



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



AFD GROUP AND **the Ocean**



€5 BN

committed by AFD
between 2019 and 2024
to finance ocean-related projects

87%

of projects had a positive
impact on biodiversity
and the climate in 2024

The ocean is a shared space for life and development. AFD Group's mission is to help restore the balance between preserving its health and supporting its use by humankind.

#WorldInCommon

Our vision for the Ocean

The ocean — essential to development, food security, employment and the economy in numerous countries — is being damaged by increasing pressure from human activity. Environmental degradation, from the coast to the open sea, is accelerating due to untenable maritime and land-based activities. These include: unsustainable fishing and aquaculture practices; pollution generated by industrial and agricultural wastewater discharge and plastic waste; increasing shipping traffic; the artificialization of coastal areas, and so on. Furthermore, new opportunities for economic development linked to the ocean, such as marine renewable energies, desalination and seabed mining, are posing new threats to their health, particularly when potential impacts are not fully understood or taken into account.

The ocean plays a vital role in regulating the global climate by absorbing large amounts of atmospheric CO₂. But as the planet warms, the ocean is impacted by the effects — disrupting habitats and marine biodiversity through phenomena like coral bleaching and shifts in the distribution of fish species.

Extreme weather events are growing more frequent and intense. Rising sea levels and coastal erosion now threaten the 11% of the global population living less than 10 meters above sea level. Beyond shrinking shorelines, saltwater intrusion is already increasing the salinity of groundwater and farmland.

Some marine and coastal ecosystems provide powerful natural defenses against climate change, but many are already under severe pressure. Mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and wetlands help buffer the impact of extreme weather events, with coral reefs alone able

to reduce wave energy by up to 97%. For more than 63 million people, these reefs are the first line of defense against the effects of climate change.

AFD's commitments to the oceans have increased in recent years. They include projects whose activities are directly linked to the ocean, as well as those located in coastal areas and watersheds, when they have an impact on oceans. The Group's activities are structured around five complementary and interconnected pillars: governance, the sustainable blue economy, ecosystem protection, resilience and support for islands and overseas territories.



90%

of goods are transported
via the ocean

15 tonnes

of plastic waste are released
into the ocean every minute

90%

of marine fish stocks
are overexploited or fished at
their maximum sustainable yield

40%

of the world's population lives
within 100km of the coast, of which
3/4 are in developing countries

less than 1%

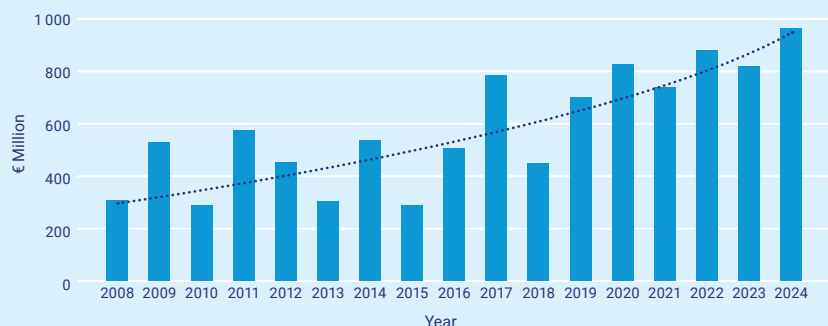
of coral reefs would survive
if global warming rose by 2°C

30%

of anthropogenic carbon
and 90% of excess atmospheric
heat are absorbed by the ocean

AFD's key figures for the Ocean

Average annual totals of AFD Group's Ocean financing since 2008



**€ 4,2
BN**

of projects financed
between
2020 and 2024

In 2024

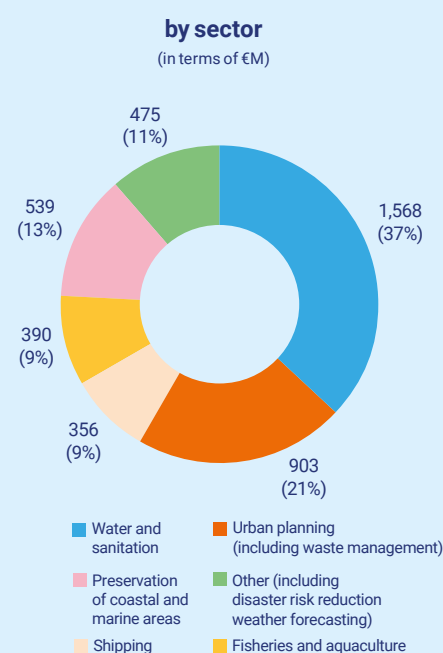
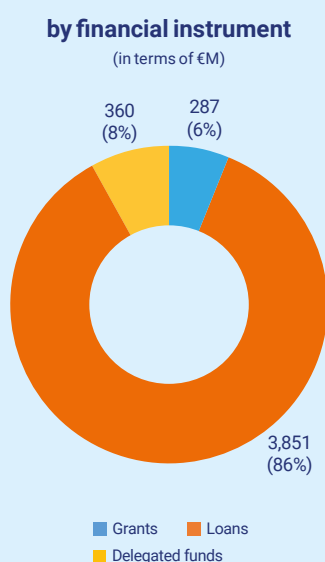
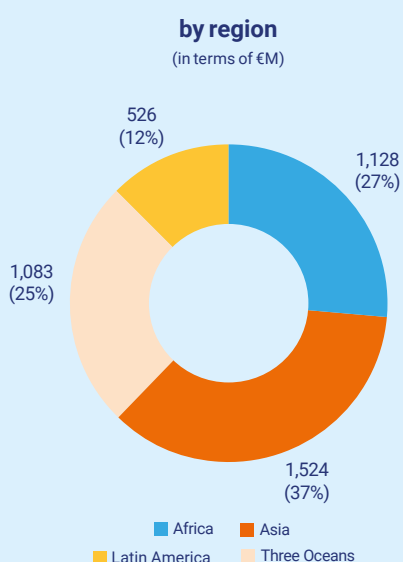
87%

of the amount committed to ocean-related projects
had a positive impact on biodiversity

99%

of the amount committed to ocean-related projects
had a positive impact on the climate

Breakdown of AFD Group's Ocean financing between 2020 and 2024



Preserving the health of marine and coastal areas to support a sustainable and inclusive blue economy

AFD adapts its projects to each specific situation, prioritizing the most vulnerable, systematically integrating gender, climate and biodiversity issues, and aligning itself with the principles of a regenerative blue economy.

1

Improving the governance of marine and coastal areas and resources

AFD Group advocates for public policy, institutions and organizations that promote the effective governance and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas and activities. It supports strategies and standards that provide a framework for the development of the blue economy, with a focus on ecosystem-based and co-management approaches. Scientific research and the development of interdisciplinary knowledge must guide decision-making to better understand, protect and ensure more sustainable use of marine environments. The Group works with oceanographic and meteorological research institutes, supports the sustainable management of fishing stocks, and helps build monitoring and control systems for maritime and coastal activities. AFD Group also promotes maritime safety in a broader sense, which includes both environmental (prevention of pollution) and social (protection of people at sea) issues.

2

Promoting a sustainable and inclusive blue economy

AFD Group supports sustainable and inclusive development projects in traditional and emerging marine sectors (such as shipping, fisheries, aquaculture, marine renewable energies, subsea digital cables and seawater desalination), in line with regenerative blue economy principles. Particular focus is given to developing value chains that generate local employment and benefit the most disadvantaged coastal communities, especially women, such as small-scale fisheries, extensive aquaculture and ecotourism, while promoting decent working conditions and sustainable practices. AFD Group also supports the transition of more capital-intensive sectors by accelerating the shift to more eco-friendly, socially-responsible and energy-efficient models, thereby reducing their impact on marine environments.

Ecuador

Supporting public policy for ocean conservation and sustainable use

2024-2026 | €92 M (sovereign loan)
\$1 M (technical assistance grant)

This financing supports public policies in Ecuador for the conservation, sustainable management and use of its marine and coastal areas, ensuring the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity. In addition to budgetary financing, AFD is subsidizing a technical assistance program for the integrated governance of the sea, a sustainable financing strategy for protected marine and coastal areas, oceanographic research and monitoring of fishing stocks, as well as pilot projects to restore mangroves as blue carbon sinks.

French Guiana

Connecting French Guiana's digital infrastructure to Europe

2025-2028 | €35 M (sovereign loan)

The aim of the Lum@link project is to connect French Guiana directly to Europe via a modern subsea cable system. This strategic project will enhance domestic connectivity, promote inclusion, digital sovereignty and territorial resilience, while creating opportunities for regional and economic cooperation. It will also open up links with the Amazon region by offering an interconnection to Brazil's northern neighboring states.

More about AFD

• Launched and hosted within AFD, the **Metis Arts and Development Fund** leverages the arts to drive social transformation and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It supports socio-artistic projects in local communities and advocates incorporating this approach into development policies. In 2024, the Metis Fund launched the Diapason program to address issues affecting the ocean, by coordinating local and global action.

• The **CSO Initiatives** platform supports NGO-led projects that raise awareness and build the capacities of communities and associations to protect the ocean. For example, this initiative is financing the creation of a protected area in Madagascar, with support from GRET (Group for Research and Technology Exchanges), and the sustainable management of small islands. The platform also supports networking and advocacy initiatives, such as projects led by the Ocean & Climate Platform, and those by Globice Réunion to promote cetacean conservation in the south-west Indian Ocean, as well as WWF's efforts to develop guidelines for combating illegal fishing around the Guiana Shield.

Guinea

Climate resilience, fisheries and aquaculture – Kounki project

2025-2031 | €20 M (sovereign loan)
\$100 M (IDA/World Bank sovereign loan)
€4 M (C2D debt reduction and development contract)
\$5 M (Problue grant)

The aim of this project is to improve sustainable fisheries management, in particular by implementing management plans and conducting research on climate change adaptation. The goal is also to develop value chains by modernizing landing and storage infrastructure, as well as optimizing the value chain for small-scale fisheries. This initiative will deploy a guarantee fund to create economic opportunities, thus providing access to credit and enabling greater diversification in the sector.

Indo Pacific Region

Crimario II: interconnecting the Indo-Pacific 2020-2025 | €18 M (European Union grant)

Led by Expertise France, this project aims to strengthen maritime safety and security in the Indo-Pacific region by improving knowledge in the shipping sector through information sharing, capacity-building and training. It will also promote inter-agency cooperation on maritime surveillance, policing, investigation and judicial matters, as well as the prevention of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, leading to better management of crises and incidents at sea.

French Polynesia

Partial financing of the multi-year investment program for the Autonomous Port of Papeete 2023-2029 | €26.5 million (non-sovereign loan)

The aim of this project is to upgrade the port's infrastructure, essential to the region's cohesion, while providing port authorities with the technical assistance needed to establish better environmental procedures (with a view to obtaining ISO 14001 certification) and digitalized port procedures, while implementing a harbor clean-up program, and improving industrial water management. This project will create at least 180 new local jobs and a climate co-benefit estimated at 35%, by increasing the resilience of the port and surrounding territory to climate change.

Indonesia

Upgrading oceanographic research capacities 2020-2027 | €89 M (sovereign loan) €3.45 M (European Union grant delegated to AFD)

This project is building Indonesia's oceanographic research capacities in order to better understand and manage marine biodiversity and the effects of climate change. It will also help improve the management, quality and performance of oceanographic research, in particular through the purchase of a new research vessel.

Developing eco fishing ports 2022-2027 | €99 M (sovereign loan) €3.5 M (European Union grant delegated to AFD)

The project aims to upgrade several fishing ports, making them more efficient, attractive, and sustainable, in accordance with international standards. It is also providing support to implement a quota-based fishing policy in Indonesia, thus ensuring more sustainable management of fish resources.

Philippines and Indonesia

Establishing an ocean sustainability index ("Blue Esgap") 2025 | €102,000 (grant)

Led by the French Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), in collaboration with the Philippine and Indonesian governments, this grant aims to develop dashboards to summarize existing data on the health of marine ecosystems and areas. It will enable better analysis to guide reforms related to marine resource management in these two countries.

Protecting ecosystems and strengthening their resilience

3

Protecting marine and coastal ecosystems

To protect marine ecosystems, it is essential to reduce pollution (plastic, chemical, biological and noise), by financing wastewater and solid waste collection and treatment networks, and promoting agroecological practices in coastal areas and watersheds. AFD Group is also supporting the creation and management of marine parks and protected marine areas, including on the high seas, to contribute to the target of protecting 30% of the oceans by 2030, thus promoting biodiversity and climate co-benefits, while providing long-term economic and social benefits. To achieve this, it provides sustainable finance solutions for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.

4

Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems, communities, and infrastructure

AFD Group supports prevention and mitigation policies to make cities, communities, infrastructure, and coastal ecosystems less vulnerable to climate change and threats intrinsically linked to the ocean. AFD's strategy is centered around technologies for monitoring marine phenomena, warning systems, and nature-based solutions (such as coral reefs, mangroves and dunes).

5

Supporting overseas territories and islands

Supporting the development of island territories is an integral part of AFD Group's mission, which includes strengthening local economies, promoting the sustainable management of marine resources, and achieving food and energy self-sufficiency. The Group also strives to open up territories to the wider world, in order to improve and complement existing food, energy, and digital supply chains.

Eastern Caribbean States

Implementing a supply chain model for waste management
2022-2025 | €2.5 M (European Union grant delegated to AFD)

In the Caribbean island states, plastic pollution reduces the value of goods and services provided by the oceans. It affects the quality of fishery products and the marine environment, and has devastating effects on human health and biodiversity. Plastic pollution has been compounded by the rise in imported products and tourism, as well as a lack of secure infrastructure for plastic processing and recycling. Faced with this urgent situation, the Recycle OECS project will foster regional dialogue and raise awareness with a view to developing a sustainable supply chain for plastic waste management, which will be piloted in two OECS member states.

Caribbean

Regional management and coordination of sargassum
2025-2029 | €8 M (grant)

Implemented by Expertise France, this project aims to promote regional cooperation in the Caribbean and support small developing islands in establishing a structured framework for the management and valorization of sargassum. The goal is to limit the negative impact of this invasive seaweed's strandings on local economies, communities, and coastal ecosystems.

Brazil

Sanitation in the state of Rio de Janeiro
R\$500 M (Proparco loan)

Led by the Brazilian sanitation company Aegea, this project aims to sustainably improve water quality and living conditions in the state of Rio de Janeiro by expanding water access and implementing clean-up operations in Guanabara Bay and several rivers. The project will benefit 8.7 million people, create more than 3,000 jobs, and strengthen resilience to climate change. Proparco has granted R\$500 million via an intermediary loan (IDB Invest) for these two operations.

More about AFD

• Raising awareness and educating young people about major global issues and international solidarity:

AFD has implemented a number of awareness-raising initiatives on ocean-related issues, particularly for young people. In partnership with the French Ministry of National Education, it published an educational booklet on the ocean for teachers. This publication draws on the internal expertise of AFD and several civil society organizations to

provide insights and resources on five major marine topics. In parallel, AFD creates content for the digital media platform Tilt, which provides accessible information (including videos, comics and interviews) in collaboration with experts, CSOs, and influencers to reach as wide an audience as possible.

• **Participating in international events**, such as COP summits or UN ocean conferences, and **sharing SDG solutions** for ocean conservation.

FiCS Ocean Positive Coalition

AFD co-chairs the FiCS Ocean Positive Coalition, a strategic initiative aimed at mobilizing the support of public development banks around the world to raise funds for ocean protection and a sustainable blue economy. The aim of this initiative is to develop innovative financial instruments, strengthen public policies, and promote the sharing of knowledge and experience between public banks in the global North and South on issues related to the oceans and the blue economy.

Türkiye

Assisting with the cleanup of Izmir Bay 2025-2027 | €110 M (multi-tranche loan facility)

AFD is providing support to the municipal water and sanitation operator in Izmir, Türkiye's third-largest city, whose high population density has caused major pollution in the bay, resulting in a need to increase its wastewater treatment capacity. This project will benefit more than 6 million inhabitants, and will help gradually restore the bay's marine and coastal ecosystems.

Madagascar

Madagascar Protected Areas and Biodiversity Fund (FAPBM) 2024 - 2026 | €5 M (grant)

AFD contributes to the FAPBM endowment fund, a conservation trust fund whose role is to ensure sustainable financing for protected reserves in Madagascar, and particularly marine protected areas (MPAs). There are 22 of these areas in Madagascar, occupying 10% of the country's EEZ. The FAPBM has launched a strategic plan for 2026 to provide financing to 12 MPAs, i.e. over 60% of the total area covered by MPAs in Madagascar.

South Africa

Multi-hazard coastal risk modeling in Cape Town 2025-2026 | €475,000 (grant)

This research involves the modeling of coastal risks related to sea level rise in Cape Town, South Africa's second-largest city with a population of close to 4 million. It is essential to develop a better understanding of these phenomena and the risks associated with them in order to develop new urban planning models that will reshape the coastline.

Vietnam

Combating coastal erosion

Quảng Nam province
2023-2029 | €35 M (loan) – €2 M (European Union grant delegated to AFD)

Ca Mau province
2024-2030 | €19 M (loan) – €3.8 M (European Union grant delegated to AFD)

With its 3,200 km of coastline, Vietnam is one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and, in particular, to rising sea levels. AFD is financing projects in two regions to combat coastal erosion and protect the coastline over the long term, by deploying green and gray infrastructure solutions. It is also supporting integrated coastal area management to prevent the causes of erosion.

Multi country

Blue Carbon Facility 2024-2028 | €6 M (grant)

The aim of the Blue Carbon Facility is to protect and restore three types of marine ecosystems that are particularly effective at storing carbon: mangroves, seagrass beds, and salt marshes. Three projects will be launched in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Tunisia, and other projects are in the pipeline for Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Caribbean. Through these initiatives, AFD is helping to establish sustainable financial mechanisms to combat climate change while preserving marine and coastal biodiversity and supporting the communities who rely on these ecosystems.

Blue Action Fund 2018-2029 | €12.5 M (grant)

Together with Germany, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, and the Green Climate Fund, AFD contributes to the Blue Action Fund, which supports initiatives by international and local NGOs aimed at preventing marine biodiversity loss and promoting the development of coastal communities who depend on the sea. Since its creation, the fund has supported 35 projects spanning 462,000 km² in 22 countries.

AFD Group finances and drives the transition to a fairer, safer and more resilient world, working with its partners to support communities all over the world. Drawing on the complementary strengths of its entities – Agence Française de Développement for public financing, Proparco for responsible private investment, and Expertise France for technical expertise – the Group is ideally positioned to meet all sustainable development challenges.

Working in over 160 countries, including France's Overseas Territories and Departments, the Group adapts its operations to the realities on the ground, actively supporting local initiatives. With over 4,000 projects, whose objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AFD Group works on behalf of the French people, together with all stakeholders committed to economic development and the preservation of common goods: climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality and global health. Working by your side, toward a world in common.



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