



BLUE SOLUTIONS

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY – ESSENTIAL SERVICES AT RISK

The oceans cover 71 percent of our planet's surface. By 2050, the global population is likely to reach more than nine billion. More than three-quarters of these people will be living within 100 kilometers of a coastline. These waters, through the provision of marine and coastal resources, help ensure the well-being of our growing population. Oceans and coasts are the natural life support system on which humankind depends.

Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems provide us with a multitude of valuable goods and services, such as food, climate regulation, coastal protection and cultural services. However, despite their significance for socio-cultural development, economic growth and carbon storage, many marine and coastal ecosystems are under threat. Overfishing, pollution, habitat loss and degradation are leading to a deterioration of the environmental status of oceans and coasts. The impacts of climate change exacerbate adverse effects on these highly productive and biologically diverse regions and intensify pressure on these ecosystems, thus threatening the provision of essential ecosystem services.

FOCAL AREAS OF BLUE SOLUTIONS

Blue Solutions has five closely interlinked core focal areas:

• MARINE AND COASTAL SPATIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Ecosystem-based management considers the full range of uses that affect marine and coastal ecosystems. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) approaches can ensure ecosystem-based management and meet the objectives of multiple stakeholders.

• PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

There is a need to enhance management effectiveness, improve governance quality and plan protected areas. These and other effective area-based conservation measures and networks are integral parts of integrated approaches to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

ACHIEVING THE MARINE AND COASTAL AICHI TARGETS

The sustainable use and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity is a priority for action under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). To support practitioners and policy makers in improving the management of marine and coastal biodiversity, the Blue Solutions Initiative is partnering with a range of organizations and programmes, including the Sustainable Ocean Initiative of the CBD, to facilitate global knowledge exchange and capacity development. The Blue Solutions Initiative is therefore contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, specifically those related to coastal and marine challenges.

The Blue Solutions Initiative contributes particularly to the following **AICHI TARGETS**:

- TARGET 1** Raise awareness for the values of biodiversity
- TARGET 2** Integrate biodiversity values into development and poverty reduction policies
- TARGET 6** Sustainably manage marine living resources
- TARGET 10** Reduce pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems
- TARGET 11** Increase and improve protected areas
- TARGET 14** Restore and safeguard ecosystem services
- TARGET 15** Enhance ecosystem resilience and contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks
- TARGET 19** Share, transfer and apply knowledge on biodiversity

• **INTEGRATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES INTO MARINE AND COASTAL PLANNING**

The integration of ecosystem services into marine and coastal planning helps to secure healthy ecosystems' critical contributions to achieving economic and social development goals.

• **CLIMATE CHANGE**

By applying a climate lens and integrating (ecosystem-based) adaptation and mitigation activities in development planning, coastal communities can better use marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

• **SUSTAINABLE FINANCING**

Sustainable and long-term financing mechanisms are pre-requisites to an effective and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems.

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

An essential component of the Blue Solutions Initiative is to collate, document and share successful approaches, or “solutions”, addressing marine and coastal challenges provided by practitioners and policy makers worldwide. Solutions can illustrate a range of topics from marine and coastal spatial planning and management, marine protected areas, ecosystem services, climate change and sustainable finance to fisheries, tourism, marine litter or educational and capacity development measures, and be implemented on different levels (from local to multi-national; from hands-on to policy). The sharing and exchanging of these solutions provides others with examples and lessons learned regarding successful approaches that have worked in given contexts. They can inspire others to adapt and replicate these achievements without “reinventing the wheel”, thereby accelerating action for sustaining healthy marine and coastal ecosystems.

The Blue Solutions Initiative facilitates exchanges around solutions through an interactive online platform and in face-to-face meetings. These networking and discussion opportunities allow practitioners and decision-makers to gain inspiration for addressing current challenges in their work contexts. Blue Solutions collaborates with a range of efforts and organizations, thus enhancing cross-sectoral learning and partnerships as well as enabling global learning from local action.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Blue Solutions Initiative provides a range of capacity development opportunities. These include trainings on the integration of ecosystem services into marine planning, and climate change adaptation in the marine and coastal realm. A training course on marine and coastal spatial planning and management is currently under development. In addition, the Blue Solutions Initiative cooperates with other institutions which offer complementary capacity development courses.

The Sustainable Oceans Lab is jointly convened by the Global Leadership Academy and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Blue Solutions. The Lab brings together leaders and change agents active in marine management and governance to discuss current global oceans and coastal management issues in a comprehensive, open and innovative way, while identifying possible solutions.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP		IMPRINT	
IMPLEMENTATION	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH GRID-Arendal International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	PUBLISHED BY	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH www.giz.de
ON BEHALF OF	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through the International Climate Initiative (ICI)	CONTACT	Ilona Porsché GIZ mail@bluesolutions.info
PROJECT DURATION	January 2013 until June 2018	PHOTOS	GRID-Arendal www.grida.no/photolib Marine Photobank www.marinephotobank.org
PROJECT WEBSITE	www.bluesolutions.info	GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication	
SOLUTIONS PLATFORM	www.solutionexplorer.org	As of November 2015	