

ADB OCEANS FINANCING INITIATIVE

ACCELERATING
BLUE INVESTMENTS
IN ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC

ADB



The **Oceans Financing Initiative** supports ADB developing member countries to catalyze financing for projects that will help protect and restore marine ecosystems and promote sustainable blue economies. The initiative will leverage public sector funds to create investment opportunities able to attract financing from a range of sources, including the private sector. Technical assistance and funds from ADB and donors, along with innovative financing instruments such as revenue guarantees and credit-enhanced blue bonds, will be used to reduce project risks and make them “bankable”. ADB will work with development and financing partners from around the world to accelerate the investment needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 14: Life Below Water.

OUR APPROACH Supporting countries to develop bankable investment opportunities in ocean health and the blue economy.



Blue finance frameworks

Developing detailed principles, criteria, and indicators for selecting projects and measuring impacts.



Bankable projects

Working with governments and other partners to develop innovative and bankable projects.



Innovative instruments

Supporting the development of financing mechanisms that reduce investment risks, such as blue bonds, blue credits for avoided cost, and first loss guarantees.



Access to funds

Increasing access to funds from ADB, development partners, donors, and the private sector.

FOCUS AREAS

The Oceans Financing Initiative is aligned with ADB's Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies, which aims to expand ADB investments and technical assistance to \$5 billion between 2019 and 2024 to promote ocean health and the blue economy.



Blue Economy

Creating inclusive livelihood and business opportunities in sustainable tourism and fisheries.



Ecosystem Management

Protecting and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems and key rivers.



Pollution Control

Reducing land-based sources of marine pollution including plastics, wastewater, and agricultural runoff.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Improving sustainability in port and coastal infrastructure development.



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Healthy marine ecosystems are crucial for the food security and livelihoods of billions of people in Asia and the Pacific. Marine economies already contribute **\$2.5 trillion to the global economy**, and there are increasing opportunities in sustainable tourism, food production, wastewater treatment, integrated solid waste management, and sustainable coastal infrastructure. Securing these opportunities requires large investments, which governments and donors cannot meet alone. However, for many projects supporting ocean health, private capital is not easily accessible. Some activities do not have direct revenue streams, while others may have returns that benefit future generations or the global community, making it riskier and more challenging for investors to back.

ADB's Oceans Financing Initiative will help to address these challenges and boost investment. The initiative will first be piloted in Southeast Asia with support from the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (under the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund), the Republic of Korea, and World Wide Fund for Nature. This will help protect and restore marine ecosystems and secure the growth of marine economies in the region.



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. In 2018, it made commitments of new loans and grants amounting to \$21.6 billion. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

The Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies is aligned with ADB's Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities. Restoring ocean health and promoting sustainable development of marine economies such as fisheries and tourism secures both the essential global benefits that oceans provide and the long-term prosperity of Asia and the Pacific.

