management conservation including the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Networks and supporting Locally Managed Marine Protected Areas (LMMAs) and ocean corridors to allow marine mammals to avoid noise pollution in the water column. The cooperative network of development agencies can also be used to implement sustainability movements in multiple countries, such as decarbonisation of shipping, transition to more circular economy practices, and addressing pollution (such as marine plastics and litter).

Supporting the coordination of multiple development agencies can be facilitated by:

- Multilateral cooperation agreements between development partners and programme coordinators detailing a joint mission statement (like an MoU) and the roles of each partner organisation, for individual development projects.
- The implementation of specific communication protocols and project specific communication platforms to enhance transparency and enable networking between organisations. This may include establishing known points of contact within different development organisations.
- Facilitating the movement of resources between partners, to locations where they are most required (including between partners that have not specifically entered into a multilateral cooperation agreement).
- Developing a transparent system of accounting for joint resources expenditure.
- Enhanced monitoring and reporting to better track project progress and avoid the duplication of research efforts (this may be particularly useful for attracting donor funding and fostering donor confidence).
- The development of a thorough, complete, and transparent database that catalogues all of the partner organisations for any one project, as well as project progress. This allows other organisations to offer assistance when they have the capacity to do

	so.
Proposed Partner institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, AFD, ADF, ADB, FAO, GIZ, World Bank
Implementation period	2024-2030

### **Activity 1.2 Share best practices for negotiation and support for effective implementation of international treaties, conventions, and sustainability targets**

The scale of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership offers the opportunity for knowledge sharing between Europe and Africa as well as between countries within the respective continents. Harnessing this potential is key for strengthening the Africa-Europe partnership as well as effectively implementing multi-national development plans, particularly the Africa Ocean Decade Plan, and international treaties and sustainability targets, such as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ), the Global Plastics Treaty once adopted, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including Targets 14/15 on (instruments/legislation and ensuring production sectors develop with minimum impact on biodiversity), Target 1 on (marine spatial planning, and this links to 2.2), Target 10 on (production seascapes) and Target 23, section C on (equity) as a transversal common goal for the objectives of the Africa-Europe Partnership. Knowledge sharing in this context should be institutionalised into ocean governance policy, such that the best practices for implementing these programmes are put into action, and so that the most optimal approaches for the varied (and often unique) development contexts across Africa are utilised.

Support for the ratification of BBNJ should consider national economic zones. For example, within the Mediterranean region the WestMED Initiative offers an opportunity to bring Portugal, Spain, France, Malta, Italy, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania together to accelerate the ratification of the BBNJ treaty, particularly given the Presidency of the AU by Mauritania, by elevating it politically. The EU has committed EUR 40 million to support the ratification of the BBNJ agreement with the aim to have the Treaty entering into force by the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) in June 2025. Given that this financing will only be released in early 2025, the proposed partnership offers an opportunity to facilitate more seamless and rapid support for ratification given the small window between disbursement and UNOC3. This is very much in line with the new AU Commission that is coming into force at the same time as the disbursement associated with the revision of the EU 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) which is currently under evaluation. These can be leveraged to speed up the process for ratification and the actions under this activity can provide countries with further

necessary information, effective practice examples and confidence to speed up the process of ratifications.

In terms of the Global Plastics Treaty, negotiations are still ongoing to develop an international legally binding instrument on limiting and eliminating plastic pollution from the marine environment. The 19th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held on 16 August 2023, has called on Africa's 54 Ministers of Environment to urge Member States to adopt a progressive plan that supports ambitious goals towards a strong Global Plastics Treaty. In Africa, 34 governments have passed a law banning single use plastics and implemented or passed a law with the intention of implementation. Cooperation between Europe and Africa in ratifying and implementing the Global Plastics Treaty would involve a coordinated and collaborative effort to address plastic pollution at scale.

Africa has the most to gain from ambitious implementation of these international programmes, and the most to lose if the high seas remain a free-for-all, and a “business as usual” approach is followed.

Activity 1.2	Share best practices for effective implementation of international treaties, conventions, and sustainability targets	Priority: <b>Medium</b>
Key intervention area	Ocean Governance	
Objective(s)	<p>i) Provide a networking and communications platform for the sharing of best practices for unique contexts in Africa.</p> <p>ii) Facilitate the implementation of best practices for development goals.</p>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to facilitate the exchange and sharing of best practices, such as the methods of negotiation, coordination protocols and different implementation pathways, to enable the effective execution of international development plans and achieving sustainability targets.</p> <p>Examples of international development goals include the execution of the Africa Ocean Decade Plan (much of its objectives align with those of the Africa-Europe Partnership), the ratification of the BBNJ Treaty across Africa, supporting the shift to a circular economy and addressing plastic pollution through the Global Plastics</p>	

Treaty, and achieving the UN sustainability goals.

Facilitating the exchange of best practices for implementing such international treaties involve the following:

- Developing a platform for publishing and sharing of the best negotiation and implementation practices for different international treaties and goals.
- Develop sets of implementation protocols for similar development contexts throughout Africa, that can be called upon without the need for external consultation.
- Establishing a network of experienced professionals to guide the precise implementation of best practices in unique African contexts.
- Identify implementation sites of different resolutions to test novel implementation approaches, and to assess the impact of implemented changes under different international treaties and goals.
- Support the reporting and monitoring of implemented changes to track progress, such that it can be shared and working practices identified.
- Institutionalise and integrate knowledge sharing within national and regional policies.
- Africa and Europe could work collectively to identify and establish a joint proposal for the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) to conserve biodiversity, including sharing experiences and best practices.
- Collaborative communication campaigns could raise public awareness about the importance of marine biodiversity and the BBNJ treaty, while elevating the importance of the treaty politically (among others).
- Identifying a limited number of joint actions between Africa and Europe to ratify and implement the Global Plastics Treaty, such as jointly advocate for the treaty's adoption at international forums, emphasising the shared responsibility in addressing plastic pollution.
- Organising joint awareness campaigns through the mobilisation of existing grassroots flagship initiatives

	<p>could demonstrate the potential of cross-continental collaboration to ratify the Global Plastics treaty. There is also a need for better understanding the historic use of plastic in African coastal areas and its connection to land pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular diplomatic dialogues between European and African countries could help align positions on the Global Plastics Treaty, and thus highlight opportunities for cooperation, such as in aligning national policies and regulations with the goals and principles of the Global Plastics Treaty could create a more cohesive and effective approach.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, AFD, GIZ, World Bank, other regional development programmes, national governments and development programmes
Implementation period	2024 - 2030

### Activity 1.3 Exchange effective approaches for the implementation of national Blue Economy Strategies

The Blue Economy is still a relatively new concept with many national economies and systems operating in a conventional sectoral manner. The development of the Sustainable, Regenerative Blue economy and the transition of conventional operating procedures to those that align with the cornerstones of the Regenerative Blue Economy approach (sustainability, restoration, regeneration, resilience) require the use of specialist knowledge on effective practices and approaches. Some countries have already developed national Blue Economy strategies or agenda to facilitate this transition in aligning it with national development goals. For example, the [WestMED Initiative](#) serves as a reference for involved countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, and Tunisia) to advance blue economy strategies, and could be replicated in additional regions to engage other countries committed to work on creating a smarter and more resilient blue economy. The development of a holistic, sustainable and regenerative Blue Economy across Africa and Europe is an integral development goal of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership and aligns with several international development goals (such as achieving SDG 14: Life Below Water, the Agenda 2063, and the AU and EU Blue Economy Strategies), but extends beyond the existing paradigm of sectoral management often seen in regular Blue Economy approaches and planning. In Africa, beyond the continental strategy, which is largely extractive by nature, there are also more than 8 blue economy strategies for the Regional Economic Communities (RECs),

many of which still focus on a resource extraction-based paradigm. Given that many African countries are signatory to multiple RECs, there is conflicting and overlapping pressure from the continental and REC level strategies to guide states. It is thus imperative that knowledge sharing relating to best practices for implementing national Blue Economy strategies be facilitated in different sub-national contexts, improve the co-management of cross-boundary ocean resources, and ensure that states are more clearly able to guide their national blue economy approach in line with their regional commitments, but in a less extractive manner that more efficiently captures the regenerative and sustainable elements of the blue economy that are necessary for long term economic viability.

Activity 1.3	Exchange effective approaches for the implementation of national Blue Economy Strategies	Priority: <b>Medium</b>
Key intervention area	Ocean Governance	
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Provide a networking and communications platform for the sharing of best practices for the implementation of national sustainable Blue Economy strategies.</li> <li>ii) Facilitate the implementation of national sustainable Blue Economy Strategies.</li> <li>iii) Align national Blue Economy Strategies with regional and continental approaches.</li> </ul>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to facilitate the exchange of best practices regarding the implementation of national Blue Economy strategies such that local Blue Economy strategies can be optimally implemented in a local context. Where the objectives of national Blue Economy Strategies differ from one another, specific development goals can be identified for which subsequent best implementation practices can be identified for implementing in different national development contexts.</p> <p>This intervention activity also strives to facilitate the development of blue economy strategies in states where they have not been developed yet, such that the common goals of the blue economy (environmental, social, and economical sustainability) can be realised in unique national development contexts. This includes unpacking how blue economy cuts across different sectors including food security, energy transition or how</p>	

	<p>carbon markets may assist in the alignment of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to the Nairobi Declaration. To ensure that such goals are realised on a large scale across the African and European continents, African national strategies should align with the AU Blue Economy Strategy development imperatives while still being regenerative and resilient, and also in line with the EU Sustainable Blue Economy thinking.</p> <p>The objectives of this intervention activity can be facilitated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing platforms for publishing and sharing of the best implementation practices for different national Blue Economy Strategies, across both the public and private sector.</li> <li>• Facilitate private sector involvement such that knowledge of best practices can be disseminated to private actors, and that the transition to a sustainable blue economy is incentivised.</li> <li>• Develop sets of implementation protocols for similar development contexts throughout Africa, that can be called upon without the need for external consultation.</li> <li>• Establishing a network of experienced professionals to guide the precise implementation of best practices in unique African contexts.</li> <li>• Support the reporting and monitoring of implemented changes to track progress, such that progress can be shared and working practices identified.</li> <li>• Institutionalise and integrate knowledge sharing within national and regional policies.</li> <li>• Harmonise current and developing national blue economy strategies with those at larger resolutions such as regional and continental strategies, specifically the AU Blue Economy Strategy. This includes the harmonisation of national policy to align with regional and continental development objectives.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner	EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA,

Institutions	UNDP, UNEP, AU, AFD, GIZ, World Bank, other regional development programmes, national governments and development programmes
Implementation period	2024 – 2030

#### Activity 1.4 Promote fisheries transparency and equitable benefit sharing

Fisheries management remains a complex issue due to a variety of interconnected factors (the international nature of fisheries, which are shared and transboundary resources, overfishing and illegal intrusion of vessels into Exclusive Economic Zones, technological advances, economic interests, environmental impact, the lack of enforcement capacity, and climate change). As such, enhancing the capacity of African and European nations in sustainable fisheries management is strategically relevant for the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. To fully realise the benefits of African fisheries, the following subject areas have all been identified as priority actions under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership: (i) facilitating greater transparency to fishery management systems and approaches (such as through the integration of the Fishery Transparency Initiative), (ii) facilitating the certification of fishery resources (such as through the Marine Stewardship Council), (iii) enhancing traceability throughout fisheries value chains, (iv) contributing to fight illegal fishing activities while increasing the collection of data and knowledge around fish stocks, (v) addressing harmful fishery subsidies, (vi) advancing balanced fishery agreements between the EU and African countries, and (vii) supporting data collection on transboundary fishery resources. Collaboration and cooperation between Africa and Europe on these subject areas can ensure the optimal management of cross-boundary African fisheries and result in the equitable sharing of benefits to all that depend on those resources.

Activity 1.4	Promoting fisheries transparency and equitable benefit sharing	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Ocean Governance	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Enhance transparency of fishery management systems and approaches.</li> <li>ii) Enhance traceability throughout fishery value chains.</li> <li>iii) Promote the certification of fishery resources following international sustainable management standards.</li> <li>iv) Facilitate improved fisheries management through more robust data and knowledge collection and</li> </ul>	



	<p>utilisation.</p> <p>(v) Address harmful fishery subsidies, and advance equal fishery agreements between regional blocks</p>
<p>Description of activities</p>	<p>The aim of this activity is to facilitate improved fisheries management by enhancing transparency within established fishery management systems, improve traceability and certification of fishery resources, and through improved data collection and utilisation.</p> <p>The use of different mechanisms is required to facilitate such an improvement in conventional fisheries management. Examples include making the most of existing Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) between coastal African countries and the EU to integrate transparency and the equitable sharing of benefits of fishing agreements across both continents, collaborating and working through regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) or other relevant regional entities such as SADC Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC), drawing from African Centres of Excellence, and integrating with international programmes such as the FAO (through the EAF-Nansen Programme). Such platforms can contribute to integrate greater sustainability into national and regional fisheries industries.</p> <p>The objectives of this intervention activity can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating the integration of the Fishery Transparency Initiative (FITI) framework into conventional fishery management and data systems.</li> <li>• The development of easily-accessible and secure fisheries data recording and storage platforms for individual cross-boundary fishery resources.</li> <li>• Integration of indigenous populations and local community participation and engagement in fisheries stock management to enhance transparency such as supporting the development of community fisheries co-management programmes</li> <li>• Regular review of current management approaches as new data becomes available, to ensure that</li> </ul>

	<p>appropriate and optimal management strategies are used for the long-term health of the relevant fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the incentivisation of fisheries stock and fishery product certification using internationally recognised sustainability certifications, leveraging market-based incentives for certification can enhance traceability and ensure consumers are part of the solutions to make informed decisions and support sustainably caught fish.</li> <li>• Reassess SFPAs and other international fisheries agreements for integrating transparency, and the equitable sharing of benefits.</li> <li>• Develop awareness and training programmes on the importance and benefits of traceability, certification, transparency, and the need for fisheries data collection.</li> <li>• Integrate transparency, traceability, certification, and the need for data collection into national and regional fisheries management policies, thus identifying and addressing harmful fisheries subsidies.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, AFD, GIZ, ADF, FAO, World Bank, RFMOs, regional development programmes, national governments and development programmes, local communities (at the sub-national level)
Implementation period	2024 - 2030

### Activity 1.5 Facilitate dialogues on concerns of access to the sea, and leveraging inland country aquatic resources

Ensuring equitable access to ocean resources has been identified as a key opportunity for the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership and falls within the scope of the joint vision on ocean governance and the blue economy. The concept of harnessing the Blue Economy in Africa not only deals with the development of coastal and marine resources but extends to include freshwater resources as well (rivers, lakes and waterfalls). Different states currently have unequal access to ocean and aquatic resources, implying that some coastal states could benefit to a greater extent from the development of the blue economy than others would, including landlocked states. This includes inequitable access due to policy, trade agreements or embargos, as well as a history of disposition involving removals or restrictions to marine claims. It is thus imperative to facilitate discussion and

conversation to facilitate equitable access to ocean and other aquatic resources between partner States under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, such that unique concerns can be heard and that tailored solutions can be developed through collaborative efforts. This includes encompassing a people-centred approach ensuring states are direct prioritised recipients of its benefits, and exploring ways in which landlocked states can access ocean resources, such as through efficient transportation networks (like rail and strategic corridors).

Activity 1.5	Facilitate dialogues on concerns of access to the sea, and leveraging inland country aquatic resources	Priority: <b>Low</b>
Key intervention area	Ocean Governance	
Objective	<p>i) Facilitate regular discussion on concerns of access to the sea and leveraging landlocked states.</p> <p>ii) Facilitate the development of potential solutions through collaborative efforts.</p>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity area is to facilitate dialogues on the equitable access to ocean and other aquatic resources so that unique concerns can be heard and that tailored solutions to these challenges can be developed for the equitable sharing of benefits from the development of the blue economy. This includes exploring ways in which landlocked states, who do not have access to coastlines or marine resources, can harness the potential of the ocean for national development.</p> <p>Various existing mechanisms can be harnessed to facilitate dialogue and develop solutions. This includes leveraging the networks already established by regional blocks (such as RECs) to establish contact points in different countries, leveraging institutions to address these challenges (e.g., African CoEs, universities, NGOs, national governments), and incentivising the private sector to explore solutions across multiple states.</p> <p>The upcoming III UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries taking place in Rwanda in 2024 may provide an opportunity to address this challenge.</p>	

	<p>The objectives of this activity area can be facilitated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing dedicated national platforms for public discussion which can be used to identify primary concerns. This can include workshops, video meetings, and written dialogue.</li> <li>• Develop protocols where identified primary concerns can then be submitted to national governments or international representatives for presenting these to regional partners to develop solutions collaboratively.</li> <li>• Developing a regional database that stores identified priority development areas about accessing aquatic resources at the national level. This database should be open-access and can be used by both the public and private sector to develop cross-country solutions for accessing ocean resources.</li> <li>• Institutionalise regular discussion and dialogue at the regional and continental level.</li> <li>• Support the monitoring of ocean resources, to enable the identification of where ocean resources are flowing to.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNDP, African CoEs, NGOs, AFD, ADF, GIZ, World Bank, universities, national governments, and other international development programmes
Implementation period	2024 - 2026

### **Activity 1.6 Elevate gender equality and the participation of women and youth in the maritime sector**

Vulnerable groups, specifically women and youth, have long been disadvantaged in the maritime sector, despite playing a significant role in economically important blue economy value chains, such as capture fisheries. The development of the blue economy under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership is an ideal opportunity to promote gender equality and the protection of women and youth in the maritime sector across both continents. This includes promoting youth agency and leadership in ocean and blue economy by ensuring training and adequate capacity building systems are in place, equal opportunities and treatment for women in ocean sectors, gender-specific support programs available for women in ocean sectors, ensuring that the contributions of women in science and technology (aquaculture, energy, transport and biotech) innovation (as it relates to the development of the blue economy) are recognised, that women are

supported and integrated into blue economy planning initiatives, that women are compensated equally for work in relation to their male counterparts (such as through an equal wages per one set of work system), ensuring mechanisms are in place to monitor and evaluate the progress of different genders throughout various aspects of the blue economy, and that gender data gaps in specific blue economy sectors are addressed. Such intervention will contribute to the social sustainability of the blue economy in Africa and Europe, ensure that vulnerable groups become less vulnerable moving forward, and facilitate a cohesive approach across both continents.

Action 1.6	Elevate gender equality and protection of women and youth in the maritime sector	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Ocean Governance	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Facilitate equal opportunities for women and men throughout the blue economy.</li> <li>ii) Facilitate the integration of women and young workers into blue economy planning and implementation.</li> <li>iii) Facilitate the monitoring of women participation in the blue economy to address gender data gaps.</li> </ul>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to promote gender equality and facilitate the integration of women and youth into blue economy planning and implementation, by ensuring equal opportunity of outcome for both women and men throughout all sectors of the blue economy.</p> <p>This activity area is broad with many possible areas of specific intervention. However, pressure to change policies at the national level is most likely to directly benefit women on the ground (than at regional or continental level) over the long term. Policy development for gender equality throughout the blue economy is essential for integrating and supporting women throughout businesses in the blue economy. Policies should be developed such that the removal of barriers to the equitable participation of women in the blue economy is incentivised throughout the private sector.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity can be achieved by:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the development of support and protection programs for women and young workers and entrepreneurs in different sectors of the blue economy (at all levels), and between African and European initiatives.</li> <li>• Supporting the development of equal compensation programmes throughout all sectors of the blue economy (at national, regional, and continental levels).</li> <li>• Integrating gender into blue economy monitoring programmes such that the progress of women can be tracked as the blue economy develops. This includes addressing the gender data gaps in specific sectors of the blue economy, and sharing of data between Africa and Europe for improved gender related interventions.</li> <li>• Developing inter-continental platforms and awareness programs for recognising the contributions of women in science, technology, and elsewhere throughout the blue economy.</li> <li>• Integrate gender equality and access to opportunities for women into national blue economy strategies and implementation initiatives. This includes the development of technical and financial support programmes for previously marginalised groups, indigenous peoples and local communities throughout the maritime sector, such as female entrepreneurs.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, AFD, ADF, GIZ, FAO, World Bank, regional development programmes, national governments and development programmes
Implementation period	2024 - 2028

### Activity 1.7 Improve working conditions and social protection for seafarers and dockworkers

Seafarers (including fishermen), dockworkers, and other maritime employees constitute the backbone of maritime operations, and significantly contribute to the prosperity of the blue economy. However, these groups have historically - and continue to face - precarious working conditions, including long hours, inadequate safety measures, and limited access to essential services. While European

agencies have expanded cooperation in this sector, progress is still slow, and further efforts can be directed to ensuring the implementation of comprehensive regulations and standards aimed at safeguarding the rights and well-being of seafarers and dockworkers. This includes the adoption of International Labour Organisation (ILO) and International Maritime Organisation (IMO) conventions surrounding health, safety, labour standards, and social protection. Cooperation under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership can be leveraged to contribute to the enforcement of labour laws, provide adequate training and support for industries, and establish mechanisms for social protection, including healthcare, insurance, and retirement benefits. Such collaborative intervention not only promotes social justice and equity but also fosters a more resilient and sustainable blue economy that benefits all parties involved. In addition, these changes contribute to making the seafaring, dock working, and fishing industry an attractive place to work, and can thus facilitate the development of the blue economy across Africa and Europe.

Action 1.7	Improving working conditions and social protection for seafarers and dockworkers	Priority: Medium
Key intervention area	Ocean Governance	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Improve the working conditions of maritime employees throughout all sectors of the blue economy.</li> <li>ii) Ensure social protection for maritime employees throughout the blue economy.</li> <li>iii) Enhance cooperation in the fight against loss of life at sea</li> <li>iv) Facilitate the increased attractiveness of the blue economy as a place to work.</li> </ul>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to improve working conditions and to ensure social protection for maritime employees (such as seafarers and dockworkers), making blue economy industries more attractive spaces to work in.</p> <p>The implementation of comprehensive, internationally approved labour regulations and standards at the national level, is essential to protect the rights and well-being of the blue economy workforce, ensuring the persistence and development of the blue economy across the African and European continents. Other interventions can include establishing mechanisms for</p>	

	<p>social protection such as healthcare benefits, education programmes for children of employees, insurance, and the establishment of retirement programmes where they are not present.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity area can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adopting key ILO labour and social protection conventions.</li> <li>● Integrating ILO labour and social protection conventions into national blue economy strategies,</li> <li>● Integrating ILO-conventions into policies at national, regional, and continental levels.</li> <li>● Support the development of social benefit mechanisms into sectors of the blue economy. These include healthcare benefits, education programmes for children of employees, insurance, and the establishment of retirement programmes.</li> <li>● Support the development of awareness programmes surrounding human and labour rights to inform the current and future blue economy workforce.</li> <li>● Develop easily accessible, anonymous platforms for reporting labour and human rights violations,</li> <li>● Facilitate the enforcement of labour laws in all sectors of the blue economy. This includes empowering the workforce to report violations anonymously (including training on how to do so, which platforms to use, etc.), as well as being able to enforce such laws on international actors in local territories.</li> <li>● Support the development of training and support programmes for blue economy industries. This includes developing ocean literacy among blue economy employees, in addition to skills and vocation training.</li> <li>● Promotion of rescue vessels across Africa and Europe to assist in case of emergencies.</li> </ul>
<p>Proposed Partner Institutions</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, AFD, ADF, GIZ, World Bank, ILO, IMO, national governments, judicial systems, and development programmes (at national and regional levels)</p>



Implementation period	2024 - 2027
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## Intervention Area 2: Capacity Sharing

Capacity sharing should be a crucial element of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, as well as being instrumental in facilitating the implementation of a Joint Vision on ocean governance and the blue economy into actionable change in African and European livelihoods.

Knowledge and experience are required to develop new capacities across Africa and Europe for putting their Joint Vision into practice across different blue economy sectors and achieving SDG 14: Life Below Water by 2030. Building new capabilities in Africa and Europe requires local institutions to develop specialist knowledge and expertise, backed by partners who have proven the effectiveness of their expertise and experiences on the international stage. Africa needs to be supported to appropriately structure effective mechanisms to enhance knowledge sharing at different resolutions and institutional levels, and to develop widespread ocean literacy such that the objectives of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership can be implemented effectively. The EU has significant science, data and policy-development and production resources available for sharing with Africa. This knowledge could be leveraged to link both ocean governance experts and blue economy scientists, policymakers, industries, entrepreneurs, and academia across Africa and Europe, promoting the exchange of best practices and developing tailored solutions for addressing common ocean challenges under the Africa-Europe Partnership, making it a win-win scenario for both continents.

The term capacity 'building' has deliberately been replaced with capacity 'sharing' as a means to emphasise the spirit of fostering a joint Partnership between Africa and Europe that is not unidirectional. Capacity sharing should be a two-way process, and all associated activities should be embedded by the following principles: (i) enabling socio-economic and environmental benefits (at national, regional, and continental resolutions), (ii) creating opportunities for industries and entrepreneurship, (iii) develop the agency of vulnerable groups in the blue economy (including women and youth), (iv) contribute to good governance at various levels, and (v) foster amicable relations between the parties concerned. Progress on these fronts will not only address long-standing socio-economic and environmental challenges, but will position Africa and Europe strategically as a united front in the context of emerging global challenges and transitions.

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership should recognise the importance of evidence-based policymaking and the need for accessible, reliable data and cutting-edge science to inform decision-and policy making processes. Commitment to data-driven policy making and programming is essential for addressing the complex challenges of ocean governance and the development of a sustainable blue economy, and maximising the impact of the Partnership. The role of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership in the context of capacity

sharing thus focuses primarily on developing networks for sharing information, policy, research, and data.

In addition, the networks of scientists and research centres could be leveraged for the development of ocean literacy and strengthened industrial cooperation, communicating the potential benefits and challenges of effective ocean governance and the blue economy to the broader public of both continents. Making these topics accessible and easily understandable will foster greater understanding and appreciation of the ocean, and play an important role to inspire responsible behaviour, encourage stewardship, and mobilise technical and financial support as well as critical political leadership for ocean governance and sustainable blue economy initiatives from the public.

The following activities are proposed for inclusion in the Roadmap for an enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, under the Capacity Sharing intervention area:

**Activity 2.1 Facilitate the sharing of experiences on blue economy policy development and emerging ocean policy**

The context of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership offers the opportunity for knowledge sharing surrounding the development of effective national policies to facilitate the development of ocean governance and the blue economy, thus advancing policy development capacity across Africa and Europe. The challenges of developing effective policy are often highly contextual, such that unique approaches and tailored policy solutions are required. A potential locus for intervention includes developing policy for the blue economy and ocean governance, and emerging sectors such as biotechnologies, decarbonisation (circular economy, green industrialisation and alternative forms of energy), and the coupling of blue economy activities (for example, shipping, port infrastructure, aquaculture, and blue carbon) to result in greater impact and benefits to local livelihoods. Despite the challenges, through the sharing of policy development experiences, African and European national states can collaborate to formulate innovative policy solutions for the modern challenges the development of the blue economy faces, align the policies of neighbouring states to facilitate international trade, and foster amicable cooperation and goodwill between member states.

Activity 2.1	Facilitate the sharing of experiences on blue economy policy development and emerging ocean policy	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Capacity Sharing	

Objective	<p>i) Provide a networking and communications platform or hub for the sharing of best practices related to blue economy and ocean policy developments.</p> <p>ii) Facilitate the development of potential policy solutions for contextual blue economy challenges through collaborative efforts.</p> <p>iii) Enhance industrial cooperation between Africa and Europe, notably in emerging sectors that aligns with continental aspirations (economic and environmental).</p>
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to facilitate the sharing of experiences and success stories in policy development for ocean governance and the blue economy, such that new innovative approaches and policy solutions can be developed for the contextual challenges states across both continents face in developing national and regional blue economies.</p> <p>The development of a dedicated online platform is recommended for sharing policy development experiences. This platform should aim to connect policy specialists, national- and regional government representatives from different member states, and national judicial representatives, and in doing so offer the opportunity for collaboration for new policy solutions for context-specific challenges under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. This online platform can also serve as a hub for the design of new development projects that relate to ocean governance and policy development at different resolutions.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity can be accomplished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The development of a dedicated online platform for sharing policy experiences and challenges by African and European states.</li> <li>● Developing protocols of conduct and safeguards for use of the online platform, such that sensitive sovereign information is not disseminated if it is not intended.</li> <li>● Establish a network of policy development specialists to assist with designing effective policy solutions through the online platform.</li> <li>● Support the reporting and monitoring of implemented changes to track progress, such that it can be shared and working practices identified.</li> <li>● Institutionalise and integrate knowledge sharing within national and regional policies.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the harmonisation of national and regional policies to facilitate common development objectives through the online platform.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNEP, UNDP, UESCO, FAO, World Bank, national governments and lawmakers
Implementation period	2024 - 2028

### **Activity 2.2 Promote Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), including blue economy monitoring and accounting.**

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership is a key opportunity to encourage the implementation of blue economy monitoring and accounting, as well as knowledge sharing surrounding MSP implementation across stakeholder countries. By adopting MSP at large, Africa and Europe could balance economic, ecological and social interests to ensure the sustainable use and management of marine and coastal areas. It could provide the two continents with a tool to enhance coordination, maritime safety, sustainable resource management, environmental protection, climate change adaptation, and community engagement. The EU has already adopted MSP with many European states having agreed to obligations under the European Commission and IOC-UNESCO joint roadmap (2022-2027) to accelerate MSP globally, and through which several African states have benefitted by informing national MSP strategies of their own.

To progress implementation in a coherent manner, the sustainable management of marine resources demands a nuanced understanding of the complex interactions within marine ecosystems and the socio-economic activities they support, even more so considering the transboundary nature of many ocean resources. Monitoring the blue economy through environmental- and blue accounting enables tracking the use of marine resources to mitigate the risk of overexploitation, assess the impacts of human activities to safeguard biodiversity, identify context specific challenges to blue economy development (at national, regional, and continental levels), and facilitates greater comprehension of the dynamics at play in ocean systems. Furthermore, monitoring and accounting systems can be leveraged to guide MSP and optimise the allocation of marine space, while balancing competing interests in a manner that ensures ecological integrity, economic viability, and social equity. This is particularly relevant in the context of the 30 x 30 framework (which entails the protection of 30% of marine space by the year 2030), by establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) where they do not currently exist, for the improved management and protection of marine resources. For example, ProAzul is currently working with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Blue

Action Fund on the community benefit of sharing strategies for LMMAs and future MPAs. Beyond this, MSP has the power to foster international cooperation. In shared marine spaces, MSP could encourage greater cooperation and coordination between Africa and Europe; it could help address any transboundary issues and ensure coherent planning across borders.

Activity 2.2	Promote blue economy monitoring and accounting, and marine spatial planning	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Capacity Sharing	
Objective	<p>i) Implementation of blue economy monitoring and accounting.</p> <p>ii) Facilitate the sharing of knowledge relating to Marine Spatial Planning between stakeholders.</p> <p>iii) Facilitate establishment of future MPAs and LLMAs under the 30x30 framework.</p>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to support the implementation of blue economy monitoring and accounting throughout African and European stakeholder countries and regions.</p> <p>The establishment of national blue accounting or blue economy coordinating centres is recommended to supply and coordinate monitoring and accounting services. These centres can then be used as hubs to inform local and national marine spatial planning, within unique national contexts. Furthermore, the establishment of regional blue economy monitoring platforms and institutions is recommended, as they could then coordinate with national agencies and consolidate data and knowledge, to inform regional decision making, dissemination of best practices, and better coordinate support the development of the blue economy in states that need it the most. These hubs can also serve as knowledge sharing platforms for information regarding blue accounting and MSP.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application of national and regional blue</li> </ul>	

	<p>accounting initiatives (such as applying the already tested Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit by UNECA which has already been trialled in Seychelles, Rwanda, Djibouti and Tanzania).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop protocols and indicators for leveraging blue economy data to inform marine spatial planning initiatives.</li> <li>● Implementation of a regular reporting schedule to national governments or planning authorities (such as a minimum of 1 report per year).</li> <li>● Develop a network for blue accounting institutions internationally to share and disseminate best practices and new developments. The development of continental blue accounting information institutions or platforms are also recommended.</li> <li>● Establish regular high-level dialogues, providing a platform for decision-makers and conservation practitioners from Africa and Europe to meet, reconfirm commitments, and advance joint actions in favour of reaching the 30x30 objective through the ramping-up of MPAs and support to LMMAs</li> <li>● Provide support to low-capacity governments for realising the 30x30 objective by providing capacity building activities for the identification, development, and implementation of MPAs, as well as to share information on best practices, and address issues.</li> <li>● Facilitate research collaboration to identify biologically critical areas, land-based sources of pollution, and climate impacts which have shifted the biological zones and what it means for the establishment of marine conservation areas, and to involve the private sector to provide local stakeholders with the tools to better manage their MPAs, to conserve 30% of marine habitats by 2030.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, AU-IBAR, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, AFD, ADF, FAO, World Bank, RFMOs, regional development programmes, national governments
Implementation period	2024 - 2028

### Activity 2.3 Strengthen and structure an Africa-Europe network of research and education institutions for ocean governance and the blue economy

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership has identified the need to strengthen and structure the existing network of highly regarded research and education institutions, to bring together knowledge and experts from both Africa and Europe, and promote science observation, knowledge, data and policy exchange across the two continents. This includes building on the work of specialised AU and EU institutions, like AU-CoEs, as well as academic research chairs, like UNESCO Chairs on Ocean Governance, and already existing partnerships and collaborations between Europe and Africa in research and education. A network of such dedicated research institutions can enhance the capacity of member countries to govern and manage their blue economy resources effectively, through the cooperative development and sharing of best practices, contextual knowledge, and specialised skills. Currently there is no clear-cut direction for CoEs under previous Africa-Europe cooperation regarding the ocean, and this has contributed to a lack of directed research activity. In accordance with the Joint Vision for Africa and Europe under the institutional Africa-Europe Ocean partnership, the development of a common vision for the proposed Africa-Europe Ocean partnership research network is recommended as it can be used to direct ocean governance and blue economy research, as well as research on the specific implementation needs of unique contexts. The development of a well-functioning research network can facilitate its growth as new institutions join, which can simultaneously inspire large cross-continental research programmes on ocean governance and the blue economy and facilitate ocean literacy across both continents.

Activity 2.3	Strengthen and structure an Africa-Europe network of ocean governance and blue economy research and education institutions	Priority: <b>Medium</b>
Key intervention area	Capacity Sharing	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Recognise the existence of long-standing relationships between Europe and Africa on research and education, including between academic institutions, university programmes, capacity exchanges of students and tutors.</li> <li>ii) Develop an active network of Africa-Europe research institutions to drive ocean and blue economy research.</li> <li>iii) Facilitate the development of cross-continental research programmes on ocean governance and the blue economy.</li> </ul>	



Description of activities

The aim of this activity is to develop a network Africa-Europe for ever-increasing research capital through recognised research institutions, such as CoEs and UNESCO research chairs, and already existing partnerships and collaborations between Europe and Africa in research and education, to support knowledge exchange and collaborative research efforts between Africa and Europe specifically on ocean governance and blue economy topics, such as through the development of large-scale research programmes on ocean governance and the blue economy.

There is a need to strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms and regional cooperation frameworks to respond to global issues. The proposed network of Africa-Europe CoEs could serve as platforms for many of the policy and technical discussions needed for progress on ocean action and cooperation. Furthermore, the CoEs network should not only focus on scientific data but also on economic and social data to ensure the information obtained can easily feed into policy making to foster integrated ocean management, as well as to build technical and legal expertise. Furthermore, it is relevant to stress that African CoEs often incorporate indigenous practices and traditional knowledge into their governance strategy. This form of knowledge exchange can pave the way for European institutions to incorporate similar practices into their own approaches to resource management.

The objectives of this activity can be achieved by:

- Developing a common vision (such as an MoU) and framework to guide the research efforts of the research network on ocean governance and the blue economy. This framework can be reviewed regularly to ensure it is aligned with the development needs of the partnership.
- Extensive mapping of long-standing relationships between Europe and Africa on research and education, including between academic institutions, university programmes, capacity exchanges of students and tutors.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extensive mapping of African and European CoE for inclusion into the proposed research network.</li> <li>● Develop a dedicated (online) platform to facilitate knowledge exchange between research institutions within the network.</li> <li>● Establish a set of recognised dedicated contact points within each institution to facilitate primary correspondence with other members of the network.</li> <li>● Develop a set of selection or performance criteria for inclusion into the Africa-Europe Ocean research network based on relevant potential impact and collaborative potential under the institutional partnership. Developing a prestigious nature of the research network may contribute to attracting donor investment as well as fostering research excellence.</li> <li>● Develop protocols for regular staff and skills exchanges between different institutions within the network.</li> <li>● Institutionalise regular workshops within the research network to inspire its members and facilitate future research developments.</li> <li>● Support the development of large cross-continental research programmes aligned with the joint research vision.</li> <li>● Develop a database of ocean and blue economy experts within the EU and the AU to foster high-quality exchange.</li> </ul>
<p>Proposed Partner Institutions</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, World Bank, UNESCO,</p> <p>AU-CoEs (these include Faculty of Fisheries Resources, Suez University (Egypt), Rhodes University - Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science (South Africa), Académie, University of Ibadan (Nigeria), The National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (Uganda), Regionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (Cote d'Ivoire), Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Cape Coast (Ghana), the Institut des Arts et métiers nautique de limbo (Cameroon).</p> <p>EU-CoEs (these include COST Action, SEA-EU, EOREA, Jean Monnet CoE on Sustainable Blue Economy, Europe Jacques Delors), Institute, Institut</p>

	Eurafrique Export (Nantes, France), universities, research NGOs  Long-standing relationships between Europe and Africa on research and education, including between academic institutions, university programmes, capacity exchanges of students and tutors.
Implementation period	2024 - 2027

### Activity 2.4 Accelerate the development of wide-spread ocean literacy

To facilitate the goals of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership of developing improved ocean governance and the blue economy across Africa and Europe, there is a pressing need to develop wide-spread ocean literacy across member states and the broader public. The Partnership should make a deliberate contribution in explaining the concepts of ocean governance and blue economy, making them accessible and understandable to the general population. This involves clearly communicating the range of activities that impact and depend on the ocean, highlighting the interconnectedness of human activities, climate change and ocean health, and the benefits, opportunities, risks, and challenges associated with the blue economy and ocean governance. The approach of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership is that ocean literacy and science should inform evidence-based policy and programming, to ensure socio-economic and environmental benefits to communities and actors at large. By fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of the ocean, the partnership will play an important role to inspire responsible behaviour, encourage stewardship, and mobilise support from the public as well as critical political leadership for ocean governance and sustainable blue economy initiatives.

Activity 2.4	Accelerate the development of wide-spread ocean literacy	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Capacity Sharing	
Objective	i) Facilitate wide-spread ocean literacy. ii) Facilitate increased public engagement in the realms of the blue economy development and ocean governance.	
Description of activities	The aim of this objective is to facilitate the development of wide-spread ocean literacy, to increase public engagement in blue economy development and	

	<p>operations, as well as ocean governance.</p> <p>The development of an online information sharing hub or virtual library (“Africa-Europe Blue Cloud”) is recommended for facilitating greater ocean literacy. This hub should be freely accessible and communicate ocean and blue economy topics in a variety of languages, to facilitate comprehension. The information that is published on this should be verified and regularly screened for accuracy such that misinformation is not published. In addition, the development of ocean information and education campaigns and programmes in native tongues is recommended.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity can be accomplished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Developing an online information sharing platform for ocean topics and the blue economy.</li> <li>● Developing protocols to guide the publishing of information on the online platforms.</li> <li>● Establishing a network of ocean and blue economy specialists to develop material for the online platforms, in collaboration with language experts to facilitate enhanced comprehension.</li> <li>● Develop protocols to assess and review information published on the online hub, in an attempt to supply relevant information and not misinformation and propaganda.</li> <li>● Establish a network of language experts to develop words for ocean-, ocean governance, and blue economy concepts where they do not exist in native indigenous languages.</li> <li>● Develop accessible ocean information and education campaigns (such as public seminar series) for implementation at local institutions.</li> <li>● Support public engagement in ocean governance and blue economy topics, challenges, and solutions. This includes providing spaces for voicing concerns, facilitating recognition of local efforts, and incentivising individual responsibility for the development of the blue economy.</li> </ul>
<p>Proposed Partner Institutions</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, RFMOs, World Bank, schools and</p>

	universities (including online), NGOs, national and regional government and regulatory organisations, language centres, community centres
Implementation period	2024 - 2030

### Activity 2.5 Enhance and build shared Africa-Europe capacity for ocean governance and regenerative blue economy

Enhancing and building shared capacity for ocean governance and regenerative blue economy has been identified as a key development opportunity under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, to improve the collective ability to effectively manage and protect ocean resources as pressures such as climate change, pollution, overfishing, and habitat degradation intensify. By enhancing capacity for ocean governance, the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership can strengthen regulatory frameworks and improve enforcement mechanisms by leveraging collective expertise and resources towards shared development objectives and addressing common challenges. Enhancing collective capacity for ocean governance also includes initiatives that empower governments, institutions, and local communities with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to make informed decisions and implement sustainable practices, such as on the use of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and coordinating Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). In building greater capacity for ocean governance, the full potential of ocean resources can be unlocked, while also fostering greater collaboration and coordination among partnership member states and other stakeholders at all levels.

Activity 2.5	Enhance and build shared Africa-Europe capacity for ocean governance and regenerative blue economy	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Capacity Sharing	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Facilitate the development of shared capacity for ocean governance between member states.</li> <li>ii) Facilitate the development of joint ocean governance solutions for the development of a regenerative blue economy.</li> </ul>	

Description of activities

The aim of this activity is to build increased collective capacity for ocean governance and regenerative blue economy to facilitate the development of joint governance and management solutions for shared blue economy development challenges between member states.

Several approaches can be used to build enhanced capacity for ocean governance and regenerative blue economy between member states. These include (but are not limited to) launching training and awareness programs in member states, developing education institutions to prioritise training in the implementation of ocean governance and regenerative blue economy, establishing networks of specialists to consult on matters of ocean governance, enhancing coherence and coordination between implementation structures at lower levels, staff exchanges, fostering good relations with neighbouring states, and integrating capacity development for ocean governance as part of national development goals. There is also the opportunity for these approaches to be coordinated by regional organisations (such as RECs) to facilitate developments occurring at national level and that their efforts are integrated with those that occur at greater resolutions.

The objectives of this activity can be achieved by:

- Launching an Africa-Europe Training and Capacity Strengthening Program on Ocean Governance and the development of regenerative Blue Economy.
- Leverage existing regional development programmes and organisations for facilitating ocean governance capacity enhancement.
- Developing education programs on ocean governance practices, such as a summer university, or ad hoc courses. It is recommended that these be accessible as much as possible by leveraging the internet and presenting the material in multiple languages.
- Facilitate the creation of an online Africa-Europe University on Ocean Governance and the development of the Blue Economy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a database of ocean and blue economy experts within the EU and the AU to foster high-quality exchange, and with the capacity to train the workforce of tomorrow, including youth.</li> <li>• Incentivise the development of joint governance solutions by developing synergies and facilitating relations between industry sectors of different member states.</li> <li>• Integrate ocean governance capacity development into other development objectives. This includes integrating capacity enhancement into new policy development.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, World Bank, RFMOs, schools and universities (including online), NGOs, national and regional government and regulatory organisations, community centres
Implementation period	2024 - 2030

### Intervention Area 3: Finance and Investment

Insufficient, misallocated, and mismanaged funding is a major challenge to the implementation of sustainable development action in African nations. Furthermore, less than 1% of official development assistance (ODA) funding is allocated to the development of the ocean with SDG14 being one of the most underfunded SDGs, with only 0.68% of total SDG financing directed to it in 2021. Climate financial flows are also unpredictable, with rising problems of debt, high inflation, squeezed budgets and the need to cut back on subsidies, creates an increasing challenging context particularly in Africa, facing continued hurdles in planning and implementing long-term climate projects effectively, including generating concerns about land rights and justice. Accessing finance at an affordable cost is thus an ongoing challenge, and the transition to a sustainable blue economy requires a fundamental shift in how financial resources are allocated and managed.

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership has the potential to lead transformative change by aligning financial systems with regeneration, restoration, and sustainable development goals through ocean governance and the blue economy. This involves not only boosting investments in sustainable ocean-related activities but also redirecting financial flows away from harmful practices. Actions can include implementing WTO procedures to halt harmful fisheries subsidies and integrating sustainable financing principles across institutions. Leveraging public development banks—including multilateral, national, and regional banks, as well as international financing corporations and investment funds—can further support these goals. UNFCCC COP30 is also identified as a priority framework for ocean and blue economy at the multilateral level, given the number of goals on finance that will be set for the second half of 2025 and given that 2025 marks the remaining given years to Agenda 2030. Working in collaboration with Brazil (holding the G20 Presidency in 2024) and hosts COP30 in 2025, will pave the way to dive deeper into the Africa-Europe Partnership targets and policy agenda.

The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership should aim to catalyse private sector investment by supporting the development of a strong blue entrepreneurship ecosystem that has the potential to deliver significant impact on the ground (by and for local stakeholders), and the potential to connect entrepreneurs and other related stakeholders from both continents; fostering cooperation, knowledge and experience-sharing, and ultimately accelerate and scale-up blue economy entrepreneurship in Africa and Europe. By enhancing the capacity of governments, businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities to collaborate (such as in the form of public-private partnerships), the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership will play a critical role in creating a more conducive environment for impact investment and foster a culture of financial responsibility and stewardship.



The scale of investment required to realise the full potential of the blue economy across both continents is vast, necessitating a collaborative approach. The role of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership in the context of finance and investment would be to identify and operationalise innovative financing mechanisms to facilitate ocean restoration and resilience, the deployment of sustainable blue economy strategies, as well as to scale-up and duplicate impactful experiences. These innovative financing mechanisms include (but are not limited to) payment-for-ecosystem services (PES) schemes, compensation for natural capital (including debt-for-nature swaps or ocean swaps), blue carbon market, improved allocation of global tax, blue bonds, blue tokens and FinTech, blended finance facility and novel insurance mechanisms to incentivise investment by creating confidence for a particular development project.

By implementing such mechanisms, Africa and Europe have the potential to generate development finance themselves and reduce their reliance on ODA funding support for national and regional development goals. The development of the blue economy across Africa and Europe could generate the synergies needed to facilitate the long-term financing of new development initiatives as well as ensure the persistence of current projects and programmes over the long term. In doing so, the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership contributes to unlocking the full potential of the blue economy and driving socio-economic development, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of ocean resources and contributing to climate and biodiversity action.

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The following activities are proposed for inclusion in the Roadmap for an enhanced Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, under the Finance and Investment intervention area:

### **Activity 3.1 Contribute to the joint elaboration of an Africa-Europe Blue Finance Roadmap**

To facilitate the activities of the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, a joint approach to financing advancements in ocean governance and the development of the blue economy across both continents would be needed. Following the conclusion of the 2023 Finance in Common Summit (in Cartagena), the development of a joint Africa-Europe blue finance and financing roadmap is recommended to guide the financing of various projects and programmes under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. The development of such a roadmap would reinforce the commitments Africa and Europe have indicated in support of common actions for climate change and sustainable development, including support for developments in ocean governance and the blue economy. Furthermore, the development of a joint Africa-Europe Blue Finance Roadmap would be an ideal opportunity to integrate the UN Sustainable Blue Economy

Finance Principles at national, regional, and continental levels, to guide investors for ensuring the sustainability of ocean sectors and other blue economy developments.

Activity 3.1	Contribute to the joint elaboration of an Africa-Europe Blue Finance Roadmap	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Finance and Investment	
Objective	<p>i) Facilitate the development of an Africa-Europe Blue Finance Roadmap.</p> <p>ii) Support the integration of Blue Finance Principles at national, regional, and continental levels under institutional partnerships and the Africa-Europe Ocean partnership more broadly.</p>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to contribute to the joint elaboration of an Africa-Europe Blue Finance and Financing Roadmap, and the integration of the sustainable blue finance principles to guide the development and financing of various projects and programmes under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership.</p> <p>The integration of the blue economy finance principles is essential as they are the world's first global guiding framework for banks, insurers, and investors to finance a sustainable blue economy. These principles promote the implementation of SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and set out ocean-specific standards for blue economy projects. Using this framework, ocean governance and blue economy projects can be designed in such a way that the projects deliver actionable impact, which can attract donor and investment funding through impact investment, which is becoming increasingly present.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establishing a working group for the joint blue finance roadmap agreement.</li> <li>● Establishing workshops to facilitate dialogue and discussion for member state contribution and input to the blue finance roadmap.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating the logistic requirements involved with the ratification of the roadmap by member states.</li> <li>• Supporting the development of blue economy projects following the blue finance principles.</li> <li>• Integrate the sustainable blue finance principles into national, regional, and continental blue economy strategies and policies.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNDP, UNEP-FI, development fund institutions (e.g., AFD, ADF, ADB, EIB, BOAD, GIZ, among others), World Bank, national governments
Implementation period	2024 - 2026

### **Activity 3.2 Promote the establishment of new ocean and blue economy financial mechanisms**

The transition to a regenerative blue economy requires a fundamental shift in how financial resources are allocated and managed. The creation of dedicated financial mechanisms tailored to the unique needs and challenges of Africa and Europe's coastal regions can catalyse investment in blue economy sectors and other blue economy development projects. The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership has the potential to be at the forefront of this transformation, advocating for the establishment of new financial mechanisms to fund sustainable ocean governance. Some of the innovative mechanisms include (but are not limited to) the use of blue bonds, marine or coastal debt-swap initiatives (at national and regional resolutions), leveraging environmental services such as blue carbon and nutrient credit markets, biodiversity credits schemes, natural capital as publicly traded equities, blended finance and finance facilities, and insurance mechanisms. The operationalisation of blue carbon in particular, has significant potential for sustainable development across the mainland of the African and European continents, as well as facilitating development in SIDS and island states that are more isolated and vulnerable to external shocks. Blue carbon ecosystems offer the potential for sustainable coastal development (through sectors such as tourism), the development of coastal resilience, and the operationalisation of carbon credit trading mechanisms through the carbon sequestration services they provide. However, establishing such mechanisms across AU and EU member states includes developing the required infrastructure for the integration of these mechanisms into the suite of operational solutions that can be accessed at the national, regional, and continental levels, as well as integrating them into blue economy strategies and policy development. In addition, the development of blue financing information centres and blended finance institutions could be beneficial in facilitating the use of these innovative

financing mechanisms on a wide-spread scale. The institution would have the potential to serve as a connection hub for development partners and private funders, and act on behalf of national or regional governments to issue financing mechanisms aligned with the development of blue economy projects. Such a facility could further be responsible for testing innovative finance and financing instruments, facilitated through structures like innovation networks, accelerators, and incubators, which could source local and global financing knowledge and information, leveraging it for the benefit of the ocean.

Activity 3.2	Promote the establishment of new ocean and blue economy financial mechanisms	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Finance and Investment	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Encourage the establishment of innovative blue financing mechanisms.</li> <li>ii) Establish the necessary infrastructure required to make innovative financing mechanisms operational.</li> <li>iii) Facilitate increased awareness surrounding innovative financing solutions and options among investors and the private sector.</li> </ul>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to facilitate the development of the infrastructure required to operationalise innovative ocean and blue economy financing mechanisms at national and regional levels. This includes the establishment of appropriate physical and online infrastructure where these mechanisms can be operationalised efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>The development of dedicated blue financing information and coordination centres (such as an Africa-Europe Blue Finance Lab) or blended finance facilities at national and regional levels is recommended to specialise in the use of these mechanisms, such that they can offer assistance in using these systems by the public (including the private sector). A national or regional financing facility would be responsible for the coordination and development of contextual financing solutions (such as a unique combination of financing instruments) for development projects which align to the</p>	

	<p>objectives of the blue economy, as well as leverage existing fiscal resources more efficiently.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity area can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development of dedicated specialised blue finance and financing information and coordination centres at national and regional levels.</li> <li>• Support the development of the necessary infrastructure required for the operationalisation of innovative financing mechanisms (such as the blockchain and Fintech).</li> <li>• Facilitate the development of a network of specialists (or specialist organisations) to assist in the operationalisation of innovative financing mechanisms.</li> <li>• Facilitate the development of national carbon operationalisation action plans and associated investment options.</li> <li>• Develop international (regional and continental) blue carbon research labs with AU and EU CoEs to facilitate investment. Develop a set of protocols or recommendations for the use of the financing mechanisms that are available in different national contexts.</li> <li>• Support the development of efficient and reliable blue accounting.</li> <li>• Support the development of national and regional enabling policy environments for financing.</li> <li>• Develop awareness programmes and information campaigns for innovative financing mechanisms.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP-FI, World Bank, regional development banks and funds (e.g., AFD, ADF, EIB, BOAD, GIZ, among others)
Implementation period	2024 - 2028

### **Activity 3.3 Accelerate large national and regional regenerative blue economy project investment**

Once the necessary infrastructure and protocols for specific financing mechanisms have been established, there is a need to encourage their use and deployment in facilitating sustainable ocean and blue economy under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. Substantial capital can be mobilised towards priority

development needs and projects by leveraging innovative financing mechanisms, as well as public and private sector finance and resources, such as through Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package and other Team Europe Initiatives on the Blue Economy. At present there are 32 Flagship projects of the Global Gateway programming in Africa that contain blue economy related actions. The current suite of blue related flagship projects (59) and other initiatives (83) predominantly focus on infrastructure development, specifically water infrastructure, ports, and blue renewable energy. There are only a handful of flagship projects that focus on protection and restoration, blue interventions for climate change, blue technological development, or improving blue economy knowledge and research, with none focussing on blue carbon, blue financing or ocean governance. As such, there is room for driving the investment agenda through the Global Gateway programming in a way that better incorporates regenerative blue economy thinking rather than traditional sector management and investment. In addition, investment in blue economy infrastructure could unlock the potential of the AfCFTA for intra-African -and intercontinental trade as global demand for African resources continues. The use of sustainable financing mechanisms can further attract donor investment for development projects, as these mechanisms are designed to limit incurring additional costs for investors, reduce investment risk and foster investment confidence in the successful outcome of the project. Mechanisms include impact investments, public-private partnerships, and establishing investment funds through insurance mechanisms, the blockchain, blue tokens and Fintech, enabling individual investment participation by the public. The use of these technologies enables the mobilisation of financial resources for large-scale regional projects by facilitating individual investment from different national private sectors in a region. In addition, these financial mechanisms can facilitate the transfer of technology and expertise, foster entrepreneurship, and job creation, and empower local communities to actively participate in and benefit from the blue economy.

Activity 3.3	Accelerate large national and regional regenerative blue economy project investment	Priority: <b>High</b>
Key intervention area	Finance and Investment	
Objective	i) Facilitate project investment for large national and regional regeneration development projects.	
Description of activities	The aim of this activity is to facilitate project investment for large-scale regeneration-based development projects at both national and regional scales. This includes the use of appropriate combinations of	

sustainable financing and management mechanisms to attract donor investment and leverage public and private sector resources.

The use of mechanisms that leverage public and private sector resources are recommended, for example, the implementation of blue tokens and other Fintech. Blue tokens use fintech and blockchain technology to raise money for blue investment projects at the individual level. The use of blue tokens democratises investment and makes it easily accessible to the public. The public that participates then have a real stake in the success of the development project, and are further incentivised to contribute to the development of the blue economy. Many other mechanisms exist to incentivise public and private sector involvement as well, and thus leverage the skills and resources that may be currently underutilised in these sectors.

This activity area can be achieved by:

- Develop dedicated fiscal policy for specific regenerative blue economy sector investment on national levels.
- Incentivise the use of sustainable financing mechanisms compared to conventional mechanisms.
- Facilitate and incentivise the use of blue tokens across national and regional levels. This includes the development of a blue token trading platform.
- Facilitated the development of debt buy-backs or debt-swaps to mobilise resources for development projects (at large and small scales).
- Incentivise the use of alternative forms of compensation at national and regional levels, such as nutrient credits (carbon credits, nitrogen credits, phosphorus credits) instead of fiat currency, as they incentivise the development and maintenance of the natural environments that support them.
- Collaborate with the private sector to develop comprehensive insurance policies for regeneration or development projects, to facilitate investor confidence and reduce risk.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the use of PPPs as management bodies for development programs. PPPs optimise the delivery of a service and can create investor confidence for a given project.</li> <li>• Develop awareness programmes and information campaigns for financing and management options for regenerative blue economy development projects.</li> </ul>
Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, FAO, World Bank, regional development banks and funds (e.g., AFD, ADF, EIB, BOAD, GIZ, among others)
Implementation period	2024 – 2030

### **Activity 3.4 Facilitate the creation and operationalisation of regional banks for international blue economy development**

The development of regional banks to facilitate international blue economy development such as through regional projects has been identified as a development need under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership. Regional banks can be developed where they do not exist to mandate a local-regional focus, and develop an acute understanding of the specific regional challenges and opportunities of blue economy development, through local contextual knowledge. Unlike conventional banks, which often prioritise profit maximisation and cater primarily to established industries and urban centres, regional banks can adopt a more holistic approach, prioritising the needs of underserved communities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and sectors critical to sustainable development. Learning from the EU's experiences and mobilising EU regional and development banks can further enhance these efforts. Regional banks are better positioned to promote financial inclusion, facilitate access to credit and capital for marginalised groups, and foster local entrepreneurship and innovation. By channelling investments towards projects that address the specific development needs of that region, they can contribute significantly to poverty alleviation, job creation, education, and other blue economy development more broadly. Regional banks can also serve as a locus for cooperation and collaboration under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership, fostering solidarity and mutual support between neighbouring national states thus facilitating improved transboundary resources management. In addition, a cross-continental network of regional banks may contribute to the sharing of knowledge and expertise regarding specific contextual challenges, as well as the potential to offer institutional support to cross-continental public and private banks.



Activity 3.4	Facilitate the creation and operationalisation of regional banks for international blue economy development	Priority: <b>Medium</b>
Key intervention area	Finance and Investment	
Objective	<p>i) Creation of regional blue economy development banking institutions.</p> <p>ii) Facilitate integration of regional banks into national systems.</p> <p>iii) Integrate regional banks into existing regional development structures, specifically (but not limited to) RECs.</p>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is the creation and operationalisation of regional banking institutions to facilitate contextual blue economy development in the regions they are situated. This includes offering contextual or unique banking services for blue economy development in respective regions, while facilitating cooperation and collaboration between neighbouring countries.</p> <p>Regional banks can serve as a platform for private local investors to expedite blue economy development in neighbouring countries as well as supply goods and services in areas they may be lacking. Regional banks themselves can provide accessible and contextually applicable banking services (such as blended finance) to areas where they are not available, but would require recognition by national governments and integration or compliance with their legal systems. Furthermore, there is opportunity for the integration of blue financing information and coordination systems with regional banks, to better optimise resource use.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying regional blocks that respective regional banks can serve. Alignment with the demarcation of RECs may be a useful starting point.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing contextual mandates for each regional bank to guide their operations. This includes regular review to ensure regional banks meet the needs of their regions.</li> <li>• Regional banks can further facilitate blue economy development by offering reduced banking fees and currency conversion rates than conventional systems for transfers associated with blue economy development, thereby incentivising their use.</li> <li>• Offering multi-currency services, regional banks can facilitate blue economy development by easing the barriers associated with operating in different national currencies, thereby accelerating business transactions and developing national economies.</li> <li>• Regional banks serving as connection and coordination hubs for development projects.</li> <li>• Facilitating recognition of regional banks at the national level, as well integration into national banking systems. This would require coherence with national laws and regulations to operationalise their use.</li> <li>• Facilitate integration into regional development organisations, specifically RECs.</li> <li>• Identify synergies between African and European regional banks for the implementation of best practices and opportunities for collaboration, such as facilitating financing for large scale development projects, and supporting public and private banks.</li> </ul>
Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, FAO, World Bank, IMF, regional development banks and funds (e.g., AFD, ADF, EIB, BOAD, GIZ, among others)
Implementation period	2024 - 2030

### **Activity 3.5 Launch of annual Africa-Europe business forums on Blue Economy**

The launch of annual exhibition events that are open to all (the public, private institutions and research institutions) across both the African and European continents has been identified as a key opportunity for showcasing successful developments and progress in ocean governance and the blue economy. These events are aimed at facilitating cooperation and economic partnerships between African and European national states, and inspiring the development of future blue economy development initiatives. These events can also serve as a

mechanism with which to assure the public that the collaborative efforts of their representatives actualise into real impact and development change that improve local livelihoods and national economies. These events can also serve as a locus to facilitate ocean literacy across Africa and Europe, and foster trust among private institutions to attract donor funding for funding other blue economy development activities.

Activity 3.5	Launch of annual Africa-Europe business forums on Blue Economy	Priority: <b>Low</b>
Key intervention area	Finance and Investment	
Objective	<p>i) Institutionalise annual exhibitions of progress made and new blue economy developments at national, regional, and continental levels.</p> <p>ii) Facilitate investment opportunities for blue economy development projects.</p>	
Description of activities	<p>The aim of this activity is to launch regular annual events to showcase blue economy development success stories and new developments to inspire the development of new blue economy initiatives, and facilitate opportunities for collaboration and donor investment.</p> <p>The institutionalisation of annual ocean governance and blue economy showcases are recommended, as this will ensure that these events take place as planned.</p> <p>The objectives of this activity can be accomplished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supporting the development of annual showcase exhibitions at national, regional, and continental levels. This includes identifying speakers, presenters, and assisting with logistics requirements.</li> <li>● Facilitating the development of an online database where presentations can be stored for later access, such that progress can be tracked by the public and potential investors.</li> <li>● Developing contextual protocols for the easy onboarding of new investors to support ongoing development projects.</li> <li>● Develop online platforms for sharing feedback and fostering new collaborative projects.</li> </ul>	

Proposed Partner Institutions	EU, AU, RECs, UNDP, UNEP, AFD, FAO, World Bank, RFMOs, regional development programmes, national governments, network of CoEs, universities, private sector companies
Implementation period	2024 - 2026

## Conclusion

The importance of the ocean is increasingly being recognised on a global scale with both the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) highlighting the need for progress in driving sustainable ocean and blue economy across both continents, respectively. Ocean governance has been an underutilised facet of Africa-Europe relations and is as such a missed opportunity to advance a well-designed sustainable ocean and blue economy, under the proposed Africa-Europe Partnership.

The Africa-Europe Partnership on Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy proposes to advance the development of a regenerative blue economy at national, regional and continental scales and concurrently implement effective ocean governance mechanisms in contribution to this aim. The Roadmap for the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership can facilitate increasingly effective cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance and blue economy issues, by strengthening the capacities of partners through joint exchange and understanding of respective development challenges. The Roadmap serves as a tool to enlarge the Africa-Europe partnership to new and diverse actors (beyond the African and European Unions) deepening concrete areas of cooperation, with the aim to unlocking dormant opportunities and scaling-up existing activities, as well as opening-up space for fresh policy thinking and sustainable joint actions in the long-term. The Roadmap evidences the impact of a first project of its kind: ‘to co-design an Africa-Europe multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to Ocean Governance and Blue Economy’. It also underpins the legacy strategy, evidencing a number of proposals/activities to significantly scale up the reach, visibility and political impact of Europe-Africa cooperation on Ocean.

The Roadmap underscores that a strategic partnership in ocean governance can strengthen diplomatic and geopolitical relations between Europe and Africa, and reinforce the partnership on the international stage. By engaging in cooperative initiatives to address shared maritime challenges, both regions can build trust and goodwill, paving the way for enhanced cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. This collaboration can also contribute to regional stability and security by promoting peaceful maritime coexistence and preventing conflicts over ocean resources, through diplomatic negotiation and leveraging co-development opportunities.

The full operationalisation of the Africa-Europe Partnership on Ocean governance and the Blue Economy is a key opportunity to drive political momentum and coherence ahead of key international policy events that can result in impact on a global scale, but require partner countries, programmes, and institutions to engage, collaborate, and contribute to the joint vision of sustainable ocean governance and the development of a regenerative blue economy. The Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership is an opportunity for transformative

collaboration and collective action to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as to address the major ocean crises of biodiversity loss, pollution, climate change and declining resources.

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Members of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance:

**Amb. Nancy Karigithu**, Co-chair of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, Kenya's Ambassador and Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy and former Principal Secretary for Shipping and Maritime Affairs for the Government of Kenya | **Pascal Lamy**, Co-chair of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, Vice Chair of the Paris Peace Forum, Chair of the EU "Ocean and Waters" Mission | **Valérie Kodjo-Diop**, Director for Innovation and Sustainable Development West African Development Bank | **Adjany Costa**, Advisor to the President of Angola, Government of Angola | **Faraj Abdelmalek**, Director – General, Institut National de la Recherche Halieutique (INRH) | **Edward Kimakwa**, Senior Marine Advisor and Our Blue Future Coordinator, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) | **Piera Tortora**, Head of the OECD Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Head of the Paris Pact for People and the Planet (4P) Secretariat | **Anthi Pournara**, Environmental and Sustainability Engineer, Sustainable Blue Economy Researcher and Consultant, Hellenic Ministry of Development Investments | **Daniel Segura**, Chief Operations Officer, ProAzul – Blue Economy Development Fund | **Amel Hamza-Chaffai**, Vice President of the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Decade Task Force on African and Adjacent Island States. Member of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts. Professor and Marine Ecotoxicology Expert, Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Sfax | **Arthur Tuda**, Executive Director, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association – WIOMSA | **David Obura**, Founding Director, Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa | **Gaoussou Gueye**, President Association for the Promotion and Empowerment of Maritime Fisheries (APRAPAM) | **Noble Kwame Asare**, Senior Lecturer at the University of Cape Coast, Centre Leader for an AU Centre of Excellence in Marine Fisheries and Coastal Management at the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences | **Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy**, Madagascar's small-scale fisheries Ambassador, and Regional Coastal and Ocean Governance Manager at IUCN for Eastern and Southern Africa | **Alex Benkenstein**, Head of the Governance of Africa's Resources Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) | **Sylwia Lyskawka**, Member of the National Development Council, Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, and former President of the Polish Youth Climate Council | **Guillermo Ortuño Crespo**, Co-Lead of the IUCN WCPA High Seas Specialist Group Research Consultant & Director of Keystone Ocean S.L | **Geneviève Pons**, Director General and Vice President, Europe Jacques Delors | **Editrudith Lukanga**, Secretary General, African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) | **Josheena Naggea**, André Hoffmann Fellow at Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions and World Economic Forum | **Steffen Knodt**, Founder and

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**Note:**

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Action Plan for Roadmap delivery

Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
Enablers for an effective Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership	Co-produce and institutionalise a Memorandum of understanding and cooperation for the Africa-Europe Partnership	- Memorandum of understanding and cooperation for the Africa-Europe Partnership on Ocean Governance and Blue Economy	2024 - 2025	-Ratification of the MoU or agreement by member states.	AU, EU, and associated member states	50 000
	Institute an Africa-Europe Blue Resilience, Regeneration, and Restoration Hub (B3R-Hub)	- Creation of the B3R-Hub. - Development of the B3R-Hub Constitution.	2024 - 2025 2024 - 2025	- Online presence of the B3R-Hub  - B3R-Hub constitution.	AU, EU. RECs	250 000

Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership  
Final Report

Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
	Develop an expert advisory group on matters relating to ocean governance and blue economy development	- Establish a primary Africa-Europe Advisory Panel for the B3R-Hub and Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership	2024 - 2025	-Integrated advisory panel of experts into the B3R-Hub.  - MoU to guide actions and detail the panel's purpose under the Africa-Europe Partnership.	AU, EU, AEF, B3R-Hub	100 000

Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership  
Final Report

Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
	Develop a good working relationship between the AU Blue Economy Division and the EU Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)	- Enhanced cooperation and collaboration between the AU Blue Economy Division and the EU Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)	2024 - 2025	<p>-Regular meetings (virtual/in person; strategic and on the ground) and involvement of the EC-DG-MARE and AU-ARBE on blue economy developments under the institutional Africa-Europe partnership.</p> <p>-Designated primary contact persons within the AU-ARBE and EC-DG-MARE for facilitating dialogue and coordinating collaborative efforts.</p>	AU, EU, AU-ARBE	100 000

Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership  
Final Report

Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
	Establish a strong stakeholder coalition with AU Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and European Union Member States and the European Commission	- Memorandum of understanding and cooperation for integration of RECs under the Africa-Europe Partnership, working jointly with EU Member States and the European Commission	2024 - 2025	-Ratification of the MoU or agreement by RECs and EU Member States and EC	AU, EU, RECs	50 000
	Prioritising cross cutting development activities rather than sectoral or siloed ones	- Identification and implementation of specific cross-cutting development activities or projects that encompass multiple blue economy sectors.	2024 - 2025	-List of prioritised cross-cutting development activities.	AU, EU, RECs, B3R-Hub	50 000

Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership  
Final Report

Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
	Advance a joint Africa-Europe ocean research agenda	- Develop a joint research agenda to prioritise research into specific topics within blue economy development and ocean governance.	2024 - 2025	- List of prioritised research topics and concepts within ocean governance and blue economy fields.	AU, EU, Centres of Excellence, universities, cities, capacity exchanges	25 000
	Promote a joint Africa-Europe ocean literacy programme	- Develop and deliver joint ocean information and education programmes across both continents to enhance ocean literacy among the public.	2024 - 2030	-Increased number of ocean information and education programmes across Africa and Europe.	AU, EU, Centres of Excellence, universities, NGOs	300 000

Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership  
Final Report

Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
	Elaborate a joint plan to overcome safety challenges, maritime security challenges as well as IUU fishing in Africa.	- Develop a joint plan to overcome maritime security challenges and IUU fishing in Africa.	2024 - 2026	-Defined Maritime security and IUU approach and plan under the Africa-Europe partnership.	AU, EU, RFMOs, NGOs, Centres of Excellence	150 000

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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
	Develop and institutionalise joint workshops with other agencies and programmes to facilitate strong working collaborations and increase reach.	- Develop and institutionalise joint workshops with other agencies and programmes to facilitate strong working collaborations and increase reach.	2024 - 2025	<p>-Regular annual or biannual workshops and summits to share knowledge and experiences.</p> <p>-Institutionalise bi-annual Africa-Europe Ocean Governance and Blue Economy Ministerial Summit</p> <p>-Regular staff exchanges between agencies and programmes.</p> <p>-Joint programmes involving multiple agencies and organisations.</p>	AU, EU, B3R-Hub, RECs, NGOs, national and regional development organisations and banks, universities, Centres of Excellence	100 000

Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership  
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<p>1. Ocean governance</p>	<p>1.1 Support Africa-Europe Inter-Agency coordination through developing large, long-term and high impact programmes</p>	<p>1.1.1 Coordinated collaborative efforts between multiple development agencies for the delivery of large-scale, long term projects and programmes</p> <p>1.1.2 Develop a system for the implementation of communication protocols for individual projects</p> <p>1.1.3 Develop a transparent system of accounting for joint resources expenditure</p> <p>1.1.4 Develop a transparent database for multi-agency projects</p>	<p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p>	<p>-MoU's or similar multilateral agreements between development partners.</p> <p>-Known points of contact for specific projects in each development organisation.</p> <p>-Dedicated communication protocols and a project-specific communication platform.</p> <p>-Regular monitoring and expense to better track project progress and avoid the duplication of research efforts</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, AFD, ADF, ADB, FAO, GIZ, World Bank</p>	<p>700 000</p>
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Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership  
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
				-Regularly updated working project database or platform		

1.2 Share best practices for negotiation and effective implementation of international treaties, conventions, and sustainability targets.	1.2.1 Develop a platform for publishing and sharing the best implementation practices for different international treaties and goals.	2024 - 2025	-Working knowledge sharing and communications platform	EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, AFD, GIZ, World Bank, other regional development programmes, national governments and development programmes	250 000
	1.2.2 Develop sets of implementation protocols for similar development contexts throughout Africa.	2024 - 2026	-Different sets of implementation protocols (or recommended practices) have been developed for different contexts.		
	1.2.3 Establishing a network of experienced professionals to guide the precise implementation of best practices in unique African contexts.	2024 - 2025	-Active network of experienced researchers and professionals has been established		
	1.2.4 Identify implementation sites of different resolutions to	2024 - 2030	-List of potential implementation sites as primary investigation sites for the application of different international treaties		

		<p>test novel implementation approaches, and to assess the impact of implemented changes under different international treaties and goals.</p> <p>1.2.5 Support the reporting and monitoring of implemented changes to track progress, such that progress can be shared and working practices identified.</p> <p>1.2.6 Institutionalise and integrate knowledge sharing within national and regional policies.</p> <p>1.2.7 Africa and Europe could work collectively to identify and establish a</p>	<p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p>	<p>-Regular reports on the progress and impact of implemented changes</p> <p>-Harmonised national, regional, and continental policy for knowledge exchange internationally</p>		
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		<p>joint proposal for the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) to conserve biodiversity, including sharing experiences and best practices.</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p>			
		<p>1.2.8 Collaborative communication campaigns could raise public awareness about the importance of marine biodiversity and the BBNJ treaty, while elevating the importance of the treaty politically (among others).</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p>			
		<p>1.2.9 Identifying a limited number of joint actions between Africa and Europe to ratify and implement the Global Plastics Treaty, such as</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p>			

		<p>jointly advocate for the treaty's adoption at international forums, emphasising the shared responsibility in addressing plastic pollution.</p> <p>1.2.10 Organising joint awareness campaigns through the mobilisation of existing grassroot flagship initiatives could demonstrate the potential of cross-continental collaboration to ratify the Global Plastics treaty. There is also a need for better understanding the historic use of plastic in African coastal areas and its connection to land pollution.</p>	<p>2024 - 2026</p>			
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>1.2.11 Regular diplomatic dialogues between European and African countries could help align positions on the Global Plastics Treaty, and thus highlight opportunities for cooperation, such as in aligning national policies and regulations with the goals and principles of the Global Plastics Treaty could create a more cohesive and effective approach.</p>				

	<p>1.3 Exchange effective approaches for the implementation of national Blue Economy Strategies.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Developing platforms for publishing and sharing the best implementation practices for different national Blue Economy Strategies, across both the public and private sector.</p> <p>1.3.2 Facilitate private sector involvement such that knowledge of best practices can be disseminated to private actors, and that the transition to the blue economy is incentivised.</p> <p>1.3.3 Develop sets of implementation protocols for similar development contexts throughout Africa, that can be called upon</p>	<p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p>	<p>-Working Blue Economy knowledge and communications platforms</p> <p>-Different sets of Blue Economy implementation protocols (or recommended practices) have been developed for different contexts.</p> <p>- Active network of experienced Blue Economy researchers and professionals has been established</p> <p>- Private sector-led Blue Economy initiatives in their local area</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, AU, AFD, GIZ, World Bank, other regional development programmes, national governments and development programmes</p>	<p>350000</p>
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		<p>without the need for external consultation.</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>1.3.4 Establishing a network of experienced professionals to guide the precise implementation of best practices in unique African contexts.</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>1.3.5 Support the reporting and monitoring of implemented changes to track progress, such that progress can be shared and working practices identified.</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>1.3.6 Institutionalise and integrate knowledge sharing within national and regional policies.</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p>	<p>-</p> <p>- List of potential implementation sites as primary investigation sites for the application of different international treaties</p> <p>- Regular reports on the progress and impact of implemented changes</p> <p>- Harmonised national, regional, and continental Blue Economy policies</p> <p>-</p>		
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>1.3.7 Harmonise current and developing national blue economy strategies with those at larger resolutions such as regional and continental strategies, specifically the AU Blue Economy Strategy. This includes the harmonisation of national policy to align with regional and continental development objectives.</p>				

	<p>1.4 Promote fisheries transparency and equitable benefit sharing.</p>	<p>1.4.1 Integration of the Fishery Transparency Initiative (FiTI) framework into conventional fishery management and data systems.</p> <p>1.4.2 The development of easily-accessible and secure fisheries data recording and storage platforms for individual cross-boundary fishery resources.</p> <p>1.4.3 Integration of community participation and engagement in fisheries stock management to enhance transparency.</p> <p>1.4.4 Regular review of current management</p>	<p>2024 - 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Integration of the Fishery Transparency Initiative (FiTI) framework.</li> <li>-Development of dedicated fisheries data storage platforms</li> <li>- Development of secure fisheries data recording protocols</li> <li>-Development of community fisheries co-management programmes.</li> <li>-Institutionalised regular review of fisheries management strategies, approaches, and procedures at national level (min. twice a year).</li> </ul>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, AFD, GIZ, ADF, FAO, World Bank, RFMOs, regional development programmes, national governments and development programmes, local communities (at the sub-national level)</p>	<p>350 000</p>
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		<p>approaches as new data becomes available, to ensure that appropriate and optimal management strategies are used for the long-term health of the relevant fishery.</p> <p>1.4.5 Supporting the incentivisation of fisheries stock and fishery product certification using internationally recognised sustainability certifications.</p> <p>1.4.6 Reassess SFPAs and other international fisheries agreements for integrating transparency, and the equitable sharing of benefits.</p>		<p>-Increased number of internationally recognised fishery product and stock sustainability certifications.</p> <p>-Institutionalised regular review of SFPAs and other fisheries agreements.</p> <p>-Increased number of publicly available awareness and training programmes on the importance of transparency, traceability, and certification in fisheries.</p>		
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>1.4.7 Develop awareness and training programmes on the importance and benefits of traceability, certification, transparency, and the need for fisheries data collection.</p> <p>1.4.8 Integrate transparency, traceability, certification, and the need for data collection into national and regional fisheries management policies.</p>		-Harmonised national and regional fisheries policies.		

	<p>1.5 Facilitating dialogues on concerns of access to the sea and opening up landlocked States.</p>	<p>1.5.1 Developing dedicated national platforms for public discussion which can be used to identify primary concerns.</p> <p>1.5.2 Develop protocols where identified primary concerns can then be submitted to national governments or international representatives for presenting these to regional partners to develop solutions collaboratively.</p> <p>1.5.3 Developing a regional database that stores identified priority development areas about accessing aquatic resources at the national</p>	<p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p>	<p>-Regular or planned national workshops, video meetings, and written dialogues (including electronic platforms).</p> <p>-Protocols have been developed for communicating concerns from the national level to regional and continental platforms.</p> <p>-Well-functioning, open-access regional databases to log, access, and assess concerns about accessing aquatic resources.</p> <p>-Planned regular discussions, such as</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNDP, African CoEs, NGOs, AFD, ADF, GIZ, World Bank, universities, national governments, and other international development programmes</p>	<p>150 000</p>
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>level. This database should be open-access and can be used by both the public and private sector to develop cross-country solutions for accessing ocean resources.</p> <p>1.5.4 Institutionalise regular discussion and dialogue at the regional and continental level.</p> <p>1.5.5 Support the monitoring of ocean resources, to enable the identification of where ocean resources are flowing to.</p>	<p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p>	<p>international conferences or summits, on accessing ocean and freshwater resources.</p> <p>-Development and use of monitoring programmes (or algorithms integrated into existing monitoring schemes) for aquatic resources tracking.</p>		

1.6 Elevate gender equality and the involvement of women in the maritime sector.	1.6.1 Supporting the development of support and protection programs for women and young workers and entrepreneurs in different sectors of the blue economy (at all levels).	2024 - 2027	- Increased number of support programmes for women in different sectors of the blue economy.	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, AFD, ADF, GIZ, FAO, World Bank, regional development programmes, national governments and development programmes	150 000
	1.6.2 Supporting the development of equal compensation programmes throughout all sectors of the blue economy (at national, regional, and continental levels).	2024 - 2027	- Increased number of equal compensation programmes throughout the blue economy.  -Blue economy monitoring programs with explicit reference to gender data in sectors of the blue economy.		
	1.6.3 Integrating gender into blue economy monitoring programmes such that the progress of women can be tracked as the blue economy	2024 - 2025	- Increased number of exhibitions and platforms for recognising the contributions of women in blue economy		

		<p>develops. This includes addressing the gender data gaps in specific sectors of the blue economy.</p> <p>1.6.4 Developing platforms and awareness programs for recognising the contributions of women in science, technology, and elsewhere throughout the blue economy.</p> <p>1.6.5 Integrate gender equality and equality of opportunity into national blue economy strategies and implementation initiatives. This includes the development of technical and financial support programmes for</p>	<p>2024 2028</p> <p>2024 2028</p>	<p>science and technology development.</p> <p>-Blue economy strategies and programmes with explicit reference and development approaches for gender equality throughout different blue economy sectors.</p> <p>-Blue economy policies with explicit reference to gender equality (at national, regional, and continental levels).</p>		
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>previously marginalised groups throughout the maritime sector, such as female entrepreneurs.</p> <p>1.6.7 Integrate gender equality and equality of opportunity into national, regional, and continental blue economy policies.</p>				

1.7 Improve working conditions and social protection for seafarers and dockworkers.	1.7.1 Adopting key ILO/IMO labour and social protection conventions.	2024 - 2027	-Ratification of ILO and IMO labour and social protection conventions.	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, AFD, ADF, GIZ, World Bank, ILO, IMO, national governments, judicial systems, and development programmes (at national and regional levels)	250 000
	1.7.2 Integrating ILO/IMO labour and social protection conventions into national blue economy strategies, Integrating ILO/IMO conventions into policies at national, regional, and continental levels.	2024 - 2027	-Specific reference to ILO and IMO labour conventions (or their subsequent elements) into blue economy strategies and policies at national, regional and continental level.		
	1.7.3 Support the development of social benefit mechanisms into sectors of the blue economy. These include healthcare benefits, education programmes for children of employees, insurance,	2024 - 2026	-Presence of healthcare benefits, education programmes for children of employees, insurance, and the establishment of retirement programmes throughout national blue economy sectors.		
		2024 - 2025			

		<p>and the establishment of retirement programmes.</p> <p>1.7.4 Support the development of awareness programmes surrounding human and labour rights to inform the current and future blue economy workforce.</p> <p>1.7.5 Develop easily accessible, anonymous platforms for reporting labour and human rights violations.</p> <p>1.7.6 Facilitate the enforcement of labour laws in all sectors of the blue economy. This includes empowering the workforce to report violations anonymously</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2027</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2025</p>	<p>-Established, regular awareness programmes or campaigns on labour rights in the blue economy.</p> <p>-Recognised platforms are available for reporting labour law violations anonymously.</p> <p>-Potentially increased number of convictions of labour law violations</p> <p>-Regular skills, vocation, and ocean literacy training and support programmes have been established (ideally, at the national level).</p>		
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>(including training on how to do so, which platforms to use, etc.).</p> <p>1.7.7 Support the development of training and support programmes for blue economy industries. This includes developing ocean literacy among blue economy employees, in addition to skills and vocation training.</p>				

<p>2. Capacity sharing</p>	<p>2.1 Facilitate the sharing of experiences on blue economy policy development and emerging ocean policy.</p>	<p>2.1.1 The development of a dedicated online platform for sharing policy experiences and challenges by African and European national states.</p> <p>2.1.2 Developing protocols of conduct and safeguards for use of the online platform, such that sensitive sovereign information is not disseminated if it is not intended.</p> <p>2.1.3 Establish a network of policy development specialists to assist with designing effective policy solutions through the online platform.</p>	<p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2028</p>	<p>-Established an accessible, transparent knowledge-sharing online platform.</p> <p>-Protocols for safeguarding against the dissemination of sensitive government and sovereign information.</p> <p>-Network(s) of policy development specialists and experts.</p> <p>-Active monitoring framework for measuring progress in policy development.</p> <p>-Harmonised national and regional policies.</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, UNEP, UNDP, UESCO, FAO, World Bank, national governments and lawmakers</p>	<p>350 000</p>
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		2.1.4 Support the reporting and monitoring of implemented changes to track progress, such that it can be shared and working practices identified.	2024 - 2026	-Integrated knowledge sharing into national and regional policies.		
		2.1.5 Institutionalise and integrate knowledge sharing within national and regional policies.	2024 - 2028			
		2.1.6 Support the harmonisation of national and regional policies to facilitate common development objectives through the online platform.				

	<p>2.2 Promote blue economy monitoring and accounting, and marine spatial planning.</p>	<p>2.2.1 The application of national and regional blue accounting initiatives (such as applying the already tested Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit by UNECA which has already been trialled in Seychelles, Rwanda, Djibouti and Tanzania).</p> <p>2.2.2 Develop coherent national and regional monitoring and accounting frameworks for the blue economy.</p> <p>2.2.3 Implementation and institutionalisation of a regular reporting schedule to national governments or planning authorities (such as a</p>	<p>2024 - 2028</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p>	<p>-Established blue accounting and monitoring facilities and institutions.</p> <p>-Coherent national and regional monitoring and accounting frameworks for the blue economy (i.e., definition of different sectors of the blue economy should be the same and should be measured similarly).</p> <p>-Regular national reports on the status of the blue economy.</p> <p>-Dedicated blue economy monitoring and accounting platform(s).</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, AU-IBAR, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, AFD, ADF, FAO, World Bank, RFMOs, regional development programmes, national governments</p>	<p>1 400 000</p>
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		<p>min. of 2 reports per year).</p> <p>2.2.4 Develop a network for blue accounting institutions internationally to share and disseminate best practices and new developments. The development of continental blue accounting information institutions or platforms are also recommended.</p> <p>2.2.5 Establish regular high-level dialogues, providing a platform for decision-makers and conservation practitioners from Africa and Europe to meet, reconfirm commitments, and advance joint</p>	<p>2024 - 2026</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p>	<p>-Regular high-level dialogues concern MSP and the establishment of MPAs and LLMA's under the 30x30 framework.</p> <p>-Joint task-force dedicated to the realising 30x30 across Africa and Europe</p> <p>- Increased number of tools for the management of MPAs and LMMAs</p>		
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		<p>actions in favour of reaching the 30x30 objective through the ramping-up of MPAs and support to LMMAs</p> <p>2.2.6 Provide support to low capacity governments for realising the 30x30 objective by providing capacity building activities for the identification, development, and implementation of MPAs, as well as to share information on best practices, and address issues.</p> <p>2.2.7 Facilitate research collaboration to identify biologically critical areas, land-based sources of pollution, and climate</p>				
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>impacts which have shifted the biological zones and what it means for the establishment of marine conservation areas, and to involve the private sector to provide local stakeholders with the tools to better manage their MPAs, to conserve 30% of marine habitats by 2030.</p>				

2.3 Strengthen and structure an Africa-Europe network of research and education institutions for ocean governance and the blue economy	2.3.1 Developing a common vision (such as an MoU) and framework to guide the research efforts of the research network on ocean governance and the blue economy.	2024 - 2025	-Established a common research manifesto or ratification of a common research MoU.  -Regular review of the joint research vision for the network.	EU, AU, RECs, UNESCO, World Bank, AU-CoEs (e.g., Suez University - Faculty of Fishery Resources, Rhodes University - Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, Académie Regionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer - Cote d'Ivoire, etc.), EU-CoEs	350 000
	2.3.2 Extensive mapping of African and European CoE for inclusion into the proposed research network.	2024 - 2026	-Results of thorough mapping exercise (list) of relevant African and European CoEs.	(e.g., COST Action, SEA-	
	2.3.3 Develop a dedicated (online) platform to facilitate knowledge exchange between research institutions within the network.	2024 - 2025	-Established a dedicated online platform for knowledge exchange.  -List of primary contact personnel for respective institutions within the network.		
	2.3.4 Establish a set of recognised dedicated	2024 - 2025			

		<p>contact points within each institution to facilitate primary correspondence with other members of the network.</p>	2024 2025	-	<p>-Established selection criteria for inclusion into the research network.</p> <p>-Established protocols for regular staff exchanges.</p> <p>-Annual or bi-annual summits or workshops for research exchange.</p>	<p>EU, EOREA, Jean Monnet CoE on Sustainable Blue Economy, etc.), universities, research NGOs</p>	
		<p>2.3.5 Develop a set of selection or performance criteria for inclusion into the research network based on relevant potential impact and collaborative potential under the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership.</p>	2024 2025	-	<p>-Development of collaborative research programmes.</p>		
		<p>2.3.6 Develop protocols for regular staff and skills exchanges between different institutions within the network.</p>	2024 2027	-	<p>-Established a database of recognised researchers and experts to call upon for consultation and training.</p>		
		<p>2.3.7 Institutionalise regular workshops within</p>			<p>-A permanent incubator for new strategic and</p>		

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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>the research network to inspire its members and facilitate future research developments.</p> <p>2.3.8 Support the development of large cross-continental research programmes aligned with the joint research vision.</p> <p>2.3.9 Develop a database of ocean and blue economy experts within the EU and the AU to foster high-quality exchange.</p>	2024 - 2025	concrete proposals and initiatives, innovative practices, joint advocacy.		

2.4 Accelerate the development of wide-spread ocean literacy.	2.4.1 Developing an online information sharing platform(s) for ocean topics and the blue economy.	2024 - 2026	- Increased number of verified ocean information sharing platforms.	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, RFMOs, World Bank, schools and universities (including online), NGOs, national and regional government and regulatory organisations, language centres, community centres	350 000
	2.4.2 Developing protocols to guide the publishing of information on online platforms. This includes verification and certification of online platforms.	2024 - 2025	- Established protocols for regular screening and verification of published ocean information, certification of online platforms, and detecting and reducing misinformation on online platforms.		
	2.4.3 Establishing a network of ocean and blue economy specialists to develop material for the online platforms, in collaboration with language and communication experts to facilitate enhanced comprehension.	2024 - 2026	- Established networks of ocean, blue economy, language, and communication specialists.  - New words in native languages for ocean		

		<p>2.4.4 Develop protocols to assess and review information published on the online hub, in an attempt to supply relevant information and not misinformation and propaganda.</p>	<p>2024 2026</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-Increased number of ocean information campaigns (such as public seminars) in member states.</p>		
		<p>2.4.5 Establish a network of language experts to develop words for ocean-, ocean governance, and blue economy concepts where they do not exist in native indigenous languages.</p>	<p>2024 2030</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-Development of recognised platforms for community engagement with ocean topics, the blue economy and ocean governance.</p>		
		<p>2.4.6 Develop accessible ocean information and education campaigns (such as public seminar</p>	<p>2024 2030</p>	<p>-</p>		

Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>series) for implementation at local institutions.</p> <p>2.4.7 Support public engagement in ocean governance and blue economy topics, challenges, and solutions. This includes providing spaces for voicing concerns, facilitating recognition of local efforts, and incentivising individual responsibility for the development of the blue economy.</p>				



2.5 Enhance and build shared capacity for ocean governance and regenerative blue economy	2.5.1 Launching a Africa-Europe Training and Capacity Strengthening Program on Ocean Governance and the development of the Blue Economy.	2024 - 2026	-Established a Europe-Africa Training and Capacity Strengthening Program on Ocean Governance and the development of the Blue Economy.	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, World Bank, RFMOs, schools and universities (including online), NGOs, national and regional government and regulatory organisations, community centres	700 000
	2.5.2 Leverage existing regional development programmes and organisations for facilitating ocean governance capacity enhancement. This includes coordinating with regional fisheries management organisations.	2024 - 2026	-RFMOs facilitating capacity development for ocean governance.  -Increased number of online courses, certifications, or in-person public seminars, on ocean governance concepts and practices.		
	2.5.3 Developing education programs on ocean governance practices, such as a summer university, or ad	2024 - 2026	-Active engagement within Euro-African University on Ocean Governance and the		

		<p>hoc courses, that are accessible through the internet and presented in multiple languages.</p> <p>2.5.4 Facilitate the creation of an online Euro-African University on Ocean Governance and the development of the Blue Economy.</p> <p>2.5.5 Develop a database of ocean and blue economy experts within the EU and the AU to foster high-quality exchange, and with the capacity to train the workforce of tomorrow, including youth.</p> <p>2.5.6 Incentivise the development of joint governance solutions by</p>	<p>2024 2026</p> <p>2024 2025</p> <p>2024 2030</p> <p>2024 2026</p>	<p>- development of the Blue Economy.</p> <p>-Established database of recognised ocean governance experts.</p> <p>-Increased number of joint solutions and development agreements between blue economy sectors of neighbouring states.</p> <p>-National and regional policies that integrated ocean governance capacity enhancement, along with their primary mandate.</p>		
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>developing synergies and facilitating relations between industry sectors of different member states.</p> <p>2.5.7 Integrate ocean governance capacity development into other development objectives. This includes integrating capacity enhancement into new policy development.</p>				

3. Finance and investment	3.1 Contribute to the joint elaboration of an Africa-Europe Blue Finance Roadmap.	3.1.1 Establishing a working group for the joint blue finance roadmap agreement.	2024 - 2025	-Established a dedicated working group for the development of the Africa-Europe Blue Finance Roadmap.	EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNDP, UNEP-FI, development fund institutions (e.g., AFD, ADF, ADB, EIB, BOAD, GIZ, among others), World Bank, national governments	150 000
		3.1.2 Establishing workshops to facilitate dialogue and discussion for member state contribution and input to the blue finance roadmap.	2024 - 2025	-Organised and scheduled a number of workshops, online dialogues, or summits.		
		3.1.3 Facilitating the logistic requirements involved with the ratification of the roadmap by member states or partner organisations.	2024 - 2026	-Drafted an implementation or execution plan for the ratification of the future Blue Finance Roadmap.		
		3.1.4 Supporting the development of initial blue economy projects	2024 - 2026	-Project proposals with explicit reference to the blue finance principles.  -Blue economy strategies and policies		

Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>following the blue finance principles.</p> <p>3.1.5 Integrate the sustainable blue finance principles into national, regional, and continental blue economy strategies and policies.</p>		<p>with explicit reference to the blue finance principles.</p>		

	<p>3.2 Promote the establishment of new financial mechanisms for the blue economy.</p>	<p>3.2.1 Support the development of dedicated specialised blue finance and financing information and coordination centres at national and regional levels.</p> <p>3.2.2 Support the development of the necessary infrastructure required for the operationalisation of innovative financing mechanisms (such as the blockchain and Fintech).</p> <p>3.2.3 Facilitate the development of a network of specialists (or specialist organisations) to assist in the operationalisation of</p>	<p>2024 - 2028</p> <p>2024 - 2028</p> <p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p>	<p>-Recognised blue finance information and coordination facilities at the national and regional level.</p> <p>-Established a network of specialists on finance and innovative financing mechanism development.</p> <p>-Established protocols detailing the available financing mechanisms at national and regional level (including regular review of these protocols).</p> <p>-Integrated blue accounting frameworks at the national and regional levels.</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP-FI, World Bank, regional development banks and funds (AFD, ADF, EIB, BOAD, GIZ, among others)</p>	<p>350 000</p>
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		<p>innovative financing mechanisms.</p> <p>3.2.4 Develop a set of protocols or recommendations for the use of the financing mechanisms that are available in different national contexts.</p> <p>3.2.5 Support the development of efficient and reliable blue accounting.</p> <p>3.2.6 Support the development of national and regional enabling policy environments for financing.</p> <p>3.2.7 Develop awareness programmes and information</p>	<p>2024 2026</p> <p>2024 2026</p> <p>2024 2025</p>	<p>- National and regional blue economy policies that have integrated the development of an enabling policy environment for financing.</p> <p>- Established numerous national and regional awareness and information campaigns on available financing mechanisms.</p>		
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		campaigns for innovative financing mechanisms.				



	<p>3.3 Accelerate large national and regional regenerative blue economy project investment.</p>	<p>3.3.1 Develop dedicated fiscal policy for specific blue economy sector investment on national levels.</p> <p>3.3.2 Incentivise the use of sustainable financing mechanisms compared to conventional mechanisms.</p> <p>3.3.3 Facilitate and incentivise the use of blue tokens across national and regional levels. This includes the development of a blue token trading platform.</p> <p>3.3.5 Facilitate the development of debt buy-backs or debt-swaps by the private sector to mobilise</p>	<p>2024 - 2026</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p> <p>2024 - 2027</p>	<p>-Sector-specific fiscal policy to encourage regeneration-based sector development.</p> <p>-Increased use of different sustainable financing mechanisms.</p> <p>-Established blue token trading platforms.</p> <p>-Increased number of debt-for-nature-swap or debt buy-back agreements in the private sector.</p> <p>-The establishment of tax incentives that incentives alternative forms of compensation.</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, FAO, World Bank, regional development banks and funds (e.g., AFD, ADF, EIB, BOAD, GIZ, among others)</p>	<p>1 200 000</p>
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		<p>resources for development projects (at large and small scales).</p> <p>3.3.6 Incentivise the use of alternative forms of compensation at national and regional levels, such as nutrient credits instead of fiat currency, as they incentivise the regeneration and maintenance of the natural environments that support them.</p> <p>3.3.7 Collaborate with the private sector to develop comprehensive insurance policies for regeneration projects, to facilitate investor confidence and reduce risk.</p>	<p>2024 - 2027</p> <p>2024 - 2028</p> <p>2024 - 2027</p>	<p>-Established a range of insurance products for regeneration projects.</p> <p>-Increased number of PPPs for regeneration projects.</p> <p>-Increased number of awareness programmes on available financing options for regeneration projects.</p>		
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		<p>3.3.8 Support the use of PPPs as management bodies for regeneration programs. PPPs optimise the delivery of a service and can create investor confidence for a given project.</p> <p>3.3.9 Develop awareness programmes and information campaigns for financing and management options for regenerative blue economy development projects.</p>	<p>2024 - 2025</p>			

	<p>3.4 Facilitate the creation of regional banks for international blue economy development</p>	<p>3.4.1 Identifying regional blocks that respective regional banks can serve. Alignment with the demarcation of RECs may be a useful starting point.</p> <p>3.4.2 Developing contextual mandates for each regional bank to guide their operations. This includes regular review to ensure regional banks meet the needs of their regions.</p> <p>3.4.3 Regional banks can further facilitate blue economy development by offering reduced banking fees and currency conversion rates than conventional systems for transfers</p>	<p>2024 - 2025</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p>	<p>- Designated regions for regional banks to serve.</p> <p>-Established mandates for each respective development bank.</p> <p>-Presence of multi-currency services and regular review of the status of regional banks to ensure the maximisation of profit is not their primary objective.</p> <p>-Regional banks being used as fora for collaborative projects and efforts.</p> <p>-Explicit recognition and integration of</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, FAO, World Bank, IMF, regional development banks and funds (e.g., AFD, AdDB, EIB, BOAD, GIZ, among others)</p>	<p>350 000</p>
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		<p>associated with blue economy development, thereby incentivising their use.</p> <p>3.4.4 Offering multi-currency services, regional banks can facilitate blue economy development by easing the barriers associated with operating in different national currencies, thereby accelerating business transactions developing national economies.</p> <p>3.4.5. Regional banks serving as connection and coordination hubs for development projects.</p>	<p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p>	<p>- regional banks by national institutions.</p> <p>-Recognition and use of regional banks by other regional organisations, such as RECs.</p> <p>-Regular exchange between African and European regional banks.</p>		
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		<p>3.4.6 Facilitating recognition of regional banks at the national level, as well as integration into national banking systems. This would require coherence with national laws and regulations to operationalise their use.</p> <p>3.4.7 Facilitate integration into regional development organisations, specifically RECs.</p> <p>3.4.8 Identify synergies between African and European regional banks for the implementation of best practices and opportunities for collaboration, such as</p>	<p>2024 - 2030</p> <p>2024 - 2030</p>			
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		facilitating financing for large scale development projects, and supporting public and private banks.				

	<p>3.5 Launch of annual Africa-Europe business forums on blue economy, serving as annual exhibitions for fostering collaboration and garnering investment support for the blue economy</p>	<p>3.5.1 Supporting the development of annual showcase exhibitions at national, regional, and continental levels. This includes identifying speakers, presenters, and assisting with logistics requirements.</p> <p>3.5.2 Facilitating the development of an online database where presentations can be stored for later access, such that progress can be tracked by the public and potential investors.</p> <p>3.5.3 Developing contextual protocols for the easy onboarding of new investors to support ongoing development projects.</p>	<p>2024 - 2026</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p> <p>2024 - 2026</p>	<p>- Annual showcase events for the blue economy and ocean governance at national and regional levels.</p> <p>- Established dedicated online databases associated with the annual showcases. These include dedicated platforms for recording previous presentations, as well as platforms for sharing feedback and offering input for new collaborative projects.</p> <p>- Established protocols for facilitating the onboarding of new investors.</p>	<p>EU, AU, RECs, UNDP, UNEP, AFD, FAO, World Bank, RFMOs, regional development programmes, national governments, network of CoEs, universities, private sector companies</p>	<p>700 000</p>
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Action area	Activity	Output	Timeline	Indicators	Proposed Partner Institutions	Estimated Financial requirements (EUR)
		3.5.4 Develop online platforms for sharing feedback and fostering new collaborative projects.				

