



Oceans and climate

The BMZ's contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation

BACKGROUND

Oceans are the lifeblood of our world's growing population and are crucial for climate regulation.

- Oceans produce half of our oxygen and bind about a quarter of human-made carbon dioxide emissions. Almost all excess heat in the atmosphere caused by the greenhouse effect is absorbed by the oceans.

Coastal ecosystems are home to abundant life and resources and play a crucial role for people in times of climate change.

- Mangrove forests, seagrass beds and tidal marshes protect coasts and their inhabitants from erosion and flooding. They provide the basis for rich fish stocks and store large amounts of carbon.

However, climate change, destructive practices, overexploitation and pollution are putting increasing pressure on oceans and coasts, leaving them more threatened today than ever before.

- Sea levels are rising faster and faster, the oceans are becoming increasingly acidic, mangrove forests and coral reefs are being destroyed and fish stocks are endangered. Negative impacts on ecosystems and their productivity are increasing. Important functions such as food provision, climate regulation and coastal protection are suffering as a result.

The Global Report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-SROCC) stress the extent of the ocean crisis and call for a holistic approach to protection and sustainable management. Ambitious targets are needed for the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), for instance the expansion and effective protection of coastal and marine protected areas. Such measures will allow global fish stocks and ecosystems to recover, while contributing to food security, coastal protection and climate change mitigation, and to economic development in the surrounding areas. To date, only about 8 per cent of the oceans are protected.

KEY ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES

The BMZ's total contribution to current marine conservation and sustainable fisheries projects amounts to 335 million euros in 58 countries. Most of the projects pursue integrated approaches aimed at reconciling climate and biodiversity conservation objectives with sustainable economic use and development.



*Coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds store carbon dioxide and protect land against flooding that is becoming more frequent as a result of rising sea levels
© Kimberly Jefferies / Coral Reef Image Bank*

STRENGTHENING COASTAL AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

With the participation of local populations, the BMZ supports partner countries in the designation, effective management and sustainable financing of protected areas. The protected mangrove forests, coral reefs and marine areas form the basis for sustainable economic development through tourism or fishing, and they are preserved as carbon sinks that protect the land against storm surges and coastal erosion.

- Since 2016, areas protected with BMZ support have increased from 165,000 km² to 365,000 km².
- The **Blue Action Fund** has made a significant contribution to this. The Fund, which is financed jointly with Sweden and France, supports projects implemented by nature conservation organisations to develop and strengthen marine protected areas.

The BMZ is particularly active with regard to the protection and restoration of mangrove forests – not only in protected areas.

- With the **Save Our Mangroves Now!** initiative, the BMZ, together with WWF and IUCN, is working to increase political support for global mangrove protection. To this end, the initiative supports the Global Mangrove Alliance, which aims to increase global mangrove cover by 20 per cent by 2030.
- Cooperation with Viet Nam, for example, contributes directly to protecting seven million people along 500 km of coastline.



EXPANDING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

The BMZ promotes sustainable fishery management in its partner countries and supports artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in order to protect this important source of food and income. These efforts are in line with the recommendation of the IPCC to promote the recovery of overfished stocks and a more effective and coordinated fisheries policy.

- As part of its special ONE WORLD – No Hunger initiative, the BMZ is providing some 60 million euros to support the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, especially in Africa.

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF ISLAND AND COASTAL STATES TO COPE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Bilateral and multilateral development cooperation contribute to strengthening the resilience of island and coastal populations through coastal protection measures and comprehensive disaster and climate risk management.

- Through the **InsuResilience Global Partnership**, for example, the BMZ is working to establish regional climate insurance schemes, such as the **Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility** and the **Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative**. Such schemes help partner countries to recover more quickly after hurricanes.
- The BMZ is also supporting efforts for a climate-resilient infrastructure, for instance in Bangladesh, and efforts to integrate climate risk management in partner countries' national and regional adaptation plans.

A young fisherman in Senegal. Due to overfishing and climate-related fish migration, fish stocks along the coast continue to decline © GIZ / Franck Boyer