



# Blue SEA Finance Hub

## Accelerating the Development of the Sustainable Blue Economy in Southeast Asia

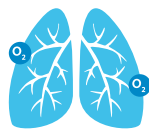


**70%** of Earth's surface is water



**8 million tons of plastic** end up in the water every year

The ocean is “the lungs of the planet” and its largest “carbon sink”



generates **50%** of the oxygen we need



absorbs **25%** of carbon dioxide emissions



captures **90%** of the excess heat generated by these emissions

The **Ocean Economy**



**\$2.5 trillion** per year in goods and services



**7th largest economy** in the world if measured as a country



sustains **625 million people's** livelihoods in Southeast Asia



contributes to **over 30% of GDP** in some Southeast Asian countries

**Ocean health is a crucial driver of sustainable growth in Southeast Asia.** Given the wealth and biodiversity of its natural resources, the **potential for a vibrant blue economy is especially high in the region.** Blue economy sectors such as tourism, food production, waste treatment, and coastal infrastructure have significant potential to sustainably drive economic growth and mitigate the impacts of climate change. However, **rapid urbanization and industrialization, unsustainable agriculture and aquaculture, and growing plastic pollution** are increasingly **threatening Southeast Asia's seas and waterways.** Developing a sustainable blue economy that safeguards ocean health requires innovative financing structures that can attract significant capital from private and public investors.

### MISSION

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) established the Blue Southeast Asia (SEA) Finance Hub in 2021 to develop solutions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of ocean pollution and climate change.



**Develop** bankable ocean health projects



**Enhance capacities** of central and local governments and state-owned enterprises to develop such projects



**Support upscaling of small and medium-sized enterprises** with relevant technologies or services to grow operations

### OBJECTIVE

The Blue SEA Finance Hub **supports Southeast Asian countries to develop blue projects that improve sustainability and conservation of the region's oceans, waterbodies, and marine ecosystems.** The Hub's goal is to develop a pipeline of up to **\$300 million in bankable ADB-funded projects by 2024** to catalyze a significant flow of capital from other sources, including development financial institutions, philanthropic, and private, institutional, and commercial financiers.

### STRUCTURE

The Hub is led by ADB's Southeast Asia Department with support from the ADB-administered Association of Southeast Asian Nations Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF).

# LEVERAGING ADB'S HEALTHY OCEANS ACTION PLAN

The Blue SEA Finance Hub is operationalizing [ADB's Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies](#) launched in 2019, and aligned with the [ADB Ocean Finance Framework](#). The Action Plan includes a commitment to **increasing financing and technical assistance for ocean health and marine economy projects to \$5 billion from 2019 to 2024**, including cofinancing from partners.

## FOCUS AREAS

Pollution Control	Sustainable Coastal and Marine Development	Ocean and Climate Finance	Ecosystem and Natural Resource Management
Solid waste management: Source to Sea Approach	Coastal resilience and nature-based solutions	Blue bond-incubator and global guidance	Ecosystem management and natural resource restoration
Circular economy and responsible consumption	Sustainable coastal and marine tourism	Ocean resilience and climate adaptation partnership financing facility	Sustainable fisheries management
Non-point source pollution management	Green ports and shipping	Climate finance: coral reef insurance	Sustainable aquaculture
Wastewater management	Marine renewable energy		

In this publication, “\$” refers to United States dollars. Contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of ADB and do not necessarily reflect the views of ADB's partners.

### About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

### About the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility

The ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF) is an innovative finance facility under the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund dedicated to accelerating green infrastructure investments in Southeast Asia. It supports ASEAN governments to prepare and source public and private financing for infrastructure projects that promote environmental sustainability and contribute to climate change goals. The ACGF is owned by the 10 ASEAN member states and ADB, which also administers the facility.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

WHAT WE DO

10 THINGS TO KNOW



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Front page photo: Different species of fish provide wonderful colors to the marine life in Batangas, Philippines. This photo: Workers unload tuna from fishing vessels in General Santos Fish Port Complex, South Cotabato, Philippines (all photos by ADB).