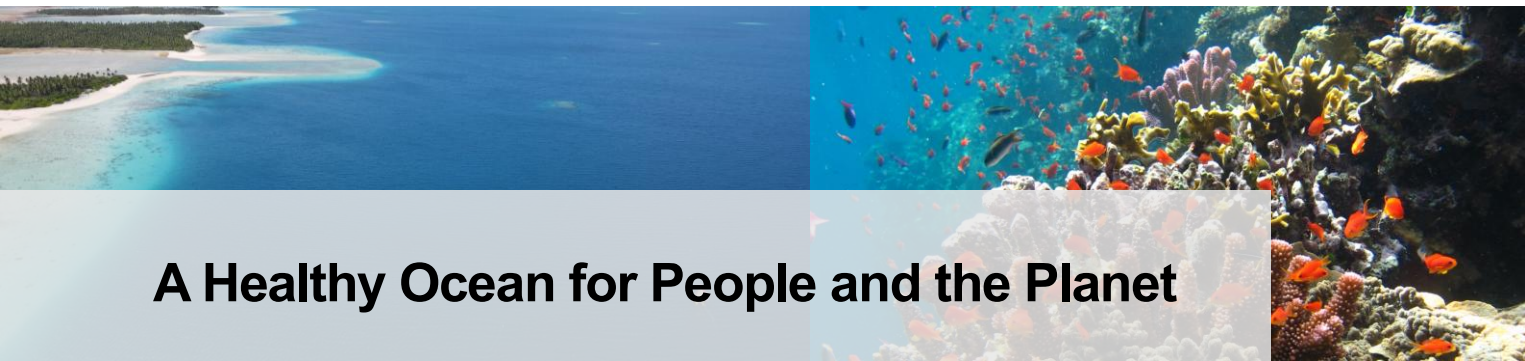




A Healthy Ocean for People and the Planet

Advisory service

The Challenge

Our oceans are fundamental to human well-being. They provide food and livelihoods for billions of people, carry more than 80% of global trade in goods, and play a crucial role in regulating our climate by absorbing and storing vast amounts of CO₂ and heat. Marine and coastal biodiversity underpins these essential functions and provides nutrition, income and food security. However, our marine and coastal assets are under growing pressure caused by intensive economic use, coastal development, overfishing, accelerating impacts of climate change and pollution - in particular marine litter and fertiliser and pesticide-laden agricultural runoff. Competition for marine resources can lead to conflicts. Additionally, the decline of marine and coastal ecosystems - and the services they provide - disproportionately affects vulnerable coastal communities, which depend heavily on these resources. To ensure healthy oceans for the global economy, food security and the well-being of present and future generations, we must protect ecosystems from the coast out to the high seas, whilst ensuring their resources are used in a sustainable manner.

Our approach

We at GIZ work with governments, the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and other stakeholders from around the world to promote a fair, inclusive and sustainable blue economy. We support partner governments in developing policies that strike a balance between sustainable use and nature conservation, whilst meeting international and regional commitments on biodiversity and climate action. We bring together different sectors to balance interests and resolve conflicts, to develop profitable and sustainable value chains and to strengthen the capacity of people and organisations to pursue economic development whilst conserving marine and coastal ecosystems. Through our work, we also support the

establishment and management of marine protected areas (MPAs). In this process, we place particular emphasis on empowering local communities and mandated organisations - such as regional fisheries and organisations - to actively engage in management and decision-making.

Our services

- **Policy advice and technical support for protecting oceans and promoting their sustainable use:** We support partner governments by providing advisory services on policies and strategies that balance conservation with sustainable use of oceans and coasts. This includes guidance on fisheries, tourism and managing marine protected areas (MPAs). We support integrated spatial planning to regulate competing uses in a transparent and equitable manner. We further provide advice on circular economy approaches that reduce pollution, improve resource efficiency and promote economic development in line with environmental and social standards.
- **Cooperation with the private sector working in the marine realm:** We strengthen sustainable marine value chains and local economic development in coastal regions, particularly in the vicinity of MPAs. We provide advisory services for the development of sustainable business models, the sustainable management of fish stocks and appropriate fishing gear, as well as the reduction of post-harvest losses. Furthermore, we promote environmentally friendly tourism, the reduction of waste and of visitors' impacts on ecosystems. By building the vocational skills of local workers, we contribute to creating new income opportunities, particularly for people living near MPAs.
- **Financing sustainable marine economic development and conservation:** We work with governments, financial institutions and businesses to unlock finance for a sustainable blue economy and



marine conservation. We advise on sustainable investments, develop tailored finance products and strengthen SMEs' investment readiness. Where risks are high, we use blended finance approaches to de-risk investments and mobilise private capital.

The benefits

Partner countries benefit from over 40 GIZ projects worldwide implemented in collaboration with local partners. These projects create sustainable economic opportunities, strengthen livelihoods, and protect marine and coastal ecosystems. Drawing on decades of experience in the fields of fisheries, marine conservation, tourism, circular economy, and maritime transport, we bring together the right stakeholders to combine economic development with long-term environmental impact. We contribute to resolving conflicting interests among resource users, enabling more informed decision-making and translating shared priorities into policies, investments and actions that benefit people, the economy and nature.

Examples from the field

Over 60 million people live in the ten coastal states of the **Western Indian Ocean** region. The Nairobi Convention provides the intergovernmental legal framework and coordination mechanism for regional marine conservation. On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU) GIZ is working with the Nairobi Convention's Secretariat and member states as part of the '[Prosper Blue](#)' programme to promote an inclusive and sustainable blue economy. Since 2020, the programme supports regional strategies, national pilot measures, private sector development and the provision of catalytic funding. The '[Our Blue Future](#)' alliance, which unites partners from the public and private sectors as well as civil society, was established and provided the impetus - amongst others - for the founding of the 'Maputo National Park Friends Club' in partnership with TUI care foundation. This led to the

mobilization of resources for the conservation of Mozambique's marine shoreline and for community development.

In the **Southeast Pacific Region**, five migratory species - whales, dolphins, sharks, sea turtles and manta rays - known as the 'Blue Five' are particularly vulnerable due to their dependence on transboundary habitats. The project '[Save the Blue Five](#)' funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) through the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUKN) is implemented by GIZ together with the Permanent Commission of the Southern Pacific. Since 2023, the project has strengthened regional collaboration across 6 Latin American countries and a marine area covering around 2 billion hectares. Regionally coordinated monitoring of priority species and climate change models have helped to inform regional management strategies and decision making. The establishment of a regional network linking more than 120 marine protected areas has created better conditions for the conservation of the marine megafauna. At the same time, the project fosters private-sector engagement and fosters innovation in blue financing, such as 'Crediazul', the first mechanism within Peru's microfinance system that seeks to mobilize credit for artisanal fishing, aquaculture, and coastal tourism, thereby boosting productivity, financial inclusion and sustainability.

With the new Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) there are now new provisions governing the sustainable use and management of marine resources on the high seas. To fill this landmark agreement with life, GIZ has been commissioned to implement the IKI project '[Living High Seas](#)', together with the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Minderoo Foundation. The project assists countries in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Ocean basins in developing country-driven, region-led proposals for effective area-based management of high seas' biodiversity.

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