

»» Project information

Implemented by:



Marine conservation – global

New fund to protect coasts and oceans

For a number of different reasons, the world's oceans are under immense pressure: their resources are being exploited by extreme overfishing, and untreated pollutants and rubbish often end up in the ocean's waters. These factors are compounded by conflicting user interests of offshore wind farms, deep-sea mining, tourism and the fishing industry, which all impact the oceans with varying levels of severity. Climate change further exacerbates the situation as a result of rising sea levels and higher water temperatures. At the same time, millions of people are directly dependent on fish, either as a source of protein or a source of income. To help curb the adverse effects on oceans and coasts, KfW has launched a new and innovative fund in collaboration with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) called the "Blue Action Fund".

Background

Oceans and coastal regions with their high level of biodiversity make an enormous contribution to global food security: fish is an essential part of the diets of nearly three billion people. Additionally, more than 500 million people around the world – 90 % of them in developing countries – are directly or indirectly dependent on fishing. But due to a variety of different factors, the oceans are facing severe problems, fish stocks have declined drastically over the past few decades. Twice as much fish is currently being taken out of the world's oceans than is sustainable. Industrial fishing accounts for the largest share, but small-scale fisheries also play a role. The result is that fish stocks have already reached or exceeded the limits of their ability to reproduce. Fish populations are also under threat from polluted water

and disruptions to important coastal ecosystems.

Climate change further intensifies this effect because it increases the temperature of the oceans and causes sea levels to rise, shrinking coral reefs around the world as a result. This makes thousands of kilometres of coastline more vulnerable to storm tides, destroys the refuges for many species of fish and can threaten the livelihoods of millions of people. The oceans also play a key role in climate change adaptation because they absorb 25 to 30 % of CO₂ emissions. As an ecosystem, oceans are invaluable as source of food and raw materials, a place for recreation and for the subsistence for

Name of Project	Blue Action Fund
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/region	International
Project-executing agency	International non-governmental organisations





Millions of people around the world rely on fishing as their major source of income. Photo: Getty Images / Francisco Goncalves auch für das Bild auf der Vorderseite. Front page: Fish preparation in Tunesia. Photo: KfW photo archive / photothek.net

millions of people. Their protection and preservation is one of the greatest challenges of the decades to come. But only 3 % of oceans are currently protected. The few protected areas that exist are often poorly linked and inadequately managed due to a lack of equipment or professional management plans.

Project approach

To intensify ocean and coastal protection in partner countries of German Development Cooperation, KfW formed the "Blue Action Fund" (BAF) together with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in December 2016. In legal terms, the fund is a non-profit trust based in Frankfurt. It will support non-governmental organisations in their work in coastal and marine conservation. Funding is available for:

- The protection of maritime biodiversity: by creating new protected areas and improving the management of existing ones.
- The sustainable use of maritime biodiversity: in fisheries and aquacultures, but also in tourism.

Projects are feasible everywhere in the world, but initially concentrate on Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The BAF selects the projects, ensuring that they are consistent with national and regional protection

strategies and comply with the UN Biodiversity Convention, Agenda 2030 and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development's 10-point action plan for marine protection.

For the time being, the seats on the trust's advisory board are held by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and KfW. The fund has a start-up capital of EUR 24 million with plans for other financiers to be added over time, thereby broadening the scope of the fund. Interested parties can submit project proposals in line with the aims of the trust in response to public tenders. A Policy Board, which has yet to be convened, will support the trust in issues related to content while the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) will help select projects.

Impacts

The BAF will contribute to conserving and/or sustainably managing coastal and marine areas of particularly high ecological value in order to stop or reverse the loss of biodiversity in the project areas. At the same time, it aims to secure sustainable livelihoods for the people affected without excessively impacting the ocean as an ecosystem. This is the only way that fish stocks and other marine animals will be able to recover. One important element in this strategy is the networks of protected areas because they also account for migratory patterns and spawning habits. The BAF will specifically support projects of this kind. The goal is for the "Blue Action Fund" to expand gradually and become a relevant instrument in international marine conservation.



Contact

KfW Group
Business area: KfW Development Bank
Urban Development and Natural Resources Competence Centre
Palmengartenstrasse 5–9
60325 Frankfurt
Telephone 069 7431 - 9512
Uwe.Klug@kfw.de