

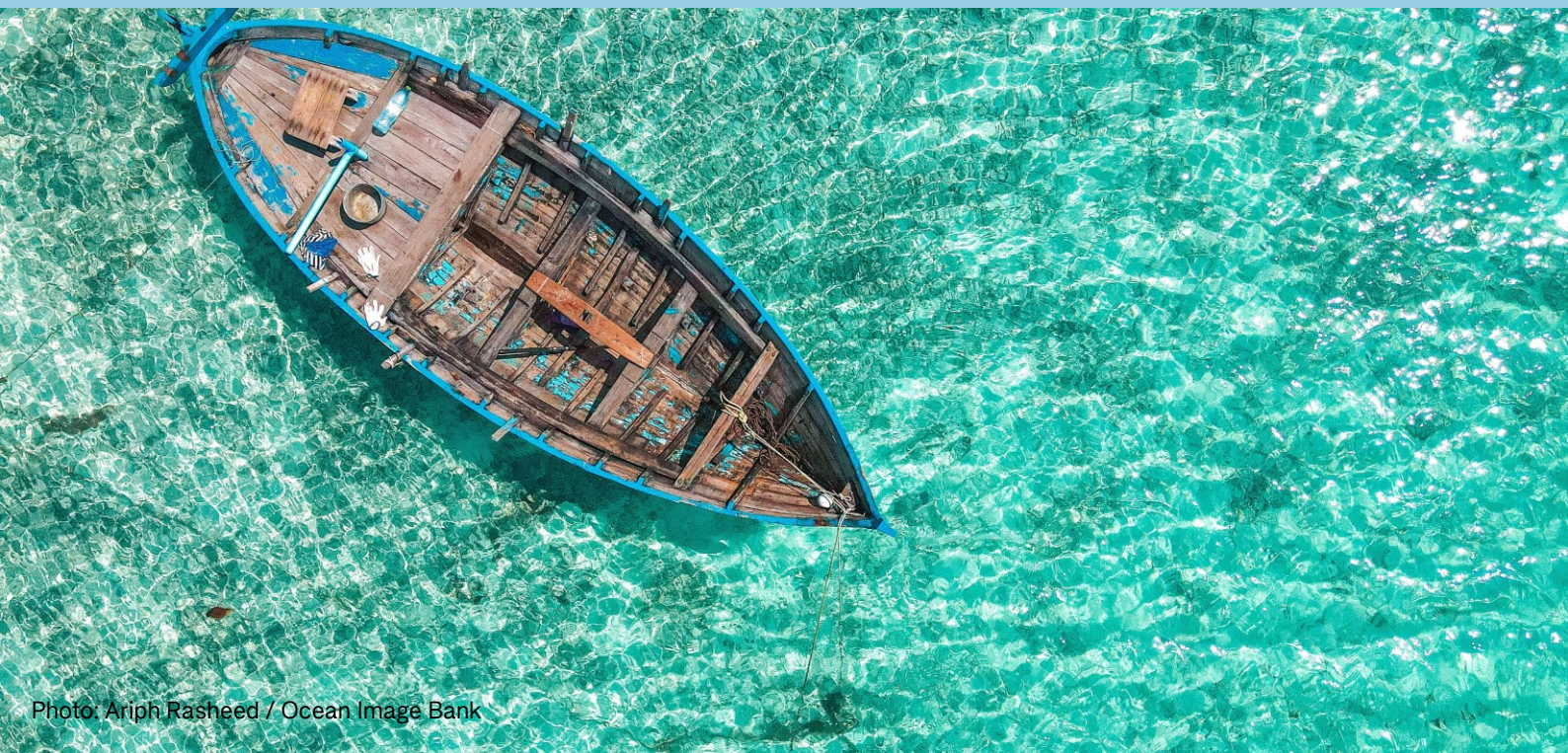


OCEAN REPORT 2022

Making Waves

Norway's support for a sustainable ocean

Norad



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Preface



When managed sustainably the ocean and its resources will deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and provide vital solutions to pressing challenges such as poverty, hunger, health issues and energy supply.

The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, co-chaired by Norway and Palau, has provided a path to building an ocean economy where effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity go hand in hand. That is why sustainable ocean management is a major priority in our development cooperation and bilateral relations. Concrete actions by governments, the private sector and local actors that harness the potential of the ocean while protecting its health are needed. It is not possible to envisage a more equitable and resilient future without a just distribution of and access to ocean resources while at the same time protecting the marine ecosystems.

Science and knowledge on all relevant aspects of sustainability need to be brought to the table when making political or management decisions on the protection and sustainable use of the ocean. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 – 2030) will give a global boost to raising knowledge about the ocean, ensuring that society puts this knowledge to use and thus contributes to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2022 we celebrated forty years since the adoption of the “Constitution of the Ocean”, the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention. The Convention sets out the legal framework for all activities in the ocean. It plays a significant role in securing the rights of developing countries as it promotes economic and social advancement for all, through just, equitable and sustainable utilization of the ocean.

Several conferences where the ocean played a key role took place in 2022, including the 2nd UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon with governments and heads of state agreeing on a new political declaration to Save Our Ocean. At COP15 we saw the adoption of the new global biodiversity framework that commits countries to protect at least 30 per cent of land and sea for nature by 2030. At COP27 in Sharm El Sheik, we also saw a continuation of the increased recognition of the role the ocean plays in climate regulations, mitigation, and adaptation.

2022 was referred to as the “Super Year” for the ocean due to the multiple opportunities to take action and raise collective attention and ambition for a healthy and sustainable ocean, and equitable sharing of its resources. The international community also managed to agree on several important breakthroughs:

- At the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) nations agreed to start negotiations on a global treaty to end plastic pollution. The agreement was described as the most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris Accord.
- Furthermore, the World Trade Organization’s agreement on harmful fisheries subsidies was concluded after 21 years of negotiations. Ending subsidies that boost overfishing is critical to enable sustainable global fisheries, support small-scale fishers, and maintain the health of fish stocks and the wider marine ecosystem.

- The Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) was held in New York in 2022, and the necessary ground was laid for a successful conclusion of the negotiations at the beginning of 2023.
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022, established that at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas are to be conserved and sustainably managed by 2030.

2022 was also the United Nations International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA). IYAFA 2022 aimed to draw global attention to the crucial role that small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture play in providing livelihoods, food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, and the sustainable use of natural resources. IYAFA 2022 gave important recognition to the millions of small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers who provide healthy and nutritious food to billions of people and contribute to achieving SDG 2 – zero hunger.

In 2022, Norway's strategy for promoting food security in Norwegian development policy was launched. The strategy, called "Combining forces against hunger - a policy to improve food self-sufficiency", brings together the full force of Norwegian development efforts to address food security, acknowledging food from the ocean as an important factor in the achievement of the goals set out in the strategy.

Despite global progress in 2022, the ocean and the benefits it provides remain at risk. The Norwegian Government will continue to give high priority to supporting developing countries in promoting a healthy and productive ocean, especially in the context of food security and climate change adaptation. A clean and healthy ocean is crucial to reach the SDGs. For this to be achieved we must pull our strengths and efforts together more than ever before.

We are proud to present this third report outlining Norwegian development assistance in ocean-related areas in 2022. From Asia to Africa to Latin America, the ocean is a key area of cooperation between Norway and our partner countries.

Anniken Huitfeldt
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Anne Beathe Tvinneim
Minister of International Development

Bård Vegar Solhjell
Director General of Norad

Acronyms

ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU – African Union
BAF – Blue Action Fund
BBNJ – Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
BRS Secretariat – Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
CBC - Caribbean Biological Corridor
CCBO – Clean Cities Blue Ocean
CSO – Civil Society Organization
DOALOS- United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
FCWC – Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FishFORCE Academy – Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy
GCF – Green Climate Fund
GEF – Global Environment Facility
IMO – International Maritime Organization
IMR – Norwegian Institute for Marine Research
INTERPOL – International Criminal Police Organization
IOC-UNESCO – International Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU – illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MPA – marine protected area
MSP – marine spatial planning
NGOs – non-governmental organisations
NIVA – Norwegian Institute for Water Research
ODA – Official Development Assistance
OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS – Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OGS – Ocean Governance Studies
PCWG - INTERPOL pollution crime working group
PSC – Plastic Smart Cities
PSMA – Port States Measures Agreement
PROBLUE - World Bank's Blue Economy Programme
SBE TF – Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SSA – Sub-Saharan Africa
SSF – Small-Scale Fisheries
UNEA – United Nations Environmental Assembly
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature

Introduction



Together with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development – the UN Law of the Sea Convention provides the overall international framework for Norwegian ocean-related development assistance.

Most Norwegian ocean-related development assistance is centred around three programmes. [The Oceans for Development Programme](#) and [the Fish for Development Programme](#) are classified as “Knowledge Programmes”. The core of a knowledge programme is bilateral institutional cooperation between Norwegian public institutions and similar institutions in partner countries. The cooperation is demand-driven and based on reciprocity, where partners exchange experiences, knowledge and lessons learned. Considering Norway’s long history of living by and off the ocean, there are many lessons to be shared. These programmes are also identified as vehicles to support the achievement of the goals set in the [Norwegian strategy for promoting food security in development policy](#). The third programme, [the Norwegian Development Program to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics](#), is set up differently and supports a wide range of actors in combating marine litter. The program is linked to the Norwegian leadership in tackling plastic pollution internationally and as the co-chair of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution together with Rwanda.

The **Oceans for Development Programme** was established in 2019 to promote a strengthened, sustainable, and inclusive ocean economy in partner countries. The programme puts a strong focus on knowledge and capacity-building through bilateral institutional cooperation and project support to key partners. Currently, the programme has started engagements in Mozambique, Indonesia, and Kenya.

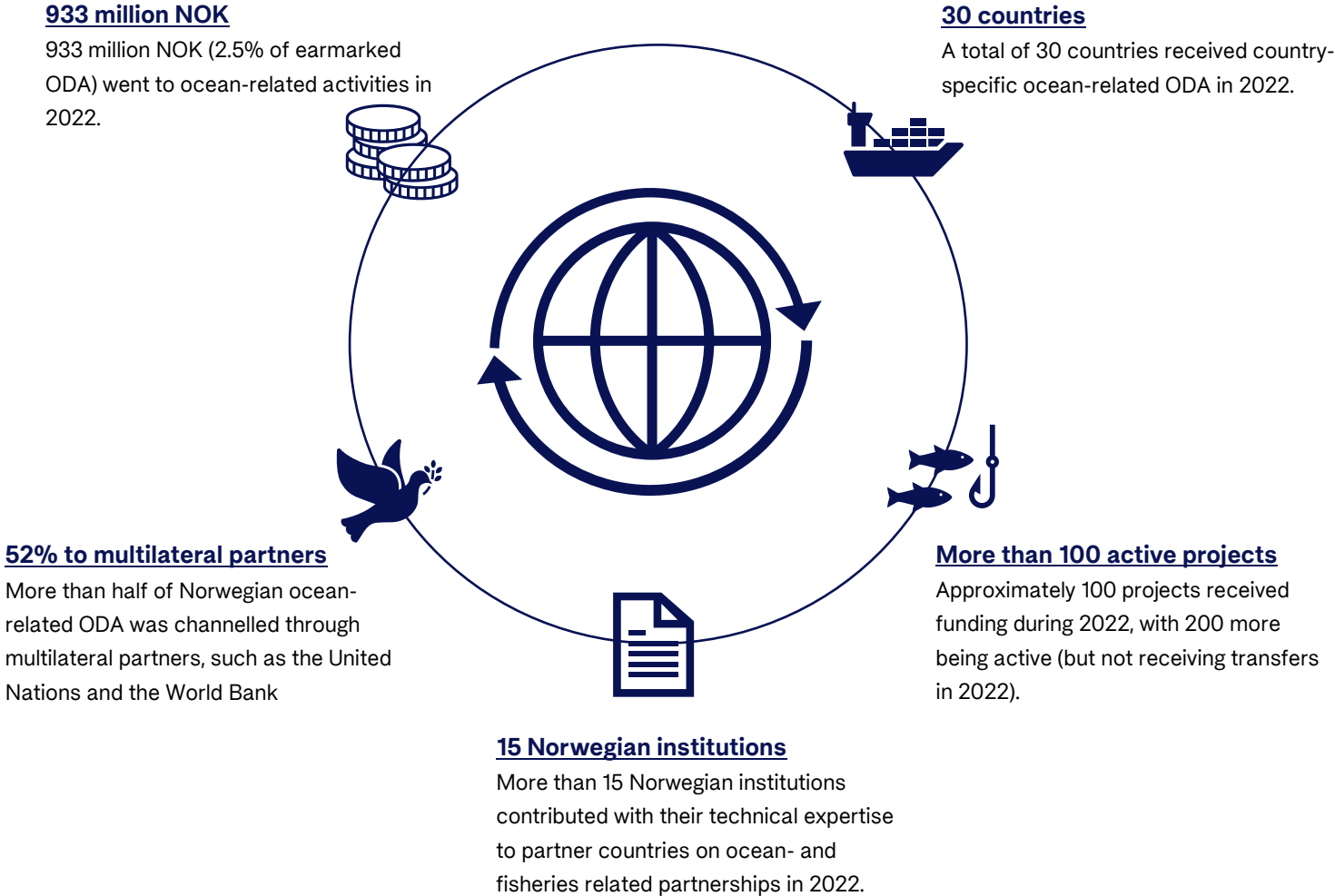
The **Fish for Development Programme** was launched in 2015 and is responsible for coordinating all development projects supported by Norway in the field of fisheries and aquaculture so that Norwegian competence and expertise can be of greater benefit to partner countries. The programme aims to improve socio-economic development through sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management in partner countries. The priority countries of the programme are Ghana, Colombia, Sri Lanka, and Sudan, but there are also smaller initiatives in other countries.

The **Development Programme to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics** was established in 2018 to promote SDG 14.1 in developing countries, which states that by 2025, the world should prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds. Norway has supported over 50 initiatives so far, and the focus has been on Asia, with the majority of projects in Indonesia and India, as well as African countries and Small Island Developing States. Improving the management of plastic waste has been a key focus of many of the projects.

In this report, we present a selection of Norwegian ocean-related development assistance initiatives and projects in 2022. The report gives an overview by geographic scope, starting by highlighting Norway’s support of initiatives that are global in reach, followed by regional and national-level

initiatives. As the report shows, the funding went to a variety of partners across the world to support low and middle-income countries on a broad range of ocean-related issues.

Norwegian support to ocean-related development assistance in brief



Ocean-related development assistance in numbers



There is no internationally agreed definition of the sustainable ocean economy. Consequently, there is no predefined classification system in place for measuring Official Development Assistance (ODA) activities that directly or indirectly contribute to achieving a sustainable ocean economy.

Introduction and method

This report takes a practical approach to tracking ODA activities that are relevant to the ocean, using the definition and methodology used by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)¹. Norwegian ocean-related ODA has been measured using the OECD methodology, with some adjustments².

The figures presented in this report are estimates and should be interpreted with caution. The figures include both fully and partially ocean-relevant activities. Furthermore, only earmarked ocean-related activities are included, meaning that core support to multilateral organisations engaged in ocean-related activities is excluded. For instance, the Global Environment Facility is one of the largest providers of ocean-related ODA and receives core support from Norway. This is not included in the figures.

The numbers

In 2022, a total of NOK 49.6 billion in Norwegian development assistance was disbursed, of which around NOK 933 million (2.5 percent of earmarked ODA) went to ocean-related support. Ocean-related development assistance has remained stable at 2.5-3 percent of total earmarked development assistance for the last five years, despite the economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. The slight fall in the percentage from 2021 to 2022, while the volume has increased can be explained by the substantial growth in total development assistance because of the war in Ukraine.

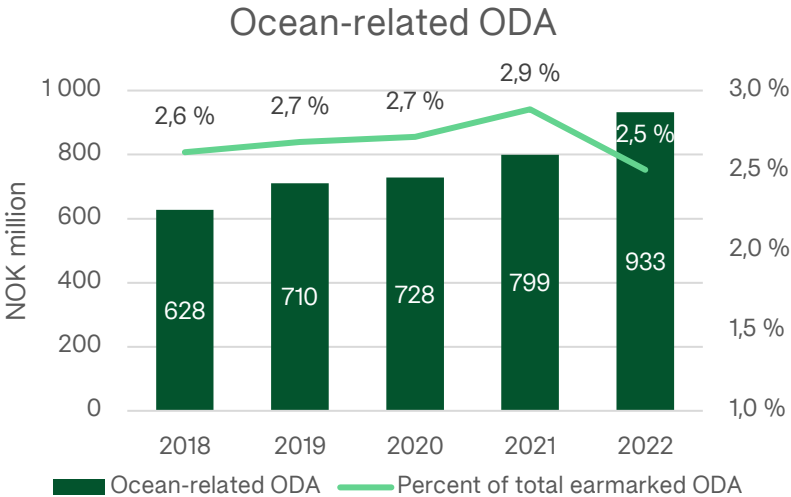


TABLE 1
Ocean-related development assistance 2018-2022

¹ <https://oecd-main.shinyapps.io/ocean>

² Some changes were made to the keyword and sector criteria used by the OECD to improve accuracy. Activities financed over Norad budget post 71 – *Sustainable oceans and measures to combat marine litter* are included. Ocean-relevant activities under the Oil for Development Programme are excluded. All identified agreements have been manually screened to exclude non-relevant activities.

In 2022, the majority of Norwegian ocean-related ODA was channelled through multilateral organisations, 52 percent, and non-governmental organisations, 32 percent. The largest recipients were FAO - *Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations* (NOK 220 million), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) (NOK 76 million), and IBRD - *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development* (NOK 53 million).

Ocean-related aid - partners, 2022

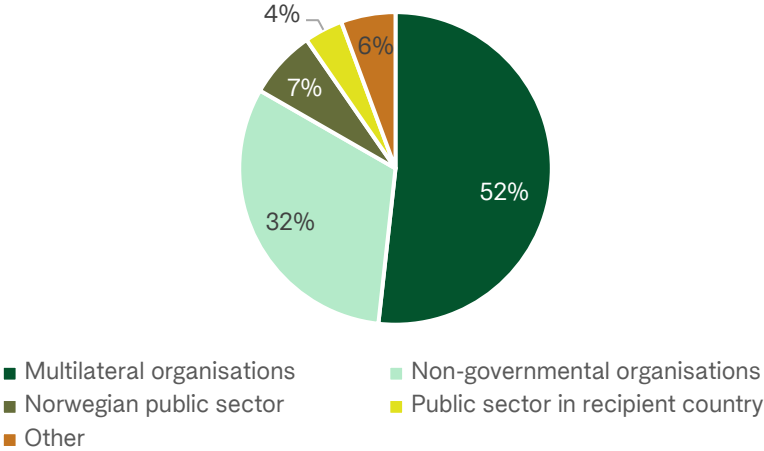


TABLE 2
Ocean-related development assistance – agreement partners, 2022

Ocean-related aid - regions, 2022

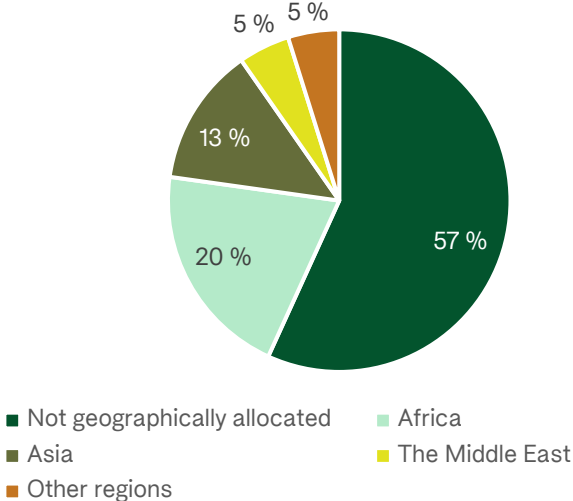


TABLE 3
Ocean-related development assistance – regions, 2022

In 2022, the largest recipient regions of geographically allocated ocean-related ODA from Norway were Africa (NOK 190 million) and Asia (NOK 122 million), while 57 percent of ocean-related ODA was geographically unspecified. This includes global and multi-regional activities, programmes, and funds. Examples are support to the [EAF-Nansen Programme](#), [PROBLUE: The World Bank's Blue Economy Program](#), FAO, and, [Blue Action Fund](#), among others. While the allocation is geographically unspecified, the global programmes channel funds to the country-level.

Some of the top recipient countries of Norway's country-allocated ocean-related ODA in 2022 include Mozambique, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Colombia, and Kenya. A total of 30 countries received country specific ocean-related ODA.

Norwegian ocean-related development assistance

Global initiatives



Norway supports various initiatives that are not geographically specified, but global in reach, representing 57% of earmarked ODA. This includes multilateral organisations, multi-donor initiatives, and other funding schemes. This chapter provides an overview of these under the headings of the Ocean Panel's five transformations: ocean wealth, ocean finance, ocean health, ocean equity and ocean knowledge. These areas were identified by the Ocean Panel through research and consultation processes, and represent overarching transformations needed to secure ocean health and wealth for generations to come.



The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy – Give it 100%!

The [High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy \(Ocean Panel\)](#) is a global initiative by 17 serving world leaders that is working to build momentum towards a sustainable ocean economy in which effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity go hand-in-hand to create a triple win for people, nature and the economy. The Ocean Panel's mission is to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction.

Through a series of research and 'blue' papers, the Ocean Panel has identified 5 key areas of transformation. The agenda identifies a set of recommendations to transform the way we use the ocean over the next decade through transformative actions across these five key areas: ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge, and ocean finance.

Ocean wealth looks at sustainable food from the ocean, sustainable ocean energy, sustainable ocean-based tourism, sustainable ocean transport, sustainable new ocean industries, and a precautionary approach to seabed mining.

Ocean health looks at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, and reducing ocean pollution.

Ocean equity looks at promoting equal opportunity for people to benefit from the ocean.

Ocean knowledge looks at building ocean literacy skills, accounting for the value of the ocean, and harnessing ocean science, technology and data.

Ocean finance looks at making ocean finance that is ecologically sustainable and socially equitable accessible to all.

Ocean Wealth and Ocean Finance

In recent years, the ocean has produced USD 2.5 trillion in goods and services annually, and the asset value of the ocean has been estimated at USD 24 trillion³. However, unsustainable human activity is threatening the ocean's ability to regenerate and sustainably provide for people around the world. It is important to ensure that the ocean can continue to produce sustainably for present and future generations, including food, energy, and transport opportunities, and that sustainable ocean finance is accessible to drive ecologically sustainable and socially equitable economic growth.

Norway has supported the [World Bank's Blue Economy Programme \(PROBLUE\)](#) since its inception in 2018. In 2022, PROBLUE focused on three overarching themes: social inclusion, climate change, biodiversity, and pollution, and mobilizing finance for development. Through their work on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)⁴, PROBLUE delivered a series of guidance notes, including a [Factsheet on Gender and Social Inclusion](#) highlighting that MSP alone cannot prevent the marginalization of or discrimination against women and other under-represented groups in societies where it is deeply entrenched. However, the planning process can avoid imposing additional costs simply because they are not present to represent themselves in policy discussions. As a planning process, MSP can give power and voice to marginalized groups by taking them into account from the beginning. In 2022, PROBLUE also launched the report [Where is the Value in the Chain? Pathways out of Plastic Pollution](#). Limited methodologies are available to calculate the climate cost of plastics and how they can affect decarbonization strategies. The report makes recommendations on how to develop a comprehensive approach to plastic pollution. One of the tools in the report is the *Plastics Substitution Tradeoff Estimator*, which helps assess the true cost of plastics and substitute products by comparing their full lifecycle costs, including those of greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 2019, Norway has supported the [IMO-Norway GreenVoyage2050](#) project; an initiative to transform the shipping industry towards a low-carbon future and support the implementation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Greenhouse Gas Strategy. The project supports 12 countries to reduce maritime emissions. In 2022, the project supported Azerbaijan, Belize, Ecuador, and Kenya in expediting the domestication of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex VI. Belize is in the process of submitting a bill through the Attorney General's office to the Cabinet, and Azerbaijan, Ecuador and Kenya are finalizing the drafting of legislation. In 2022, the project also identified



Photo: Ms Jusmita Borah, Environmental Expert from the Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society, and Green Voyage 2050 coordinator. Here in front of an old ferry that has initiated a transition to become electric, which will receive financing from the World Bank.

³ [Ocean Wealth - Ocean Panel](#)

⁴ According to IOC-UNESCO, MSP is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that have been specified through a political process.

opportunities for piloting and scaling up low and zero-carbon solutions for shipping and ports. Pilot projects are being developed in India, South Africa, and Malaysia, on greening ferries and tugs and producing sustainable biofuels from farmed algae.

Norway supports the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in implementing the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines for gender-equitable and climate-resilient food systems and livelihoods, to increase the intake of fish among the beneficiaries in nine countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. In line with Norway's strategy for promoting food security in development policy, the programme has during 2022, increased knowledge of the importance of sustainable, climate-smart small-scale fisheries value chains and fish for livelihood and food security and nutrition to the target groups. For instance, the project developed a toolbox for the integration of products from SSFs into school meals programmes which will be tested in Malawi. Further, the programme supports the implementation of climate-smart practices and better working conditions in the SSF post-harvest sector, and to strengthen small-scale fishers' organizations.

[The FAO's Committee on Fisheries \(COFI\)](#)

is the most important international forum for policy debate and the adoption of policy instruments in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The COFI held its 35th Session from 5-9 September 2022. The most significant outcome of the Session was the endorsement of a new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. The proposal to establish a sub-committee on fisheries management was originally put forward by Norway during COFI 33 (2018), amongst other motivated by the need to establish a permanent mechanism for enhancing discussions on Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) issues. Recognizing the importance of participation of developing Member States in the meetings and preparations of the new sub-committee, Norway will support FAO to this end.



Norway also funds the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The [Global Fund for Coral Reefs Investment Window](#) is GCF's first at-scale private sector programme within the blue economy. GCF will act as an anchor investor that will encourage public and private sector investments in sustainable ocean production, ecotourism, infrastructure and waste management. Targeting 17 countries in Africa, the Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean, it aims to address critical ocean financing and private investment barriers – boosting initiatives that will protect coral reefs and strengthen coastal communities and livelihoods. The programme will develop an enabling environment for a pipeline of investment-ready projects. The target is to reach 35.2 million people to heighten their resilience.

Ocean Health

The ocean has absorbed 25% of all CO₂ emissions and captured 90% of the additional heat generated from Greenhouse Gas Emissions – at the cost of warming and acidification⁵. Millions of

⁵ [Ocean Health - Ocean Panel](#)

tonnes of plastic waste are dumped into the ocean every year. To ensure that everyone can continue to benefit from the ocean, it is critical to reduce emissions, prevent biodiversity loss, restore and protect coastal and marine ecosystems, and reduce pollution.

The IMO and the FAO [GloLitter Partnerships Project](#) to combat sea-based sources of marine plastic litter in developing countries supports countries' efforts to effectively implement and enforce international regulatory frameworks as well as best practices for the reduction and control of marine plastic litter from sea-based sources. Several of the lead partner countries launched their national action plans (Costa Rica, Madagascar, Kenya, Jamaica, Indonesia, and Côte d'Ivoire) in 2022. These plans identify key actions to address marine litter from fisheries and shipping. [The GloLitter Global Industry Alliance](#) led by UN Global Compact was also launched in 2022.

The [Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm \(BRS Secretariat\) Conventions](#) is a partner in the effort to combat marine pollution. The BRS Secretariat and its partners address plastic pollution in 35 countries, with a particular focus on Ghana and Sri Lanka, targeting simultaneously the control of transboundary movements, environmentally sound management and prevention of plastic waste. In 2021, the [BRS Plastic Waste Inventory Toolkit](#) was developed, and its use commenced in 2022 in Ghana. This successful process will be replicated in Sri Lanka. The BRS Secretariat also manages a small-grants programme for pilot projects to reduce plastic waste, and highlights from 2022 include a successful collection and recycling scheme for plastic waste fishing nets where fishing nets are recycled into sunglasses in Ghana.

Norway also supports the implementation of the [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\) Mid-Term Strategy \(2022-2025\)](#). In 2022, Norway boosted its support for UNEP's ocean-related work, focusing on the blue economy, blue carbon, ecosystem restoration, the land-sea nexus, and environmental aspects of deep seabed mining. Additionally, Norway provided travel support through UNEP to ensure even representation of developing country delegates at the two Intergovernmental Negotiating Committees for the Global Plastic Treaty that will take place in 2023.

The [Blue Action Fund](#) (BAF) works to enhance the management and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems, through the establishment and implementation of marine protected areas (MPAs). In 2022, the BAF initiated several new projects under their Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change window in the Western Indian Ocean. As of November 2022, BAF consisted of 22 full grants, and projects reaches over 350,000 beneficiaries in coastal communities. The projects currently work to more effectively manage 214,663 km² of MPAs and establish 149,241 km² of new MPAs – in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 target.



In 2022, the regional government of Príncipe formally approved the designation of 6 MPAs, following a 3-year consultative process involving fishing communities, government, tourism operators and civil society. These are the first MPAs to be designated in the island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe. Blue Action Fund support Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and their work on this in the country. Photo: Vasco Pissarra/FFI.

Global financing mechanisms such as [the Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) also receive support from Norway. In 2022, the GEF concluded its GEF-7-strategy and started a new four-year GEF-8-strategy. This includes support for multiple ocean priorities. Nationally, GEF support for the ocean is largely focused on assisting developing nations with the implementation of commitments under international agreements including the newly established [Global Biodiversity Framework](#). The GEF-8-strategy assist nations with transboundary cooperation in coastal and marine areas for accelerating blue economy development and sustainable fisheries management, as well as supporting sustainable management in areas beyond national jurisdiction. New for GEF-8 are 11 Integrated Programmes addressing global drivers of environmental harm, including the [Clean and Healthy Ocean programme](#) which aims to curb the influx of integrated wastewater entering the ocean from agriculture, industry, and municipal sources.

Ocean Equity

A sustainable ocean economy puts people at its centre, works for everyone, enables human rights, and facilitates the equitable distribution of ocean wealth and equality of opportunity for all. Access to ocean resources is limited and often distributed inequitably and policy decisions made about the ocean also impact the communities depending on the ocean for food, livelihoods, cultural value and coastal protection. It is critical to ensure effective planning to assure the needs and rights of all are upheld.

One of Norway's key partners in this regard is the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the UN Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS). [Norway supports DOALOS](#) to build capacity in developing countries with the aim of establishing sustainable blue economies through strengthened ocean governance, based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The project undertakes national ocean governance studies (OGS), conducts regional consultations to understand the landscape of ocean affairs and the law of the sea, and organizes customized trainings on ocean affairs and the law of the sea. In 2022, Antigua and Barbuda completed their [OGS](#), Vietnam, Panama, Ghana and Trinidad and Tobago are in their final stages of review, and Togo, Cameroon, Indonesia, Mexico, and Mozambique are just commencing theirs.

Illegal fishing is sometimes linked to transnational organised crime in the fishing industry and may include several types of crimes such as money laundering, tax and customs fraud, document fraud and human trafficking. Therefore, Norway supports the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [FishNET Project](#) to help countries more effectively prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate crimes in the fisheries sector. In 2022, the project continued its implementation in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America, including value chain analyses, corruption risk assessments, and support to enhance inter-agency cooperation to prevent corruption linked to crimes in the sector. By facilitating exchange visits and regional activities, the communication and collaboration between Port Control Units, law enforcement, fisheries officials and the private sector were strengthened. Concrete results were reported by several partner countries and sample seizures included over 600 kg of illicit goods such as seahorses and pangolin scales in Vietnam (sea cargo) and 900 kg of abalone in Mozambique (air cargo).

The FAO Global Capacity Development Programme assist developing states in implementing the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and related instruments and tools. This includes strengthening national policy and legislative frameworks to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as monitoring, control, and surveillance enforcement institutions and systems. Norway's support also contributes to i) regional harmonisation, coordination, and cooperation, ii) enhancing capacity to improve flag state performance, perform inspections in port and act more effectively against persons and entities engaged in IUU fishing, and iii) implementation of market access measures such as catch documentation and traceability schemes.

[The Blue Justice Initiative](#) is a response to the challenges identified in the Copenhagen Declaration against transnational organised crime in the global fishing industry, adopted in 2018. The initiative aims to reduce the extent of organized crime and illegal trade in the fisheries sector by strengthening the interdisciplinary cooperation with the police, judicial and prosecution units, and control agencies in partner countries. The initiative now consists of several Norwegian-funded projects that work to assist countries address these issues. By the end of 2022, 51 countries had joined the initiative, working also with international partners such as UNDP, UNODC, ILO and IOM.

[The Fair Circularity Initiative](#)

Respecting Rights in Circular Value Chains!

Norway supports Tearfund to reduce the amount of plastic waste from land-based activities entering the ocean, whilst at the same time improving livelihoods and creating green job opportunities for vulnerable communities. In 2022 Tearfund and a group of leading fast-moving consumer goods companies, including the Coca-Cola Company, Nestlé, PepsiCo, and Unilever, launched a Fair Circularity Initiative, committing to respect the rights of workers in the informal waste sector. The Initiative brings businesses together around the aim of ensuring that the human rights of workers within the informal waste sector are respected and their critical role in circular value chains is recognized.



In 2022, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) marine pollution enforcement project provided investigative support to countries on marine pollution crime, as well as waste trafficking and shipbreaking. The project launched the [strategic report on the nexus between organized crime and pollution crime](#), and organized the first physical meeting of the INTERPOL pollution crime working group (PCWG) since the pandemic.

Ocean Knowledge

The ocean is a vital and complex natural system and vast areas are still unexplored. It is important to build literacy and skills and share and apply knowledge of how ocean ecosystems work, and how they respond to stressors to better inform decision-making. Accounting that captures the full value of ocean assets and the

ocean economy is critical to guide the sustainable development of ocean industries.

The EAF-Nansen Programme is a partnership among Norad, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), and the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR), and thirty-two countries in Africa and the Bay of Bengal. The programme consists of three key components: (i) improving the scientific

knowledge base, (ii) supporting sustainable fisheries policies and management, and (iii) providing capacity development. The programme uses the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen to carry out at-sea research. The vessel is owned by Norad and operated by IMR, with scientists from partner countries taking part in cruises. The vessel flies the UN flag as part of the agreement with FAO.

In 2022, the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen carried out five surveys in West African waters, comprising 10 survey legs and 284 survey days. Two of the legs were bottom habitat surveys and eight were surveys for assessing the status of fisheries resources. 143 local scientists (51 women) from 16 countries participated and received on-the-job training. Under the programme's science plan, 9 scientific papers were published and two were submitted for publication in 2022. The Programme also provides technical support to improve fisheries management. Currently six field projects and two regional initiatives provide technical support to improve fisheries management. In the Gulf of Guinea, support for the implementation of beach seas management plans is making significant progress and countries have an operational fisheries management cycle to monitor, evaluate and adapt management measures. In North-West Africa, the process of developing national Sardinella fisheries plans according to the EAF is promising. In Mauritania, the national plan was adopted in 2022. In Senegal and The Gambia, the management plans should be completed in 2023.

A new phase of the Programme from 2024-2028 is currently being planned, based on lessons learned and recommendations from reviews and evaluations.

In 2022, Norad's Evaluation department published an [Evaluation of Norwegian support under the Nansen cooperation in the fisheries sector](#), focusing on the period 2006-2022. The evaluation noted, among others, the following observations:

- The lack of a full-fledged Theory of Change is an obstacle to the effective implementation of the program, making any attempt to unravelling causal pathways to the goal of poverty reduction impossible.
- Data collected by the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen are relevant to partner countries. The irregular nature of survey coverage, and limitation to access the data, limit their value as a global public good for sustainable management of marine resources and the environment.
- There is a perceived mismatch between data collection and partner country needs among national stakeholders, especially regarding artisanal fisheries that are highly relevant to poor coastal communities, yet to a large extent inaccessible to the vessel.
- EAF-Nansen is considered by stakeholders to be a valuable avenue for expanding regional cooperation for conservation and sustainable management of marine resources and the environment.
- EAF-Nansen's capacity building efforts are well regarded among stakeholders in partner countries, regions and Large Marine Ecosystems, and is increasing awareness and knowledge of the ecosystem approach. However, it has been repeatedly recognized over many years that the translation of awareness and knowledge among managers and decision makers into an effective ecosystem approach to fisheries management is progressing slowly, missing targets, and hindered by issues beyond awareness and knowledge.





The research vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen.
Photo: Magne Olsen, Norwegian Institute for Marine Research

Norway supported the [Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO \(IOC-UNESCO\)](#) in 2022 to implement and coordinate the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(the Ocean Decade\)](#) and reinforce its capacity-development activities. A key activity in 2022 was IOC-UNESCOs work to coordinate the development of the new IOC-UNESCO Capacity Development Strategy (2023-2030). The strategy focuses both on the capacity development requirements of IOC developing country Member States to enable their equitable participation in IOC-UNESCO activities and their active involvement in the Ocean Decade. Furthermore, IOC-UNESCO has been advancing the development of the science and monitoring of ocean acidification, including its impact on seafood production in Africa.

Norwegian ocean-related development assistance

National and regional initiatives



Africa

Background

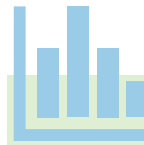
The [latest edition of the World Bank's Africa's Pulse](#)⁶ estimates that economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to slow to 3.3 per cent, from 4.1 per cent in 2021 and the estimated per capita income growth of 0.7 per cent for the region in 2022 is insufficient to meet the challenging goals of poverty reduction and shared prosperity in the medium to long term.

Africa has vast ocean resources that can contribute to the sustainable development of its countries. Africa has 38 coastal states and several island states like Cape Verde, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Comoros. Collectively, African coastal and island states encompass vast ocean territories of an estimated 13 million km², as well as freshwater resources such as rivers, lakes, aquifers, basins, and watersheds. These aquatic resources represent tremendous potential for food, nutrition and food security, ecosystem services, employment, wealth creation and innovation.

The African Blue Economy sectors are projected to grow substantially, according to the [African Union \(AU\) Blue Economy Strategy](#). The AU has identified blue economy development as a priority towards achieving the aspiration of 'a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development'.

According to FAO, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are important sources of food and income in Africa, with annual production of 5.2 million tonnes, and a value of USD 5.8 billion⁷. Artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are among the fastest-growing sectors of the global food industry and in Africa many countries are looking into expanding and promoting markets for growing populations.

However, Africa's fisheries and marine resources are being depleted due to IUU fishing and are put under further stressors such as climate change and pollution. Weak institutional frameworks and enforcement, corruption, lack of data, and limited technical and technological capacity are all factors hampering the development of knowledge-based sectors of the blue economy.



Key facts and figures

- 20% of earmarked ocean-related ODA goes to Africa.
- Mozambique, Ghana, Madagascar, South Africa, and Kenya are the largest recipients.

⁶ [Africa's Pulse, No. 26, October 2022 : Food System Opportunities in a Turbulent Time: Opportunités pour le Système Alimentaire dans une Période de Turbulence \(worldbank.org\)](#)

⁷ [African countries celebrate the importance of fish industries employing 5.4 million people and providing essential nutrition \(fao.org\)](#)

It is vital for Africa's growth and prosperity that the resources of the ocean are managed sustainably and equitably. Norway has several new and longstanding projects and collaborations in Africa working on issues related to sustainable ocean management. This chapter presents some of them.

Illegal fishing and crimes in the fisheries sector

In West Africa, [Trygg Mat Tracking and the West Africa Task Force](#) under the [Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea \(FCWC\)](#) bring together national enforcement authorities, regional organisations and international technical and legal experts. With the main aim of combating large-scale illegal fishing, the initiative facilitates information-sharing and regional cooperation between the FCWC Member States (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo). In 2022, Nigeria ratified the PSMA meaning all six Member States of FCWC have now done so. Project activities are now actively supporting PSMA implementation through the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation mechanisms and fisheries port control capacity that is required in each country. The role of the FCWC West Africa Task Force to combat IUU fishing has also been further bolstered by the establishment of the [Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre](#). Furthermore, the development of operating procedures and mentoring of staff has led to increased access to vessel monitoring and patrol support capacity for the region. The FCWC Member States have made key regional management decisions, including an agreement for a regional closed fishing season from 2023.

Supported by Norway, the Centre for Law in Action at Nelson Mandela University established the [Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy \(FishFORCE Academy\)](#), the first ever in Africa, which provides training programmes for fisheries law enforcement officers and actors in the fisheries-related criminal justice system. The model promotes the use of traditional policing methods and tools adapted to the specific circumstances affecting the fisheries sector, with the ambition to become a platform for building a network of highly trained fisheries law enforcement officers across Africa. In 2022, the FishFORCE Academy developed a virtual law enforcement game specifically designed for law enforcement officers in the sector. The game allows users to learn through experience and the use of a virtual platform, while leading them to approach problem-solving through critical thinking.

Small-scale fisheries

In 2022, Norway boosted its support to civil society organizations (CSOs) that work with coastal communities and small-scale fishers in Africa, to improve their livelihoods and food security. One example is the [Environmental Justice Foundation's](#) project *Building grassroot capacity for a sustainable ocean economy in Ghana*, which focuses on building a resilient and sustainable ocean economy in Ghana through inclusive, strong, and effective capacity, planning and management of coastal ecosystems. Engaging and empowering women throughout the fisheries value chain is a core goal of the project. This project, being implemented in one of the focus countries of the Norwegian strategy for promoting food security in development policy, works towards the strategy's goal of improving the productivity of small-scale food producers.

Another example is [Blue Ventures](#) which works with coastal communities in Kenya and Tanzania. Through partnerships with local CSOs and capacity-building support to community marine managers, this project will strengthen the governance of coastal communities to protect and sustainably

manage their ocean resources. It will develop the leadership and governance capacity of local CSOs that support co-managed fisheries, ensuring the CSOs can provide the support needed to their community partners in the long term.

Aquaculture

To ensure a productive and sustainable development of the aquaculture sector for food security, environmental risks, biosecurity, and fish health must be taken into consideration. Efforts to support innovation that contributes to climate change robust aquaculture, improving aquaculture management, and improving aquaculture value chains are highlighted in the Norwegian strategy for promoting food security in development policy, and Norway supports several projects in Africa to strengthen capacity in this regard.



Under the Blue Ventures project, an eco-credit group in Majoreni Village in Kenya has planted more than 20,000 mangroves the past year. Undertaking conservation efforts is a requirement for members to take up a loan. Photo: Johanne Nordby Fremstad, Norad

In 2022, with support from Norway, WorldFish initiated a project to develop and scale sustainable feed for resilient aquatic food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The project will take place in Nigeria, Zambia, and Kenya and focus on the increasing significance of aquaculture to sustainable development in SSA, while balancing the need to prioritize socio-economic and environmental considerations alongside technical considerations. This includes the urgent need of smallholder fish farmers for local ingredients and fish feeds that are affordable and of high quality and understanding and adapting to potentially higher essential nutrient requirements of genetically improved tilapia and African catfish.

WorldFish and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, with support from the Africa Aquaculture Research and Training Centre, have in 2022 worked on increasing sustainability in the aquaculture sector in SSA, through improved aquatic animal health management. The project has contributed to strengthening the capacity for aquatic animal health management and biosecurity governance through research and education in Ghana and Kenya. Several guidelines, online courses, and a series of quick fish sampling guides for disease diagnostics were developed to support aquatic animal health research and education in SSA. Fourteen aquaculture extension services candidates from Kenya, Ghana and Mozambique have attended training at the WorldFish facility in Egypt's Fish for Africa Innovation Hub.

The Royal Norwegian Society for Development together with their partner, the Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique, run the CEPAQ- project. CEPAQ is a national centre in Mozambique for aquaculture research and a platform for private investors that produce tilapia for the local market, thereby creating jobs and increasing food



CEPAQ centre
Photo: Norwegian Embassy in Maputo

security. In 2022 progress has been made with the genetic enhancement of the Generation 4 *Oreochromis Mossambicus*. Despite operational problems related to a longer-than-normal winter, COVID-19 and new EU regulations for sending samples for laboratory tests to Italy, the centre produced 12 tonnes of fish and sold 300,000 fingerlings in 2022.



Norway also supported Papá Pesca Lda. in 2022 with the project *Scaling Up Profitable Aquaculture in Mozambique*. The aim of the project is increased food security in Mozambique through profitable small and medium-scale tilapia farming, domestic market development and the establishment of a tilapia aquaculture incubator. The project demonstrates how a saline area not suited for agriculture can be used for fish farming of tilapia which is tolerant to higher levels of salinity than agricultural produce.

From the Papá Pesca project in Chockwe, Mozambique. Photo: Sonja Elin Kleven Jakobsen, Norad

Environment, climate change and biological diversity

In 2022, Norway initiated a project with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Norway on mangrove management for climate risk resilience and improved livelihoods in Tanzania and Mozambique. The project will strengthen community management of important mangrove areas and strengthen climate change adaptation in coastal communities and ecosystems of Mozambique and Tanzania. Coastal communities will see their rights to manage and benefit from mangroves secured, their vulnerability to climate-related risks reduced, and sustainable, climate-resilient livelihood opportunities and enterprises developed for mangrove-dependent coastal communities. There will be a specific focus on gender equity and marginalized groups to ensure inclusive development.

Through the [Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development \(NORHED\)](#), which aims to strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions in developing countries, Norway supports several projects in Africa. The projects involve universities in Ghana, Tanzania, and Mozambique, and partner universities in Norway. The projects focus on issues such as crosslinking coastal pollution with climate change, sustainable extraction of energy resources, and maintaining ecosystem integrity, coastal economy, food security and sustainable livelihoods for communities through improved fisheries governance.

Marine litter and plastic waste

In 2022, Norway partnered with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to enhance five African countries' knowledge and capacity to be engaged in the negotiations process for the Global Plastics Treaty. This will be done by strengthening the negotiation capacities of key stakeholders at different levels of government and improving collaboration amongst key national ministries. The focus of the project is to build national capacity and support their active engagement

in the treaty process that can serve as a model for other countries. The planned countries for implementation are Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

In Mozambique, Norway supports the Cooperativa de Educação Ambiental Repensar to raise environmental awareness of the severity, impacts and challenges of waste pollution, including plastic. It also focuses on the importance of protecting the environment, conserving biodiversity and building resilience to climate change in society as a whole. In 2022, the project achieved positive results in the pilot experiences of recovering areas of fluvial and maritime dune ecosystems and mangroves, through the combination of different techniques and methods. The project allowed a greater understanding of the dynamics of marine litter, especially in the relationship between water outlets and downstream pollution, with a focus on the national contribution of plastic pollution, including microplastics.

Bilateral cooperation on fisheries and ocean management

Norway and Ghana have a long-standing cooperation in fisheries management. The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute work with the Fisheries Commission of Ghana to enhance the socio-economic development of Ghana through sustainable management of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The project aims to increase the capacity of the Fisheries Commission of Ghana to sustainably manage these sectors. One of the most important results in 2022 was the visit of trawl gear experts from the Directorate of Fisheries and the Institute of Marine Research in Norway who joined inspectors from the Fisheries Commission when controlling fishing gear onboard trawlers in Ghana. Recommendations were made for changing the technical regulations to increase size selectivity in the trawl fisheries. A ministerial directive on gear for industrial trawlers that was subsequently adopted has improved the selectivity of the gear used and is expected to reduce catches of juveniles and small pelagic species.

In 2021, Norway and University of Ghana School of Law partnered up to work on ocean governance capacity building. The project includes a research collaboration between the University of Ghana and the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea. The areas of priority are targeted at creating the research, policy, and legislative capacity for the teaching, researching and implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in Ghana and West Africa. The project aims to create a strong human resource and knowledge pool that will lead to the promotion of strengthened, sustainable and inclusive ocean economies in Ghana and the region. In 2022 the project held an Ocean Governance training seminar, produced three publications on ocean governance and law of the sea, and held an ocean governance consultative forum.



Sudan's Red Sea coast is home to a diverse and well-developed coral reef ecosystem which is in relatively good condition, thanks to its favourable geographical location and a fishery that has avoided the most destructive methods. [A Norwegian-Sudanese partnership](#) aims to develop capacity in the collection and analyses of fisheries landing data, to use data from the project's own survey cruises and to provide management advice for harvested species. In 2022, participants from the Norwegian Institute for Marine Research and three partner institutions in Red Sea State surveyed coral reef sites

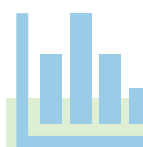
to monitor the biophysical conditions and obtain independent data on fish species occurrence, abundance and size distribution.

The Ocean for Development Programme in Mozambique is a collaboration between Norwegian and Mozambican institutions on statistics, integrated ocean management, fisheries- and aquaculture research, and the environment. This cooperation is in its early stages, but Mozambique and Norway have a decade-long history of collaboration on fisheries and other sectors. The Mozambican partners of the programme visited Norway in 2022, to continue the development of the design of the programme.

Asia

Background

Asia's marine and coastal areas are some of the largest and most biologically rich ecosystems in the world, including two of the largest river basins (the Ganges and the Indus), and many of the world's mangrove forests and coral reef areas.^{8,9} These areas are of key importance for the social and economic development of the region and are critical for food security and nutrition, livelihoods and employment. Coastal tourism comprises an important component of the national economies of countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.



Key facts and figures

- 13% of earmarked ODA goes to Asia.
- India, Indonesia and China are the largest recipients.

However, the Asian continent is faced with several challenges that impact its coasts and the ocean, as well as the people who depend on them for their livelihoods and well-being.¹⁰ Rapid population increase in coastal areas, marine pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, expansive aquaculture, and extensive habitat degradation are putting increasing pressure on marine and coastal areas. The impacts are further exacerbated by climate change.

Therefore, Norwegian ocean-related development assistance has provided support to projects and bilateral cooperation focused on combating marine pollution and plastic waste, improving fisheries and aquaculture management, and developing integrated ocean management. Norway's key partner countries in Asia are Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka, and much of the efforts have been concentrated there, while also supporting several regional projects across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

⁸ South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), 2019. 'Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region: Living in Harmony with our Oceans and Coasts'.

⁹ Whisnant, R., and Reyes, A. 2015. Blue Economy for Business in East Asia: Towards an Integrated Understanding of Blue Economy. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines. 69 p.

¹⁰ UNEP 2016. GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Asia and the Pacific. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya.

Marine litter and plastic waste

India

In India, the [Centre for Science and Environment](#) implements a project to address the land-to-sea waste pathways. In 2022, the project made significant contributions to the improvement of waste management in India. The “Forum of Cities to Segregate” has increased to 305 cities (from the planned 100) covering a population of 3.4 million across 26 states in India. The forum members (municipal corporations) were provided training on sustainable waste management practices. The training has proved to be effective as 86% of the cities have shown improvement in the National Cleanliness Ranking between 2020 and 2022. One of the pilot cities, Agra, has completed 94% of the biomining of legacy waste¹¹ – currently among the top 10 cities in terms of dumpsite remediation.

[The Afroz Shah Foundation](#) organises clean-ups of beaches, rivers and parks in Mumbai. Seeking to increase awareness of marine litter and its effects on societies and human health, as of 2022 the foundation’s efforts have led to 10,000 tons of waste being picked up and disposed of, as well as the collection and recycling of waste from about 24,000 households, and a reduction in the consumption of about 37 million units of plastic packaging through refill solutions.

The Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) collaborates with Indian partners to build capacity to [tackle plastic and chemical pollution from important sources within key industries, public sector and civil society](#). In 2022, the project started a pilot study to monitor and analyse the two river catchments in the state of Gujarat for chemicals and plastic. The results were used to prepare and submit a plastic waste strategy report and a Persistent Organic Pollutant management plan for the state.



Plastic waste transported down the river to a mangrove forest in India. Photo: Silje Fagernes Anonsen, Norad

¹¹ Biomining is the scientific process of excavation, treatment, segregation and gainful utilization of aged municipal solid waste lying in dumpsites, typically referred to as legacy waste.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, the government's ambition is to reduce ocean plastics by 70% by 2025, and the Indonesia National Marine Debris Secretariat was established in 2019 to implement this ambition. Norway supports the Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate five task forces to have integrated and synergized action plans for marine debris reduction. In 2022, the Secretariat reported that there has been a reduction in plastic leakage into the ocean by 28.5%, based on quality-assured measures. The Secretariat produced policy briefs on 10 polluted rivers in Java. Norway also supports the [CLOCC programme](#) in Indonesia, which contributes to this goal. According to a baseline study of the Banyuwangi region in Indonesia, less than one-third of the villages in the region have a formal collection system and only 22% of the waste is collected. The process of creating a sustainable and more circular waste management plan for the Banyuwangi Regency is in the final stages, and the draft Waste Management Master Plan was submitted to the Banyuwangi Regent in December 2022.



Field visit to a village in the Banyuwangi region, showing the extent of the issue with plastic pollution. Photo: Kari Synnøve Johansen, Norad

Regional initiatives

As marine plastic litter is a transboundary environmental problem, Norway also supports regional projects. Through the [ASEANO project](#), NIVA, together with institutions in Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines, provides knowledge and data for monitoring, awareness-raising and efforts to reduce plastic pollution. In 2022 the project enabled stakeholders to identify reduction measures for plastics, best practices, and roadmaps for small and medium-sized enterprises in the ASEAN region and their role in the plastic value chain. For example, the project conducts important research on plastic utilisation and practices of the food service industry in Dasmariñas City in the Philippines. In Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines work on multi-stakeholders' mechanisms for monitoring microplastics in rivers was concluded in 2022. The project also researched the socio-economic impact and reduction measures of microplastics in rivers in Indonesia and the Philippines. This project is a good example of regional learning through the involvement of local stakeholders.

Norway also supports the [regional UN Development Programme \(UNDP\) project, EPPIC](#), to source innovative solutions from ASEAN countries for combating plastics pollution and promoting a circular economy. In 2022, the four winners of the



Photo: UNDP, EPPIC: Philippines, Intl. clean-up day 2022

second EPPIC Innovation Challenge for Indonesia and the Philippines were enrolled in a 9-month impact acceleration programme to develop and implement their solutions further. As of early 2022, the finalists from the first Innovation Challenge had received a total cumulative investment of USD 494,000, in addition to the seed funding from Norway. Moreover, the project launched the EPPIC shop in Ha Long City in Vietnam. The shop will showcase products and services to reduce plastic pollution, including the products that have been sourced through the EPPIC Innovation Challenges, as well as act as a local hub to raise awareness and encourage behavioral change.

Environmentally sound management of non-recyclable plastic waste is technically complicated and costly, and there is a lack of capacity and resources to manage the increasing amounts. In China, India, Thailand and Vietnam, [SINTEF works to investigate how energy-intensive industries such as cement manufacturing can benefit from utilising the high-energy content of non-recyclable plastic waste](#). In 2022, a successful pilot demonstration in Vietnam concluded that local co-processing of non-recyclable plastic waste as a fuel substitute in cement kilns is a feasible alternative, both environmentally and technically. The tests carried out demonstrated that the emissions of the environmental toxins did not increase if plastic waste is used as a supplementary fuel, and they meet the strictest limit values for pollutant emissions. This kind of approach can significantly boost plastic waste treatment capacities at the local level and reduce the usage of coal and the volumes of plastic waste leaking into the ocean.

In 2022, Norway initiated a collaboration with USAID's [Clean Cities, Blue Ocean \(CCBO\)](#) programme. The support will go towards CCBO activities combatting plastic pollution and improving solid waste management in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, especially through CCBO's local small-scale grant program. Through the collaboration with USAID, Norway aims to further increase the focus on innovation and the private sector, the informal sector, and women's economic empowerment and rights.

[UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge Fund – Fortuna Coconut Coolers](#)



Norway supports UNDP's Ocean Innovation Challenge Fund. The Fund aims to accelerate progress on SDG 14 by identifying and supporting innovative approaches to solving ocean issues. Through the first call for proposals on marine pollution, the Fortuna Coconut Coolers emerged. This start-up company developed an innovative technology to produce the first cold storage products made from discarded coconut husks that can compete with expanded polystyrene coolers on both price and performance. Since 2021, Fortuna Cools successfully launched two production lines in Philippines and has expanded operations to Vietnam and Thailand. In 2022, Fortuna improved the quality of its final production and targeted more costumers. From zero units at the onset, the company has now sold over 1,200 coolers with projections to reach 250,000 in 5 years and 2 million in 10 years.

Asia is home to some of the busiest shipping lines and largest ports in the world.¹² Through the regional IMO project [Marine Environment Protection of the Southeast Asia's Seas](#), Norway supports Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam to reduce the impact of ship-generated pollution on the marine environment and fisheries. The project has spurred efforts to increase the uptake of technology solutions to implement relevant international treaties. It has also enhanced knowledge management and communications around high-priority issues such as ballast water, anti-fouling paints, pollutants, and the dumping of waste into marine environments. The project has driven ASEAN-wide regional coordination and cooperation by engaging with ASEAN and its Maritime Transport Working Group. Several of the project countries have completed their ratification of prioritised IMO conventions and localized it in national legislation or are in the process of doing so.



Photo: Cameron Venti / Ocean Image Bank

¹² IMO, 2022. Asia and the Pacific Islands Region. Source: [Asia and Pacific Islands Region \(imo.org\)](#)



WWF's work on plastics in Asia

Norway provides substantial support to WWF's marine litter portfolio in Asia. For instance, every year, Norway's national broadcasting channel, NRK, hosts a Telethon which is the largest information campaign and fundraising event in Norway (TV-Aksjonen). In 2020 the funds raised went to [WWF's work against marine pollution in Asia](#), with an approximate 240 million NOK collected. The project is implemented in 9 cities in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (Bogor, Depok, Hue, Manila, Jakarta, Hat Yai, Koh Samui, Surat Thani, Songkhla).

Through the No Plastics in Nature initiative, WWF has launched [the Plastic Smart Cities Initiative \(PSC\)](#), which has been extended to more than 27 cities in Asia. The initiative has enabled WWF to invest in innovative solutions by working with cities, communities, businesses and entrepreneurs. The PSC Initiative in Makassar, Indonesia was able to help the city build a better City Action Plan on plastic pollution with the full support from the mayor, and further implement a series of pilot activities on the ground to help the diversion of plastic leakage to the environment.



Pictures from TV-Aksjonen project in Vietnam.

Photo: Geir Barstein

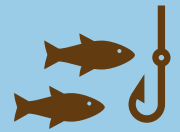
Norway also support WWF to advance the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) amongst government and corporations, and this is now being embedded within national policy frameworks in several of the target countries. For instance, in Vietnam, the new Law for Environmental Protection that includes an EPR legal framework adopted many of WWF's recommendations, such as ensuring that producers' financial contributions are used exclusively to improve collection and recycling activities.

Fisheries and aquaculture

The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, cooperates with Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries to build the capacity of Indonesian stakeholders on marine aquaculture. This includes activities on fish diseases, selective breeding, standards, and guidelines on spatial planning in marine aquaculture. Among several results in 2022, the project provided inputs to policy-makers on ideal steps in designing marine spatial planning for aquaculture based on scientific measurement.

Norway also co-funds a GEF project implemented by the FAO in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem, the objective of which is to contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources, and their habitats for the benefit of coastal states and communities. The project is implemented in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The project has an interesting regional approach which can bring in various partners and work on a broad spectrum of related issues the area faces.

PROBLUE in Sri Lanka



PROBLUE is engaged in Sri Lanka to improve management of marine fisheries, coastal aquaculture, and the ecosystems that support them. This analytical work, which includes generating socioeconomic information, will be important for planning – and a potential World Bank-supported project – including the assessment of environmental and social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture. After a March 2022 launch event, the previously published “Priorities for Sustainably Managing Sri Lanka’s Marine Fisheries, Coastal Aquaculture, and the Ecosystems that Support Them” received significant media coverage.

Sustainable blue economy

In 2022, UNEP supported several initiatives on the blue economy in Asia. For instance, UNEP provided technical support to the Ministry of Development Planning in Indonesia in preparation for the roadmap for National Master Plan for Ocean Economy. UNEP also collaborated with the UN Resident Coordinator and the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Investment in the new National Blue Agenda Actions Partnership and [G20/O20 ocean track](#). They also supported Vietnam's Administration of Seas & Islands/Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources in scenario-building on sustainable blue economy transition and related readiness assessments.

Through [NORHED](#) Norway supports a collaboration between the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, Bogor Agricultural University in Indonesia, and NHA Trang University in Vietnam entitled “Ecosystem-based management of coastal marine resources”. The project aims to develop high-level marine resource economics competence to analyze economic development and sustainable ecosystem-based management and recommend policies to address local and regional coastal marine resources challenges.

Bilateral cooperation on ocean-related issues

In May 2022, Indonesia and Norway signed an agreement outlining the overall framework for long-term bilateral cooperation on ocean-related matters. The bilateral cooperation started in 2022 with a

collaboration between Statistics Norway (SSB), the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and Statistics Indonesia (BPS) on ocean accounting. Norway and Indonesia have both started pilot projects on ocean accounting, however, the work is still at an early stage in both countries. The collaboration will focus on ecosystem services accounts, ocean satellite accounts, and fundamental components of an effective ocean statistical information system. Dialogue on collaboration concerning the development of inclusive and sustainable blue carbon markets was also initiated in 2022 and will be followed up on in 2023. Other areas of collaboration may also be included throughout the project period, which runs until 2028.

In the context of the [India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development](#), India and Norway have a productive dialogue on the blue economy. In 2022, the collaboration gained momentum in the areas of marine pollution and MSP. The support to the former is channelled through UNEP India which provides technical, policy, and capacity support to the Marine Litter Cell of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for control of marine pollution. The five partners in the Initiative have brought out numerous reports, and a [website](#) was launched to make these accessible. A first-of-its-kind workshop to share best practices on plastic waste management between Indian and Norwegian municipalities was held, with participation from the municipalities of Oslo and Stavanger in Norway and of Indore and Ambikapur in India. The India-Norway MSP project has also made significant progress in 2022, where draft Marine Spatial Plans were finalized for the pilot areas of Puducherry and Lakshadweep. As MSP stresses the importance of a holistic and ecosystem-based approach, India is making great strides towards more sustainable ocean management.

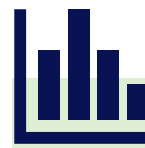


In Sri Lanka, Norway supports a project to improve the management of fisheries resources and fisheries data collection, with the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries and Institute of Marine Research, and the Sri Lankan National Aquatic Research and Development Agency. Some major achievements have been obtained during 2022, including the development of a tablet application for recording landing data and a photo-based system for species identification and length measurements of fish using a hand-held camera. This could contribute to solving the persistent issue of obtaining reliable fishery statistics of the artisanal fisheries in Sri Lanka. A management plan has been developed for small pelagic fishes on the west coast, as the first management plan for fisheries in Sri Lanka.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Background

The ocean is a vast source of solutions and opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 27% of the region's population lives in coastal areas, and the sea accounts for a larger share of territory than land for most countries. The region features more global marine ecoregions than any other region, and has unique environments such as the Galapagos area, unexplored deep underwater trenches, and cold-water reefs. The region has over 3.8 million km² of MPAs, which represents 20% of the marine area.



Key facts and figures

- 4% of earmarked ODA goes to Latin America and the Caribbean
- Colombia is the main recipient.

Small-scale fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean support livelihoods, employment and the food security of more than 2.3 million people. They also contribute to environmental stewardship in the region, through strong leadership and collaboration among fishers' associations and cooperatives. In the Caribbean region, SSF represents about 90% of catches.¹³

Latin America and the Caribbean are also global aquaculture players, with the majority of fish produced in Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru. Although the region has an important role in the production of food from aquatic animals, there are several challenges, including issues related to aquaculture data collection, worker health and safety and decent work, mitigating impacts from and improving actions against covid-19, animal health, as well as low mechanization of the industry¹⁴.

Mangrove cover has significantly declined in the region, particularly the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Central America, where 40% of the mangrove species present are listed on the IUCN Red List as 'threatened with extinction'. Plastics are the most important pollutant in the region's waters, due to population growth, urban development, tourism growth and high demand for plastic products and production.¹⁵ Extreme weather and climate change are increasingly affecting the region.

Norwegian ocean-related development assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean seeks to address the challenges and opportunities the fisheries and aquaculture sectors are facing. This chapter provides some examples.

¹³ M. Tambutti and J.J. Gómez (eds.), 'The outlook for oceans, seas and marine resources in Latin America and the Caribbean: conservation, sustainable development and climate change mitigation', Project Documents (LC/TS.2020/167), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2020.

¹⁴ Aquaculture's role in Latin America and Caribbean and updated data production [Aquaculture's role in Latin America and Caribbean and updated data production - Souto Cavalli - 2021 - Aquaculture Research - Wiley Online Library](#)

Fisheries and aquaculture cooperation

Cuba

The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research collaborates with the Cuban Ministry of External Trade and Foreign Investment and the Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras in the production of marine fish fry in Cuba. This is the third phase of the project, and the aim is to ensure that the investments, in terms of training, equipment and infrastructure (including a new state-of-the-art hatchery in Mariel) of the previous project phases, complete the cycle from broodstock to “fish on the table” by developing the competence to run a modern hatchery and fry production.

Colombia

Colombia is a focus country in the region for the *Fish for Development Programme* and the first institutional cooperation agreement between Colombia and Norway was signed in 2021. The implementation started in 2022, and the programme supports efforts to ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, as well as increase the sustainable production of fish and seafood. Competence building is an integrated element of Norwegian fisheries-related development cooperation, and the Norwegian institutions involved in this project (Norwegian Institute of Marine Research, Norwegian Veterinary Institute, and Directorate of Fisheries) have extensive experience in this regard.

Norway also supports various civil society projects in Colombia on fisheries and aquaculture, and three new activities were initiated in 2022. This includes a continuation of a project with Conservation International which seeks to reduce the poverty of Colombian coastal small-scale fisherfolk through improved fisheries management and production schemes, in addition to two new projects with MarViva Foundation and Wildlife Conservation Society.

The first project period with Conservation International ended in 2022 and resulted in several target achievements; an average increase of 64.5% in the price of the fish product sold within the framework of the [EcoGourmet Programme](#), and almost 300 fisherfolk have improved accounting, organizational and technical capacities. Twelve fisherfolk organizations are now implementing best fishing practices thus improving fisheries management, and over 120 fisherfolk have acquired the skills to effectively report illegal activities related to the exploitation of natural resources. Women in fisherfolk organisations are empowered as a result of their strengthened roles in the organisations and their communities.



The ADIMujer fish reception facility in Santa Marta, Colombia. Part of the EcoGourmet Programme supported by Norad. Photo: Guro Glavin, Norad.

Norway also supports UNIDO’s Global Market Access Programme, which works on aquaculture and fisheries value chains in Colombia. The goal is to improve and establish frameworks and quality standards in the value chains that have the potential to generate export income for the country. The implementation is still in the early stages, but several analyses have been done on capacities, international standards for certification of tilapia and shrimp,

the development of action plans and delivery of technical assistance to stakeholders along the value chain has been completed.

The sustainable blue economy and marine protection

PROBLUE supports several activities in the region regarding the blue economy. For instance, inputs from PROBLUE-financed studies have been used in the World Bank's efforts to help the government of Costa Rica to identify options for a blue, green, climate-smart recovery in the assessment of Costa Rica's Exclusive Economic Zone to blue economic activities¹⁶. PROBLUE also supports the Central America blue economy programme, which focuses on two of the countries in the Gulf of Fonseca – El Salvador and Honduras. The activity focuses on building regional and national capacity, strengthening institutional arrangements and identifying investment needs to foster sustainability, support job creation, and boost value addition in the blue economy of the countries and the Gulf.

UNEP works in the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) to use ocean management to promote resilient marine and coastal ecosystems in the member countries of the CBC, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. The objective is to ensure that coastal and marine data will strengthen ocean management in the member countries. The project will seek to strengthen the knowledge base and the value of a regional approach in conserving biodiversity and obtaining baseline information and data on coastal ecology to improve the connection between conservation and communities. UNEP elaborated a new [spatial demarcation for the biological corridor](#), which was approved by the CBC Ministerial Committee in April 2022. The new demarcation includes all the Greater Antilles, as well as coastal and marine areas, to cover over 200,000 km².

Marine litter and plastic waste

Norway is supporting the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) through the reduction of marine litter and pollution project which seeks to build resilience in marine ecosystems. In 2022, the project achieved some good results. Participating countries have drafted and validated national legislation. This includes waste management regulations and OECS guidelines on fiscal incentives and model policy. The participating countries also gave several recommendations on the principles of zero waste, circular economy, extended producer responsibility and the polluter-pay-principle. An OECS Clean Ocean Champions Video Series to raise public awareness on marine litter and keeping the ocean healthy as well as advocating for more sustainable practices was also produced, and more than 80 thousand kg of plastic has been collected and removed from waste streams.

¹⁶ [World Bank Document](#)

Looking ahead to 2023



As uncertainty seems to be the new normal, 2023 is also likely to be a challenging year with regard to development assistance. The climate, nature and pollution crises remain overarching and global concerns, while the tragic war in Ukraine continues to impact much of Europe, with critical implications for the world's food systems and energy security.

In this global context, we must increase the efforts to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the 17 SDGs. Ocean-related development assistance has an integral role to play, and Norwegian experience can contribute significantly. The ocean covers more than two-thirds of our planet, is a key source of food, recreation, livelihoods, economic value and climate regulation, and is at the heart of sustainable development. Norway will build on the momentum of the "ocean super year" of 2022 into 2023 and keep engaging in important global processes and local development.



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