

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI

**THE ACADEMY OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
&
LA SAISON BLEUE**

PRESENTS



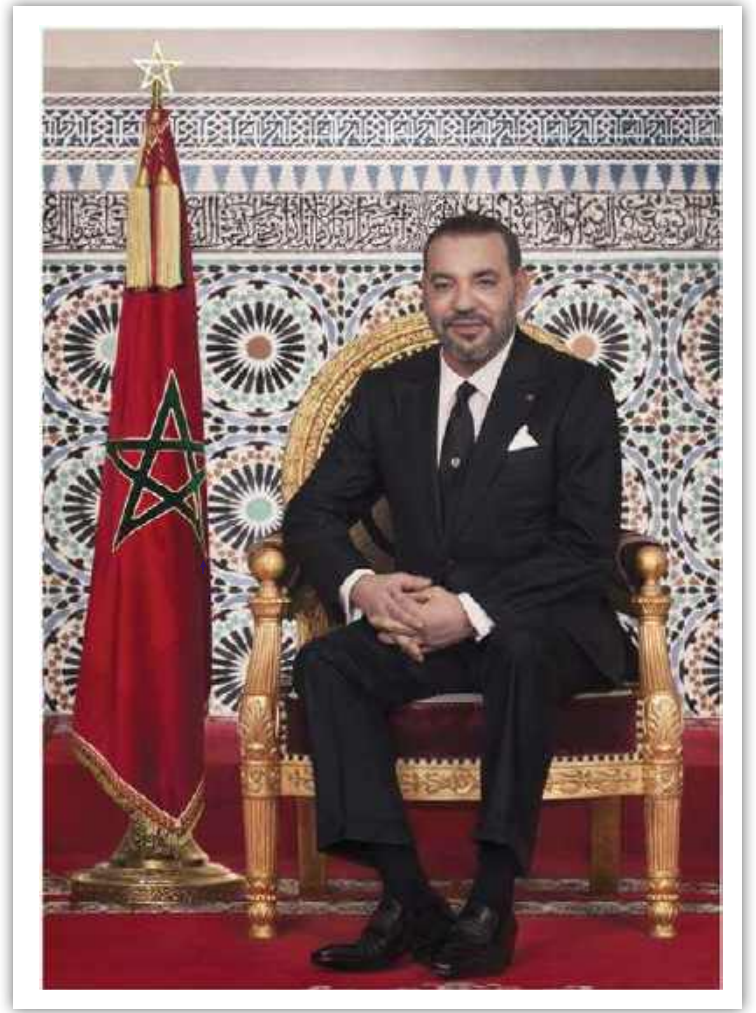
**BLUE AFRICA
SUMMIT**

**9 & 10 OCTOBER 2025
TANGIER, MOROCCO**



CONFÉRENCE DES
NATIONS UNIES
SUR L'Océan
NICE 2025 FRANCE





His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him





BLUE AFRICA
SUMMIT

CAP SUR L'AFRIQUE MARITIME À TANGER

10
OCT
2024



Key Maritime Figures

Essential Facts and Figures



40%

of Africa's population
lives along
the coast

1,55 Billion
Inhabitants

17%

African waters
host 10% of
the world's
biodiversity

90%

of Africa's
foreign trade is
conducted by sea

30 500 km

is the total length of
Africa's coastline

2,9 Billion de \$
Africa's Total
GDP in 2024

335 millions

Centuries of Maritime
Civilization

12,3 millions

People Rely on
Fisheries for Their
Livelihoods

7,5 millions

Tons of Fish
Produced Annually

PRESENTATION

Sustainable Blue Africa Pact

While the most recent international economic studies predict **a significant expansion of the blue economy** on a global scale, the African continent still lacks a strategic oceanic compass. Few African states possess a true scientific understanding of their own Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), along with the capacity to protect and sustainably exploit these areas for the benefit of their populations. These countries also often find themselves unprepared to face the effects of climate change, which are increasingly impacting their coastlines, alongside various forms of pollution and the decline of marine biodiversity. Additionally, they frequently struggle with threats to their maritime security and sovereignty, being dispossessed of their fishery, genetic, and mineral resources, and unable to provide coastal communities with the means for sustainable development.

As for the blue routes—those of maritime trade, undersea cables, and energy connectivity—they bring little benefit to African countries due to a lack of port infrastructure, logistics platforms, civilian and defense fleets, and local investment.

At a time when governance choices are accelerating within the United Nations framework across the three components of the ocean (EEZs, high seas, deep seabed), the continent must not remain absent—or become the great loser—of the blue economic revolution.

The mission **“Pact for a Sustainable Blue Africa”** emerged from several forums and initiatives, including the **Forum Mondial de la Mer Bizerte, the Blue Africa Summit (Tangier), the UNOC3** Regional Consultation in Tangier, as well as studies led by **the African Union, the OECD, the World Bank, the Indian Ocean Commission**, and other initiatives such as **the European Commission's Starfish Mission** and the Africa-Europe Foundation.

The special summit of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference, themed “Africa for the Ocean”, held on June 9 and led by the governments of the Kingdom of Morocco and the French Republic, and chaired by HRH Princess Lalla Hasna and President Emmanuel Macron, underscored the strategic importance of the issue. The summit brought together the UN Secretary-General, around 15 heads of state and government, and representatives from 35 African countries.

Colleges

- **Economy and Finance** : Entrepreneurs, economists, financial experts, researchers
- **Governance and territories** : Governments, public administrations, international organizations
- **Science and Education** : Researchers and scientists across all ocean-related disciplines, education leaders
- **Civil society, coastal cities and regions** : NGOs, representatives of coastal cities and regions, youth, gender, and equity-based organizations.

Deliverables

- To produce the first set of recommendations by autumn 2026, at the 4th edition of the Blue Africa Summit ;
- To begin in 2027 delivering targeted missions and scenario analyses at global, regional, and national levels upon request and on-site and to support both governments and investors in project development.

Pascal Lamy

President du Forum Mondial
de la Mer

Rym Benzina

President
of La Saison Bleue

Abdeljalil Lahjomri

Perpetual Secretary of the Academy
of the Kingdom of Morocco

Program

📅 Thursday, October 9, 2025
📍 Idou Malabata Hotel

1:30 PM 1:45 PM	Opening of the Blue Africa Summit, in the presence of the organizers, senior Moroccan authorities, and representatives of national and international governance. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening• Addresses• Afrique-Europe
3:00 PM 3:30 PM	From Abu Dhabi to Tangier : connecting regions around one Ocean <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlights from the MENA Ocean Summit and the launch of the Blue Africa Summit• Preview of the launch of the IUCN World Conservation Congress• Concrete implementation of the Neptune Mission serving the MENA and African
3:30 PM 5:30 PM	Ambitions and propositions : a Sustainable Blue African Pact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building a Common Vision for a Sustainable Blue Africa• Strengthening International Cooperation• Addressing the Major Challenges of Coastal Cities and Regions: The Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition• Preserving Marine Ecosystems for Sufficient Food Resources• Presentation of the Starfish Barometer• Youth Message to Public Decision-Makers
5:30 PM 6:10 PM	The Trophées de l'innovation by IRD – Pitch Session
6:10 PM 6:20 PM	Announcement of the 4 colleges of work
8:00 PM	Gala Dinner - The Trophées de l'innovation – Laureates Annoucement

Program

📅 Friday, October 10, 2025
📍 Idou Malabata Hotel

8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Welcome
9:00 AM 9:15 AM	Plenary presentation of the colleges
9:15 AM 10:45 AM	Parallel sessions work <ul style="list-style-type: none">• College science, research & education• College economy & blue finance
11:00 AM 11:20 AM	Coffee break
11:20 AM 12:50 PM	Session de travail en parallèle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collèges governance & territories• College civil society
12:50PM 2:00 PM	Lunch Break
2:00 PM 2:15 PM	Presentation of the science, research and education College's work

Programme

📅 Friday, 10 October 2025
📍 Idou Malabata Hotel

02:15 PM 2:30 PM	Presentation of the Blue Economy & Finance College's work
2:30 PM 2:45 PM	Restitutions des travaux du collège gouvernance & territoires
2:45 PM 3:00 PM	Presentation of the Civil Society College's work
3:00 PM 4:00 PM	<p>African Atlantic Coast: What Public-Private Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Conversation: Fisheries Diplomacy – Morocco-Mauritania Perspectives on a Sustainable Future for the African Atlantic• African Atlantic Seaboard: What Next-Generation Public-Private Alliance for the Responsible Exploitation of Resources?
4:00 PM 4:20 PM	Coffee break
4:20 PM 5:00 PM	Women Actions for the Ocean
5:00 PM 5:20 PM	Conclusions du Blue Africa Summit et les recommandations



THE TROPHÉES DE L'INNOVATION

Session de Pitches



The Trophées de l'innovation is a competition organized by the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD). It aims to reward PhD students and young researchers carrying innovative and sustainable projects that address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the IRD partner countries. The 2025 edition focuses on the theme "Coastline and Oceans." During this sequence, the audience will attend the pitch session of the six nominees, who will present their projects to the jury and the public. This stage will determine the two laureates of the 2025 edition.



IRD, the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development is a key player in research, education and innovation, it works with international partners to protect the planet, reduce inequalities and build a sustainable future contributes to strengthening the resilience of societies to the challenges of global change.

It operates in over 50 countries across Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Pacific, as well as in mainland France and the overseas territories, IRD plays a central role in French scientific diplomacy, promoting research based on interdisciplinarity, co-construction and participatory science.

Candidates



ARAME DIEYE
Postdoctoral researcher

Project
Designing an EWS for Coastal Flood Risks to Enhance Sustainable Rice Production in Guinea-Bissau



TOBIAS FISCHER
PhD Student

Project
From Imagery to Action: Scalable shoreline monitoring for Pacific atolls



BADARA SANE
Postdoctoral researcher

Project
Development of Extreme Marine Current Forecasts for Senegal's Small Coast



FANNY RIOUAL
PhD Student

Project
Hydrogen Sulfide Dynamics and Physiological Impact on Peruvian Scallops in a Hypoxic Coastal Bay



HUYEN THANH TRAN
PhD Student

Project
O3-Observation Optimization for Oceans: Monitoring sub-mesoscale coastal dynamics using high-frequency radars.



NICOLAS GARCIA SEYDA
Postdoctoral researcher

Project
SWIM2CORAL, A nature-based solution to protect corals

Presented in Nice by the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco and La Saison Bleue on 11 June 2025, within the framework of the official programme of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), the Pact for a Sustainable Blue Africa was designated as one of the major deliverables of the Nice Ocean Commitments. Building on the groundwork laid during the first two editions of the Blue Africa Summit (Tangier, 2023 and 2024), it is now incumbent upon the two organizations to deliver this strategic oceanic compass for the African continent by the end of 2026.



Blue governance presents an opportunity for Africa, the Mediterranean, and Europe to rethink their strategic partnership.

In this context, the Royal Academy of Morocco and La Saison Bleue will dedicate the next two editions of the Blue Africa Summit (October 9–10, 2025, and autumn 2026) to the development of this roadmap. With the collaboration of African states and the African Union, four thematic colleges governance and territories, science and education, civil society, and blue economy and finance will bring together more than three hundred African and international experts and decision-makers to produce a reference document of strategic importance.



Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for the Prosperity of Coastal Communities and the Health of the Oceans

As the organizer for the United Nations of the African Consultation of UNOC3 (October 2024) and the “Africa for the Ocean” Summit, which convened in Nice on June 9, 2025, under the presidency of Her Royal Highness Lalla Hasna and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, bringing together fourteen

heads of state and government and representatives from nearly forty countries, Morocco, under the guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, advances an inclusive and collective vision for maritime development across the African continent.



Strengthening South-South and North-South Collaboration : Promoting Expanded Maritime Cooperation



Sharing Best Practices : Spreading Successful Experiences



Strengthening Networks : Connecting Experts, Decision-Makers, and Regions



Integrating Scientists and Innovators : Linking Experts, Decision-Makers, and Regions



Aligning Goals with Existing Initiatives : Creating Synergies with Regional and Global Frame works

YAOUNDÉ 2025

Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy

Adopted in Yaoundé on 10 July 2025, the Yaoundé Declaration reaffirms the importance of the Gulf of Guinea—one of the world’s richest marine ecosystems—for food security, climate, and regional economic development. The declaration commits the coastal countries and their African, European, and Mediterranean partners to strengthen regional cooperation, transparent governance, and sustainable ocean management, supporting international

frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Paris Agreement. It also emphasizes the need to fully involve local communities, women, and youth in these efforts. The goal is clear : to sustainably manage **100% of national ocean areas by 2030 through integrated ocean plans**, combating illegal fishing, ensuring maritime security, promoting transparency, and building capacity.

The commitment of **the Gulf of Guinea** countries reflects a strong determination to preserve marine wealth and ensure the sustainability of coastal livelihoods. This shared vision places sustainable ocean management at the heart of priorities, **integrating the fight against illegal fishing, maritime security**, and transparency. It **also emphasizes the inclusion of women, youth, and local communities** as pillars of a resilient and equitable blue economy, laying the foundations for a shared maritime future.



Key Challenges and Priority Actions

In the face of numerous challenges overfishing, ecosystem degradation, piracy, and limited funding the declaration calls for strengthened cooperation and improved regional coordination. It emphasizes the importance of **integrating scientific knowledge and traditional wisdom into governance**, while ensuring inclusive participation of **women, youth, and coastal communities** to build a sustainable ocean economy.

Key Commitments for a Sustainable Future

The declaration reaffirms the commitment to sustainably manage **100%** of maritime areas by **2030**. It emphasizes combating illegal fishing, enhancing maritime security and transparency, while incorporating local community inclusion and regional cooperation.



Towards Effective Monitoring and Implementation

To ensure these commitments are successfully met, the declaration calls for establishing a regional monitoring mechanism and bolstering international support. Cooperation among states, institutions, and partners is essential to secure a sustainable, equitable, and prosperous ocean for future generations.





Tangier, a Maritime Crossroads between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean

At the crossroads of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, Tangier enjoys a unique geographic position that makes it a true bridge between Africa and Europe. As a port city with international influence, it stands out as a hub for economic, cultural, and human exchanges. The ocean is not merely a distant horizon for Tangier; it lies at the heart of the city's identity, history, and development. From the modernization of its maritime infrastructure to its growing role in regional cooperation, Tangier exemplifies the dynamism and potential of a city shaped by the sea.

CAP SPARTEL

A Meeting Point Between Two Worlds

Located at the convergence of the **Atlantic Ocean** and **the Mediterranean Sea**, **Cape Spartel** serves as a key hub in global maritime traffic. In close proximity to the Strait of **Gibraltar**, it holds a unique strategic position between Africa and Europe. As a symbol of **intercontinental connectivity**, **Cape Spartel** highlights **Morocco's** geographical importance in major regional and international maritime dynamics.

**A Strategic Passage Point
Between Two Seas and Two
Continents**

2

Connected
Continents

+100K
Ships/Year

14 km

Away from
European Coasts



TANGIER MED

Strategic Hub and Growth Driver

Tanger Med has established itself today as **the leading port and industrial complex** in Africa and the Mediterranean, **at the heart of Morocco's economic dynamism**. Strategically located on the Strait of Gibraltar, it serves as a key link in global maritime connectivity, directly connecting **more than 180 ports in 70 countries**.

As a fully integrated platform, **Tanger Med stands out as a major player in global maritime trade, ranked 3rd in performance and 17th in traffic volume** *(source: World Bank)*. Its significant contribution to international trade and regional integration reinforces Morocco's position as a **strategic hub between Europe, Africa, and Asia**.



A platform of excellence, a catalyst for intercontinental exchanges, structuring global logistics flows, supporting industrial competitiveness, and embodying the ambition of a sustainable, integrated, and forward-looking hub.

With over **3,000 hectares** of operational industrial zones and **1,400 companies established**, Tanger Med is today a leading industrial hub in Africa, generating **130,000 direct jobs** and nearly **17 billion dollars in exports in 2024**. Strategic sectors such as automotive, aerospace, logistics, textiles, and agri-food benefit from a highly efficient ecosystem, fully connected to global value chains.

Committed to continuous innovation, **Tanger Med deploys advanced digital solutions** : electronic seals, real-time traceability, digital twins, and logistics blockchain. **Powered since 2025 by 100% renewable electricity**, the complex pursues its goal of carbon neutrality by **2030** through shore-side power for ships and optimized circular logistics.



Industrial Ecosystem
1,400 Companies

established, generating **130,000** direct jobs



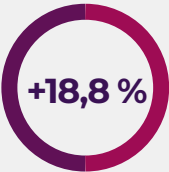
Container Traffic
11,44 millions

TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) handled in 2024
(source: Alphaliner)



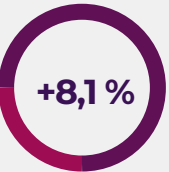
Maritime Traffic
17,479 Calls

including over **1,200** mega-ships



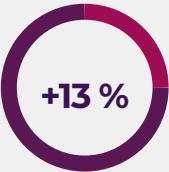
Global Traffic Growth

+16.2% of cargo handled in **2024** (**142** million tonnes)



Logistics Dynamics

+8.1% of TIR trucks handled (516,842 units) and **600,872** vehicles exported



Flux de passagers

+13% in passengers, with over **3 million** received in **2024**

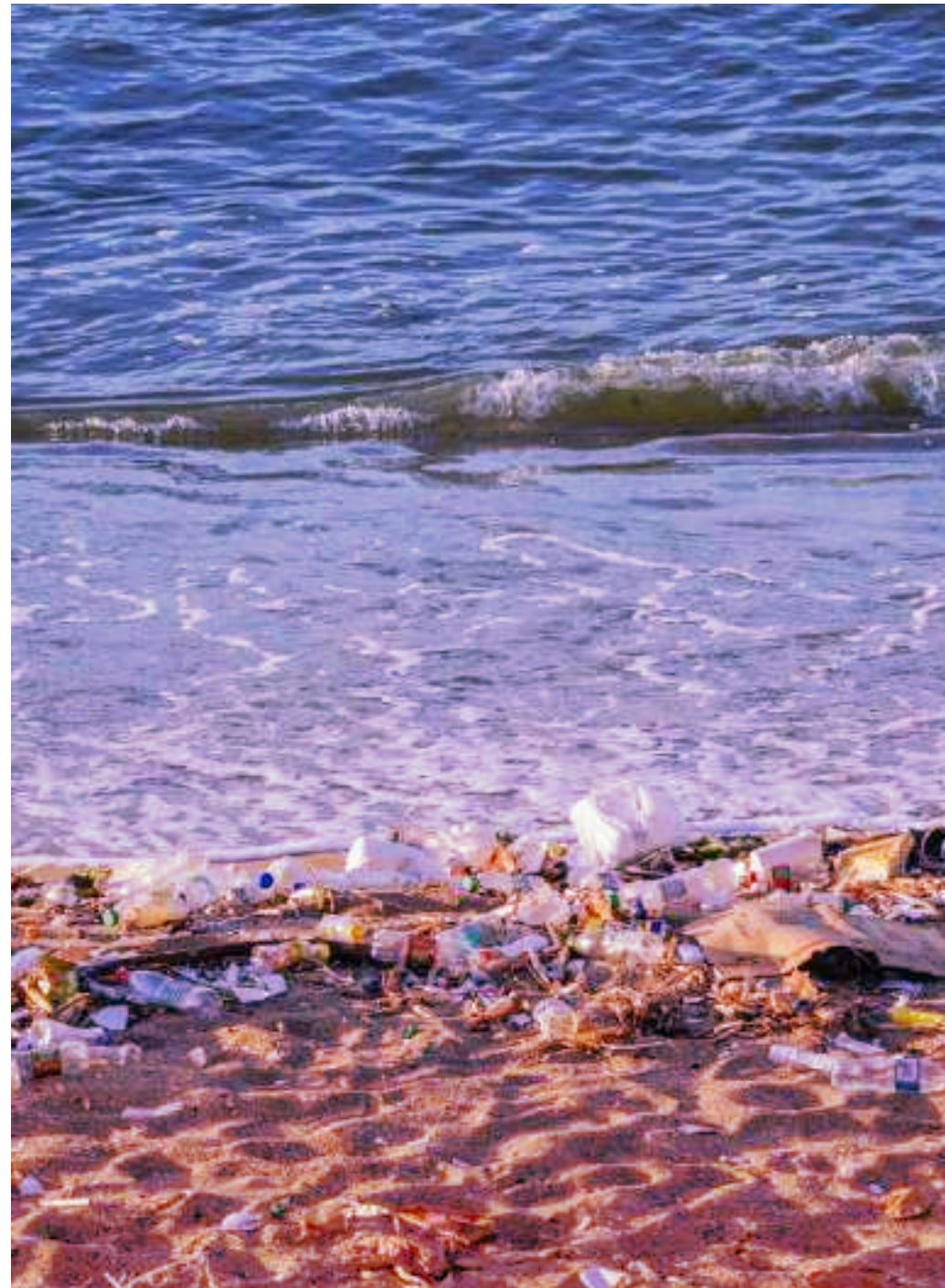


STAYING THE COURSE

African Oceans Facing Challenges

Africa, with a strategic coastline of **over 30,000 kilometers**, represents a maritime space with multiple and crucial stakes. Facing increasing pressures such as **pollution, overexploitation of resources, climate change, and security challenges**, the sustainable governance of its oceans has become a **continental priority**. The **discussions, commitments, and actions of public and private stakeholders** gathered at the **Blue Africa Summit 2025** are shaping together the framework of an **innovative maritime policy**, firmly oriented towards the future.

“
**Working Together for the
Responsible and Sustainable
Management of African
Oceans**



CLIMATE CHANGE & COASTAL RESILIENCE



116 Millions

Millions of Africans live in low-lying coastal areas exposed to sea-level rise by 2030, vulnerable to flooding and erosion

Africa has one of the world's most extensive coastlines, home to approximately **116 million** people living in low-lying coastal areas. These territories face intensifying climate phenomena: rising sea levels, accelerated coastal erosion, and an increase

in extreme events such as cyclones and floods. These changes threaten not only populations and infrastructure but also marine ecosystems essential to the continent's economy and food security

From **Lagos** to **Abidjan**, African coastal cities are on the front line. In **Guinea**, over **6,000 hectares** of farmland have already been swallowed by the sea. In **Dakar**, the famous Corniche is being

eroded, threatening roads and homes. In **Zanzibar**, communities are relocating their houses in response to rising waters. Each year, climate disruption further erases Africa's coastline.



VISIBLES EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SEA LEVEL RISE

Sea levels around Africa are rising at a rate close to, or slightly above, the global average of **3.4 mm per year**.

MORE FREQUENT EXTREME EVENTS

Cyclones, storms, and floods are becoming more intense and frequent, affecting coastal populations.

COASTAL EROSION

The loss of beaches and the retreat of the shoreline are endangering coastal infrastructure and ecosystems.

VULNERABILITY OF ECOSYSTEMS

Les mangroves, les récifs coralliens et les zones humides subissent des pressions accrues, menaçant la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques.

OVERFISHING AND ILLEGAL AND UNREGULATED FISHING

Overfishing is no longer merely a resource management issue; it profoundly disrupts marine ecosystems, threatening their ability to regenerate. In Africa, where **millions of people rely on the sea** for food and survival, this constant pressure empties the oceans, **disrupts natural balances**, and leads to a true **marine desertification**. Behind this term lies a chilling reality : areas once rich in biodiversity are becoming silent, exhausted by **relentless exploitation**.

African coasts are **losing up to 65% of their fish biomass** in certain areas due to illegal and unsustainable fishing practices. These losses affect not only the targeted species but also **disrupt entire marine food chains**.

SIGNIFICANT EXAMPLES

- 1

In **Senegal**, **57%** of fish populations are in collapse, forcing fishermen to venture further out.
- 2

In **Mauritania**, **70%** of catches are made by foreign fleets outside the EEZ, with **98%** of the catch exported without local landing.
- 3

In the **Gulf of Guinea**, demersal catches have decreased by **11%** in **one year**, a decline that reflects the growing pressures on the region's fish stocks.
- 4

In **Madagascar**, industrial overfishing is threatening the albacore, compromising food security and degrading the reefs.



**ECOLOGICAL
TIPPING POINTS**

Some African marine areas show **no signs of natural regeneration** despite the cessation or reduction of fishing activities. This is referred to as a **biological desert**

INVISIBLE BUT MASSIVE LOSSES

Beyond the disappearance of targeted species, industrial fishing causes **massive destruction** of juveniles, larvae, and marine habitats. Bottom trawls tear corals, disturb benthic ecosystems, and result in the accidental capture of non-target species (bycatch), often discarded dead. These « **invisible** » losses seriously undermine the ability of populations to regenerate and accelerate marine desertification.



1 in 3 fish is
discarded
dead
in Africa

MARITIME TRADE AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA

More than 80% of global trade is transported by sea, making port and logistics infrastructure the heart of national competitiveness. In Africa, the development and modernization of ports, maritime corridors, and supply chains are essential for **reducing costs**, **streamlining trade**, and **integrating the continent into the major global trade routes**. However, the continent continues to face significant challenges : uneven infrastructure, reliance on foreign operators, and a lack of appropriate facilities, especially for perishable goods. These weaknesses **hinder economic potential** and compromise Africa's commercial sovereignty.

Region	Traffic Volume (million TEUs), 2024	Average Annual Growth 2020–2024
AFRICA	90	+4,5%
ASIA	400	+6,2%
EUROPE	200	+2,8%



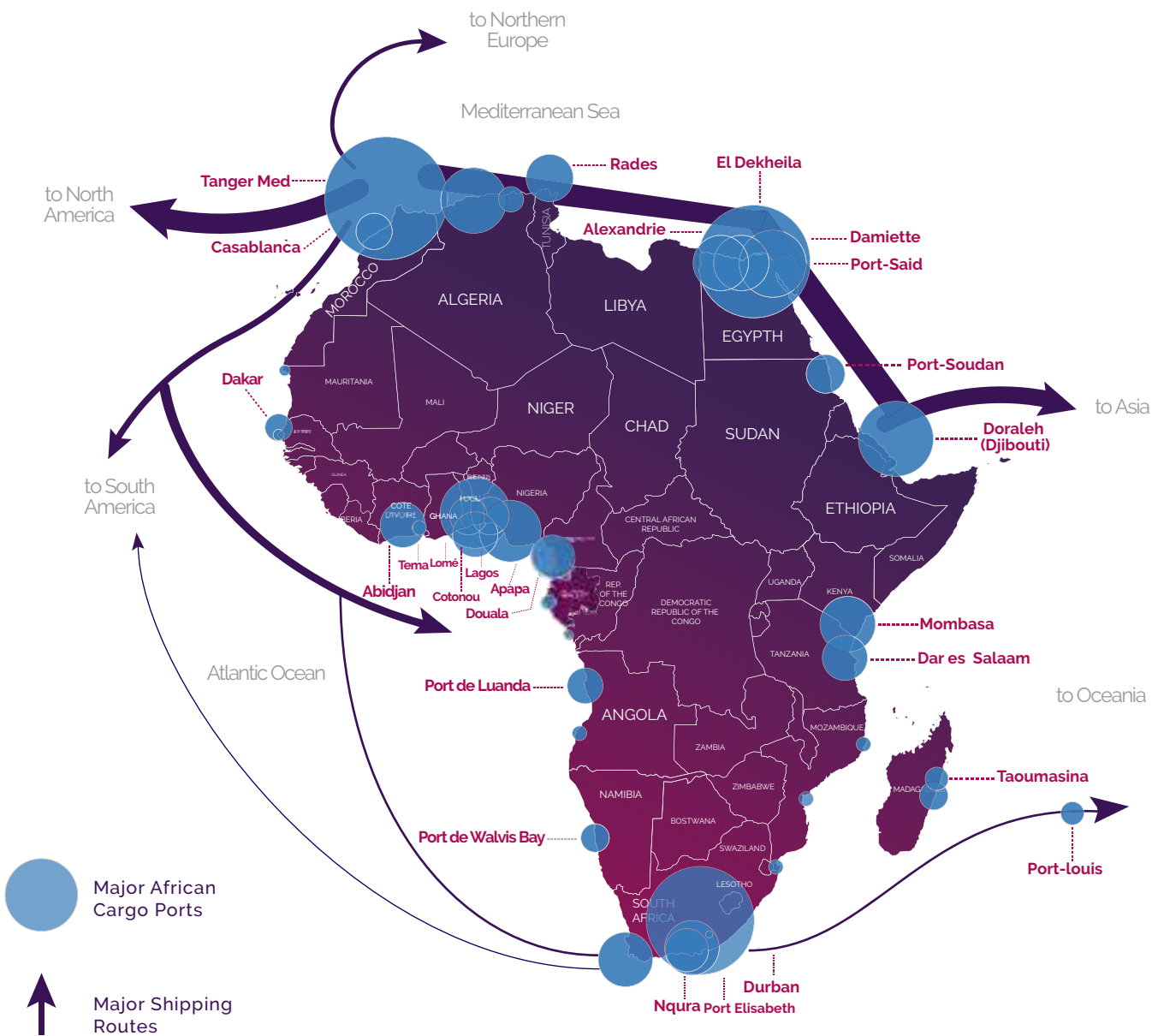
LOW REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Lack of harmonization of rules and infrastructure between countries, hindering the development of efficient continental-scale hubs.

INFRASTRUCTURE INEQUALITIES

Most African ports remain under-equipped compared to international standards, slowing down operations and increasing logistics costs.

Connected Africa : Major Ports and Roads



MARITIME SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE

Maritime piracy remains one of **the major challenges** to the security of African waters, despite a general decline in incidents in recent years. Africa still hosts some of the world's most vulnerable areas, notably **the Gulf of Guinea**, where armed piracy and hostage-taking at sea continue to threaten strategic shipping routes and **regional stability**. These acts jeopardize crew safety, hinder investment, and generate **significant logistical costs** for both coastal states and international shipowners.

Moreover, **the Gulf of Aden**, once the epicenter of Somali piracy, is experiencing a troubling resurgence. Since the end of **2023**, groups such as the Houthis have launched attacks against commercial vessels, disrupting maritime trade in **the Red Sea**.



A PERSISTENT MENACE

In **2023**, over **75%** of global seafarer kidnappings still occurred in the Gulf of Guinea, despite a decline in reported attacks thanks to joint regional efforts. Between **2019** and **2023**, more than **400 seafarers** were abducted in this area.

Although regional initiatives, such as the **Yaoundé Code of Conduct**, have helped reduce attacks, piracy in Africa remains fluid and adaptable. Criminal groups are shifting their operations farther offshore, forcing states to strengthen naval capabilities, invest in surveillance technologies, and intensify cooperation to sustainably protect maritime flows vital to **Africa's blue economy**.



OFFSHORE OIL EXPLOITATION



Africa still derives a large portion of its revenue from offshore oil, which accounts for **over 70% of its total hydrocarbon production**. However, behind these marine reserves, vital to entire economies, lie major threats: repeated oil spills, invisible leaks, destruction of coastal ecosystems, and growing

pressures on artisanal fishing. **Without strict controls** or cleaner technologies, offshore oil exploitation risks **exacerbating pollution**, weakening biodiversity, and hindering the energy transition that the continent desperately needs for the future.

BLUE AFRICA SUMMIT 2024

01 . COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

02 . KEY FIGURES

03 . HIGHLIGHTS IN IMAGES

04 . TANGIER DECLARATION

05 . FEEDBACK AND TESTIMONY

06 . INTERNATIONAL DECLARATIONS
AND CONVENTIONS

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE BLUE AFRICA SUMMIT



The **Blue Africa Summit 2024** brought together representatives from around the world to share a sustainable vision for the ocean. Ministries, institutions, researchers, civil society, and economic actors from more than **26 countries** rallied around commitments and solutions for a resilient maritime future, underscoring the Pan-African and international dimension of the summit as a platform for concrete cooperation.

1. ANGOLA
2. BENIN
3. BELGIUM
4. CAMEROON
5. COMOROS
6. CONGO
7. FIJI
8. FRANCE
9. GHANA
10. INDIA
11. ITALY
12. JAPAN
13. KENYA
14. LIBYA
15. MOROCCO
16. MONACO
17. NEW YORK
18. PORTUGAL
19. IVORY COAST
20. SOUTH AFRICA
21. SENEGAL
22. SEYCHELLES
23. TANZANIA
24. TUNISIA
25. UAE
26. ZANZIBAR

A SUMMIT IN NUMBERS – BAS 2024

Our Impact



+1500 CONNECTED VOICES
A Connected Community



+80 SPEAKERS
Maritime Dialogue for a Sustainable Future



+150 ATTENDEES
Notable Physical Presence



5 TANGIER DECLARATIONS
Essential Regional Cooperation



5 CONTINENTS
An Event on a Global Scale



+8 THEMES
A Comprehensive Overview of Key Topics

HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

A look back at the event



TANGIER DECLARATION

From Tangier to Nice, an Ambitious Route for the Ocean Blue Africa Summit

On this day, **October 10th 2024**, in **Tangier**, at the invitation of **the Royal Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco** and of **La Saison Bleue**, we representatives from Africa and the world including political leaders, representatives of the scientific community, civil society, African youth and economic actors have gathered on the occasion of the **2nd Blue Africa Summit**.

We salute the strong oceanic commitment of **His Majesty Mohamed VI**, under whose high patronage this Summit is being organized for the second time on the African Continent, following on from the African Consultation in preparation of the **3rd UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3)**, with the ambition to carrying a common and ambitious African voice.

We extend our greetings to extend our greetings to **H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco**, his **Libyan counterpart, the African Union Commissioner** for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Blue Economy and the Sustainable Environment, **the Special Ocean Envoys to the Secretary General of the United Nations** and to **the President of the French Republic for UNOC3**, as well as **senior representatives of the United Nations, the European Union, the Africa-Europe Foundation** and other organizations representing maritime nations.

We collectively recall the critical importance of the ocean in the planetary environment, climatic and social balances, and call for a strong, rapid and determined response to the state of emergency the ocean is facing, and to its overall deteriorating state of health.

With more than **30.000 km** of coastline and more than **200 million** inhabitants living near the coasts, Africa has a significant oceanic potential. The organization of the **Blue Africa Summit in Tangier**, next to the **Tangier Med port**, one of **the biggest in the world**, recalls its oceanic potential, since the value of the blue economy in the growth trajectory of the African continent has generated a value of **296 billion dollars in 2022**, with projections of **USD 576 billion in 2063**.

Africa is determined to make its common and ambitious voice heard at **the 3rd United Nations Conference** that **France and Costa Rica** are co-hosting, in **June 2025**, by reaffirming its oceanicity, its interconnectivity and its creative strength, by exploring innovative and sustainable investment mechanisms for the benefit of a sustainable blue economy. The African continent is determined to provide inclusive leadership on the international stage, and to advance the international cause of protecting the ocean, a common good for all.

Cooperation and collaboration on ocean governance offers strategic opportunities for both Africa and its partners, including **Europe, Japan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, among 2/5 others to advance on the **global sustainable development ocean Agenda**, if pursued with concern, fair and effective implementation.

• **Gouvernance de l'océan**

With regard to ocean governance, the Summit calls for joint position and shared vision to address some of the greatest challenges of our times, particularly to implement international agreements such as the **Kunming-Montreal** framework, to ratify before **UNOC3** agreements such as **the BBNJ agreement**, or to finalize the negotiations of the treaty aiming at ending plastic pollution by **2040**. The Summit calls to strengthen synergies between existing environmental organizations and international frameworks, such as the United Nations Environment Program, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Trade Organisation, and the International Maritime Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, among others.

The Summit also calls for the strengthening of regional, national and international governance frameworks for ocean protection and fight against environmentally harmful human activities. It encourages countries around the world to sustainably manage 100% of their exclusive economic zones through Sustainable Ocean Plans, in order to reconcile economic activities with the imperative of environmental protection, and to implement integrated and inclusive spatial planning to achieve this goal. The Summit stresses the importance of marine protected areas and calls for their expansion, as well as supporting innovative initiatives to achieve this objective, such as the MedFund.

- **Capacity Sharing and ocean sciences**

The Summit calls for the strengthening of capacity-sharing, evidence-based programming, and a strong science-to-policy interface, focused on developing cross-continental networks for sharing policy, research and data sharing. Building new capacities in Africa requires leveraging specialist knowledge and expertise of specialists, backed by the commitment to data-driven policy making and programmes to address the challenges of ocean governance and the development of a sustainable blue economy, including fostering a better understanding of the Ocean and maximizing the impact and role of the Ocean on coastal and landlocked countries and cities.. The Summit support the creation of a new mechanism, the International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS), that will help States accelerate actions for the sustainable management and conservation of the Ocean (SDG 14, CBD) by providing clear and actionable policy solutions based on the latest knowledge. Such a mechanism could be hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. The Summit also encourages the transformation of Mercator International, which produces the digital twin of the Ocean, into an intergovernmental organization, in order to 3/5 support the decision-making of public decision-makers and to develop access to generalized Ocean knowledge.

- **Finance, investments and blue economy**

The Summit calls on Africa to align financial systems with regeneration, and sustainable development goals through Ocean governance and the blue economy, ensuring that financial flows are directed away from practices that are harmful to the ocean. Supporting the development of a strong blue entrepreneurship ecosystem that has the potential to deliver significant impact on the ground (by and for local stakeholders); and identify and operationalise innovative financing mechanisms with recognised potential.

The Summit calls for the transition of ocean-dependent economic and human activities towards more sustainable practices, in domains such as fisheries, maritime transport and tourism, and welcomes the organization of a Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) which will focus on innovative and concrete initiatives, in Monaco, in June 2025, ahead of UNOC3.

The Summit recalls the importance of ports in global supply chains and as actors of the transition toward more environmentally friendly practices. The Summit calls for the transition towards more resilient and sustainable port infrastructures and maritime transport, including improved exchange of best practices and technologies between international partners and Africa.

- **Resilience**

All the participants welcomed the creation of the first coalition of coastal cities and regions and island states threatened by rising sea levels, on the occasion of UNOC3 and at the invitation of the Mayor of Nice. This coalition will meet on 7 June 2025 in Nice and will bring together the elected representatives of these territories, representing almost one billion citizens, including many Africans.

- **Partnerships**

Driving an ambitious African ocean and blue economy agenda represents an opportunity for transformative collaboration between the continent and its neighbours, with the ambition to achieving continental aspirations, including the AU's Agenda 2063, SDGs. Enhanced collaboration will also help address the major ocean crises of biodiversity loss, pollution, climate change and resource depletion.

In this context, the Summit welcomes the Africa-Europe Ocean Roadmap, entitled 'Roadmap Towards 2030: Co-driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership and recognises the Africa-Europe Ocean Strategy Group', facilitated by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF), in 4/5 partnership with the African and European Commissions, as a unique platform and incubator for cross-continental action. The ambition of this roadmap is to produce a large-scale impact from 2025 onwards and to contribute to the integration of ocean governance and the blue economy into the AU-EU in the lead-up to UNOC3 and beyond.

Thanks to the commitment of the Moroccan government, the over thirty-five countries represented in Tangiers today and the organisers of the Blue Africa Summit, an entire continent will be making its voice heard at the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in June 2025.

KEY MOMENTS

QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

ABDELJALIL LAHJOMRI

Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco

Abdeljalil Lahjomri emphasized the importance of the Royal Atlantic Initiative in establishing a major region highlighting Africa, particularly its Atlantic and Indian coasts. He highlighted the opportunity to strengthen commercial, environmental, and scientific collaboration, as well as communication. He also stressed the need to **re-explore African aquatic imaginaries** to shape a new collective narrative of fraternity, integrating cultural and historical dimensions into the continent's future. He argued that this would enable Africa to build a new African « **oceanity** » connecting ancient civilizations to an innovative and sustainable future.

« Fully connecting Africa to other continents through its ports, straits, and maritime channels, in a dynamic network linking the Indian Ocean, the Mozambique Channel, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean, the sandy sea that is the Sahara, and the Atlantic Ocean, is our trans-aquatic vision to move from land to water, and for water to serve as a stabilizing element for all terrestrial life. »



ABDELJALIL LAHJOMRI

Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco

KEY MOMENTS

QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Prince Albert II of Monaco closed **the Blue Africa Summit** by emphasizing the crucial importance of seas and oceans for the future of Africa and the world. He highlighted the inseparable link between Africa's destiny and the health of the oceans, while underlining the urgency of finding solutions that balance economic development with marine environmental preservation. He illustrated these challenges with concrete examples (sustainable fishing, responsible tourism, marine protected areas) and reaffirmed Monaco's commitment to marine environmental protection, notably through Medfund. Finally, he called for global and coordinated action, acknowledging Africa's central role in shaping a sustainable future for the oceans.

« In the face of the interdependent challenges of African development and ocean conservation, we must act for a future where prosperity and respect for the marine environment are inextricably linked, for the destiny of Africa is, in reality, the destiny of our planet. »



S.A.S ALBERT DE MONACO

KEY MOMENTS

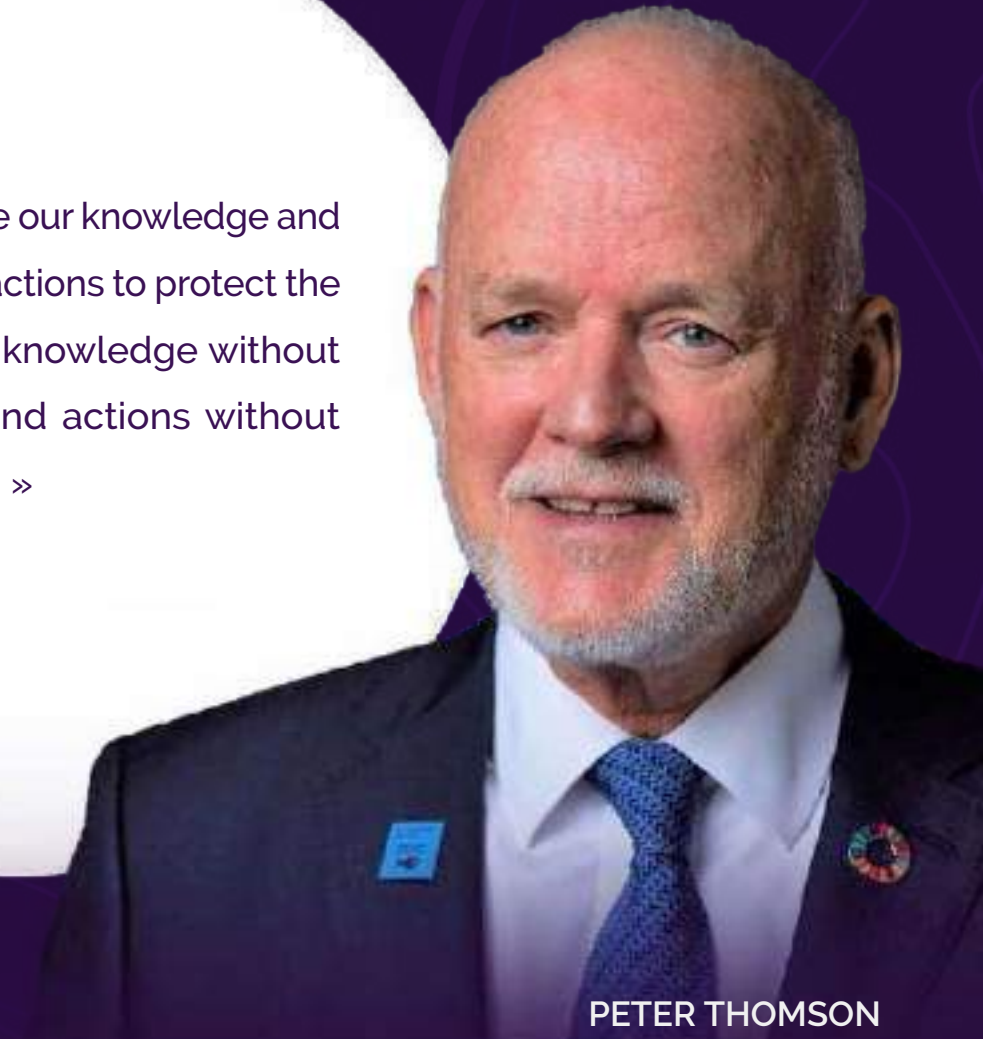
QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

PETER THOMSON

United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

The United Nations Special Envoy for the Ocean, **Peter Thomson**, emphasized the urgency of acting against climate change and pollution, highlighting that “**knowledge without action is a waste, and actions without knowledge are folly.**” He called for improved understanding and knowledge to protect the oceans by 2030, particularly during COP 29. He stressed the need to move to action and achieve concrete results to ensure a future for our children.

« It is time to enhance our knowledge and turn it into concrete actions to protect the oceans by 2030, for knowledge without action is a waste, and actions without knowledge are folly. »



PETER THOMSON

United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

KEY MOMENTS

QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

PASCAL LAMY

Co-Chair of the Africa-Europe Ocean Strategy Group, Africa-Europe Foundation, and President of the Forum Mondial de la Mer Bizerte

As Co-Chair of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance and President of Forum Mondial de la Mer - Bizerte, **Pascal Lamy** emphasized the importance of the **Blue Africa Summit** as a key milestone for Africa, praising the expression of new ocean ambitions. He stressed the need to move from words to concrete actions to halt the degradation of ocean environments, and reminded that the United Nations conference in Nice in June 2025 must be a moment of action. He also called for mobilizing the potential of the blue economy for the benefit of populations and commended the participation of the Africa-Europe Foundation in supporting this process.

« We must now move to more concrete achievements, and for that, we need your suggestions and ideas so that Africa's lessons also benefit Europe, and vice versa ».



PASCAL LAMY

Co-Chair of the Africa-Europe Ocean Strategy Group, Africa-Europe Foundation, and President of the Forum Mondial de la Mer Bizerte

KEY MOMENTS

QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

RYM BENZINA

President of La Saison Bleue

As co-organizer of the Blue Africa Summit, **Rym Benzina** emphasized the importance of this event in amplifying Africa's voice on maritime issues and promoting a sustainable and equitable future. She highlighted the urgency of acting against the impacts of climate change on coastal communities, citing Antonio Guterres' call for strengthened international cooperation. Highlighting King Mohammed VI's Atlantic Initiative, she underlined the summit's role in addressing key challenges of the blue economy, maritime security, and the role of civil society, while stressing the untapped potential of Africa's oceans. She advocated for the ratification of international treaties, South-South and North-South cooperation, and concluded with a call to action for Africa to make its voice heard and drive meaningful change for the protection of its marine future.

« Africa, united in its quest for a sustainable future, must make its voice heard on the global stage and act, act, act to tackle the maritime challenges that affect us all. »

RYM BENZINA

President of La Saison Bleue

KEY MOMENTS

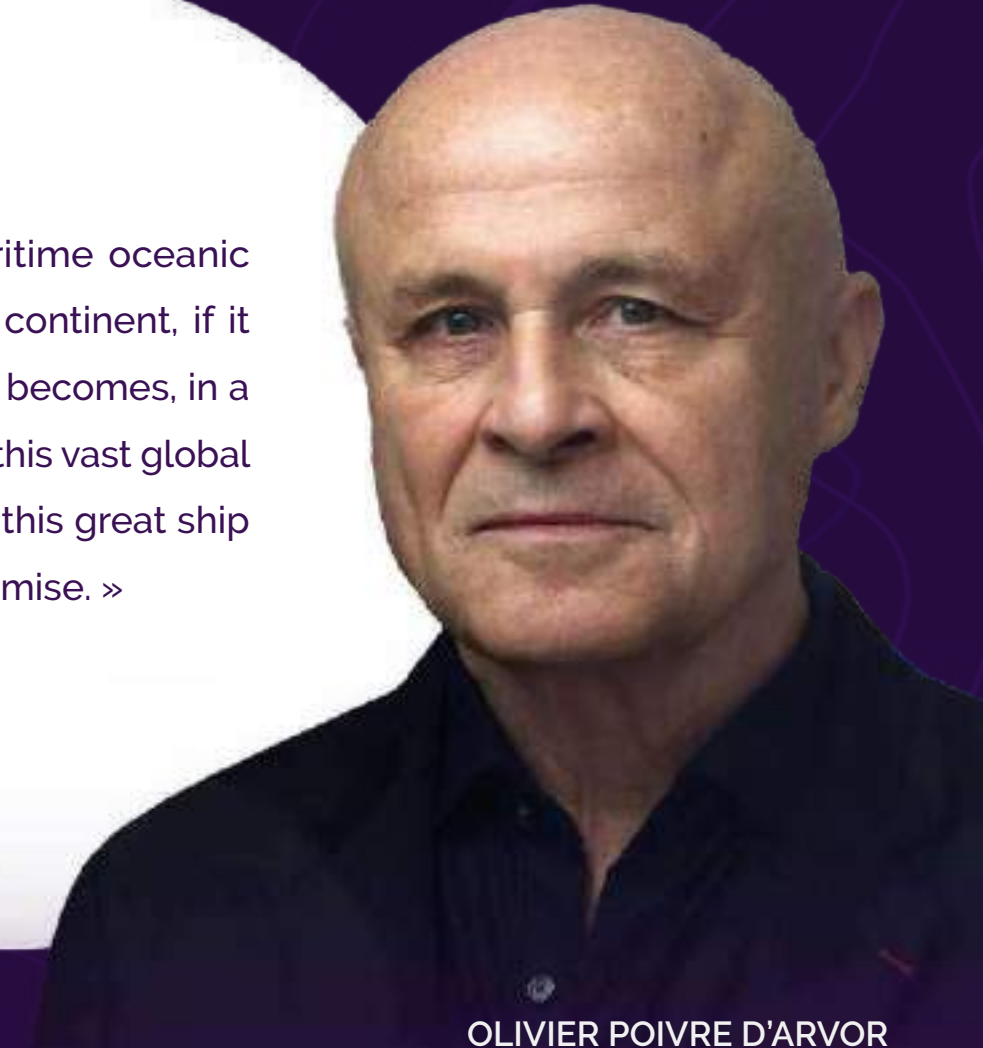
QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

OLIVIER POIVRE D'ARVOR

Special Envoy of the President of the Republic for
the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3)

Olivier Poivre d'Arvor emphasized the crucial importance of Morocco's and Africa's engagement in preparing the Nice event in June 2025, which aims to achieve for the ocean what COP21 accomplished for the climate. He stressed the need for strong ocean governance, enhanced international scientific cooperation, and controlled, sustainable use of marine resources. He highlighted Africa's key role—a maritime continent often overlooked—in conveying a message of optimism and reconciling the exploitation and protection of the oceans.

« Africa has a maritime oceanic destiny. This great continent, if it takes the helm, if it becomes, in a way, the skipper of this vast global ocean vessel, well, this great ship holds immense promise. »



OLIVIER POIVRE D'ARVOR

Special Envoy of the President of the Republic for the 3rd United Nations
Ocean Conference (UNOC3)

KEY MOMENTS


QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

SUSAN GARDNER

Director of the Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Susan Gardner emphasized the importance of the Blue Africa Summit in advancing blue development in a region rich in aquatic resources. She highlighted the urgency of taking action to protect the oceans, drawing on existing roadmaps such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. She underscored regional initiatives, including the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, and encouraged commitment, ratification of agreements, and the advancement of a sustainable vision for a prosperous blue economy. She stressed Africa's key role and that of its young generation in this transformation, noting that "the ocean can take us anywhere."

« Bahari itatufikisha popote », which means that the ocean can take us anywhere. It is a reminder that the ocean connects us all, and that the way we cooperate on ocean matters can serve as a model for collaboration on all global challenges.

A portrait of Susan Gardner, a woman with short, wavy grey hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue blazer. The background of the portrait is a large, white, circular shape on a dark purple background.

SUSAN GARDNER
Director of the Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

KEY MOMENTS

QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

JYOTI MATHUR-FILIP

Executive Secretary of the Council on Plastic Pollution (CNI)

Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the Council on Plastic Pollution (CNI), provided an update on the negotiations for a global treaty on plastic pollution, the final step ahead of the last session in Busan in November. She emphasized the scale of the challenge: over 500 million tons of plastic are produced each year, the majority of which ends up as marine waste, threatening the global ecosystem. The panel highlighted that, despite numerous challenges, collective will and regional cooperation are driving the evolution of global ocean governance toward greater sustainability, with commitments being progressively deepened and implemented.

« The INC process was born from a particular focus on the oceans. Over time, the process has evolved to incorporate a broader, necessary vision—one that not only addresses marine pollution but also considers the full lifecycle of plastics in order to eliminate plastic pollution from the environment. »

JYOTI MATHUR-FILIP

Executive Secretary of the Council on Plastic Pollution (CNI)

KEY MOMENTS

QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

PAUL VAN TIGCHELT

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and the North Sea, Belgium

Belgium, through its Deputy Prime Minister **Paul Van Tigchelt**, reaffirmed its commitment to ocean protection, noting that oceans cover 70% of the planet and are essential to life despite the threats of erosion, plastic pollution, and overfishing. It called for the swift ratification of the BBNJ agreement, already signed by eight countries and expected to be ratified by sixty more by June 2025. As a candidate to host its secretariat in Brussels, Belgium highlighted its geographic position, maritime expertise, and tradition of international cooperation, emphasizing that the health of the oceans determines the future of humanity.

« It is essential to cooperate beyond national jurisdictions to address ocean challenges such as erosion, plastic pollution, and overfishing. Ratifying the BBNJ agreement by 2025 is crucial! Belgium, a candidate to host the secretariat, is committed to protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030 .»



PAUL VAN TIGCHELT

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and the North Sea, Belgium

KEY MOMENTS

QUOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

ARSENIO DOMINGUEZ
Secretary-General of the IMO

Extreme weather events and rising sea levels are affecting Africa. The IMO is committed to decarbonizing maritime transport by 2025 through economic measures and alternative fuels. A maritime technology cooperation center in Kenya supports this transition and helps protect the planet from plastic pollution. Cooperation is key.

« Decarbonization is not just about regulation. The IMO will adopt new measures in 2025, but it is science and concrete projects, such as the center in Kenya, that will make the difference. Let us protect the planet, prevent pollution, preserve biodiversity, and reduce plastic pollution. »



ARSENIO DOMINGUEZ
Secretary-General of the IMO

AFRICA-EUROPE COOPERATION :

Launch of the “Roadmap to 2030: Co-Driving the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership”

International commitment to sustainable ocean governance is intensifying. During this panel focused on international ocean negotiation efforts, several experts and institutional representatives emphasized the crucial importance of strengthening global cooperation to ensure the preservation and sustainable management of marine resources.



He presented the final report of the group, highlighting a long journey that began in 2019 with the EU's new strategy for Africa, aimed at establishing renewed partnerships. He stressed the importance of translating this vision into concrete actions, building partnerships that are not imposed but based on open dialogue, the sharing of experiences, and mutual objectives and interests. He acknowledged that ocean governance was notably absent from the initial partnerships and emphasized the importance for Africa and Europe to collaborate in order to seize this opportunity for sustainable development.

KESTUTIS SADAUSKAS
Co-Chair of the Africa-Europe
Strategy Group



PASCAL LAMY - President of the Forum Mondial de la Mer-Bizerte, Coordinator of the Jacques Delors Institutes
Sharing knowledge and practices for a sustainable ocean

Europe has as much to learn from Africa as vice versa, highlighting the importance of sharing knowledge and best practices, including those derived from African traditions, to progress together. Speaking both as a European representative and as a committed advocate for sustainability, he emphasized the urgency of turning commitments into concrete actions, combining ocean protection with the responsible use of its resources.



NANCY KARIGITHU - Co-Chair of the Africa-Europe Strategic Group on Ocean Governance
Connecting science and territories to protect the African ocean

The roadmap we have developed acknowledges the importance of information sharing and joint actions, aiming for broader engagement in ocean governance within an Africa-Europe partnership.

Africa lies at the heart of the ocean and faces significant climate challenges. Science must connect all these scales, sharing information to better protect these vulnerable areas from climate impacts and pollution, while engaging local stakeholders in integrated management.



GENEVIÈVE PONS - Director General and Vice-President of the Jacques Delors European Institute
Focusing on Africa-Europe cooperation for sustainable oceans

Pooling the best African and European practices is essential. Science, education, and the fight against illegal activities are crucial to preserving marine and terrestrial biodiversity, addressing ocean governance challenges, and acting together ambitiously to ensure a sustainable future for the African continent.



JOSEPHA SACKO - Commissioner of the African Union for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Environment
Africa's Commitment to Ocean Governance

Africa is committed to strengthened ocean governance, based on science, cooperation, capacity building, and the empowerment of women. In partnership with Europe, it is developing the means to create innovative solutions, unlock the potential of the blue economy, and ensure a sustainable and prosperous future.

OCEAN KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE-TO-POLICY

This panel explored how to translate observations, models, and scientific syntheses into concrete actions for marine governance. Gathered in Tangier, experts and institutions highlighted the essential value chains: reliable observation, independent synthesis, digital tools, and inclusive science capable of engaging effectively with decision-makers and coastal communities.



Kestutis Sadauskas | Co-Chair of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group
Data for Global Ocean Governance

For marine management to be effective, robust and accessible observation networks are required to feed operational tools for decision-making. International coordination must rely on high-quality data to support effective global governance.



Maxime Lisle | Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director of Seastemik
IPOS: Scientific Expertise in the Service of Public Policy

The upcoming launch of the “International Panel for Ocean Sustainability” (IPOS) will take place at UNOC in June 2025. This scientific panel is essential, as it will demonstrate its ability to provide governments with synthesized reports, drawing on the full spectrum of knowledge, and aimed at guiding integrated public policies.



Pierre Bahurel | CEO, Mercator Ocean
Digital Twins: Simulating the Ocean for Better Management

The upcoming launch of the “International Panel for Ocean Sustainability” (IPOS) will take place at UNOC in June 2025. The expert stressed the importance of a scientific panel capable of providing governments with synthesized reports, based on the full range of knowledge, and dedicated to guiding integrated public policies.



Marina Lévy | Research Director at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), France
Connecting Science and Territories to Protect the African Ocean

Imagine a drop of water traveling across the ocean for a hundred years: our challenge is to return it to conditions close to those of 1950.

She emphasized the importance of Africa, at the heart of the ocean, in the face of climate challenges. Science must connect all these scales by sharing information to better protect these vulnerable areas from climate impacts and pollution, while involving local stakeholders in integrated management.



Sami El Ikil | Senior Manager of the Coast and Ocean Program
From Moroccan Experience to Continental Ambition

He highlighted his foundation's commitment along 3,500 km of Moroccan coastline for sustainable management, in partnership with several ministries. The vision is to extend this approach across the entire African continent by building integrated regional governance based on science, regulation, and local stakeholder engagement.



Naima Hammoumi | Maritime and Ocean Expert, Associate Researcher at IRES
Cooperation and Tools for a Responsible Blue Economy

Understanding the ocean is crucial for sustainable management, especially in Africa, where scientific capacities are limited. We need to strengthen cooperation and tools to better protect marine biodiversity and the environment, in order to build a responsible blue economy.



Uberta Ufku | SDG Programs and Operations Manager – Office of the President, Ghana
Du Ghana à l'Afrique : transformer la stratégie en action

The strategic value of science for marine health and the blue economy in Africa is paramount. In connection with a recent summit and a partnership with the World Bank, Ghana has established a multisectoral group to translate strategy into concrete actions: sustainable fisheries management, renewable energy, and coastal resilience.

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN NEGOTIATIONS

The panel highlighted the urgency of strengthened sustainable governance and marine spatial planning, supported by robust development of scientific capacities—particularly in Africa—to ensure meaningful participation in international negotiations. Priorities include the ocean-climate nexus, ecosystem protection and restoration, and the fight against plastic pollution. Discussions also emphasized the progress of legal frameworks, including the ratification of the BBNJ treaty and the finalization of the global plastics treaty, as well as the equitable sharing of knowledge and technology.



Jacob Adiwani | Head, IOC/UNESCO Africa & Islands (IOCAFRICA)
Presentation on UNESCO's Efforts

UNESCO has undertaken several actions to support ocean negotiations: developing a sustainable governance plan, conducting marine spatial planning in partnership with the European Commission, and launching the Sea of Africa program to strengthen scientific capacities, promote ocean literacy, and foster international cooperation to ensure inclusive participation.



Valérie Verdier | President and Chief Executive Officer of the Research Institute for Development (IRD)
IRD Priorities: Climate, Ecosystems, and Marine Pollution

IRD's priorities: deepening the ocean-climate nexus, protecting and restoring marine ecosystems, and combating marine pollution, particularly plastics. Cooperation and Africa-Europe partnerships are exemplified by a project in the Mozambique Channel that provides data to decision-makers and marine managers.



Patricia Ricard | President of the Paul Ricard Oceanographic Institute
Ratify the BBNJ Treaty to Protect the High Seas

It is urgent to ratify the BBNJ Treaty (adopted in June 2023, signed by over 104 states as of September 2023). The treaty provides for the creation of marine protected areas, regulation of impact assessments, management of genetic resources, and the strengthening of capacities and technology transfer, excluding deep-sea mining and fisheries.

PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN: 100% ALLIANCE

The panel presented the "100% Alliance" for sustainable management of maritime zones, led by France with African partners (Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Seychelles). By the end of the decade, all national waters are expected to have a harmonized, inclusive, and ecosystem-adapted Sustainable Ocean Plan (SOP). The alliance provides technical and financial support (rapid assistance funds), access to the IOC and Ocean 2030, capacity building, and monitoring. Examples include France's coastal strategy, the Seychelles' blue economy roadmap, and Ghana's integrated approach. Challenges include financing, capacity development, communication, local ownership, finalization of global treaties (BBNJ, plastics), and equitable sharing of knowledge and technology.



Stéphanie Ockenden | Deputy Secretary, High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean
Mobilizing Science, Funding, and Technical Support

The 100% Alliance, led by France and African partners, aims for 100% sustainable management of national waters through Sustainable Ocean Plans. It mobilizes science, funding, technical support (IOC, UNESCO, Ocean 2030), rapid assistance funds, and capacity building, and calls on all coastal states to join now.



Dominic Asante Opoku-Manu | SDG Advisor, Office of the President, Ghana
Maritime Strategy and SOP for a Sustainable Ocean

Ghana's Experience: Ocean governance has been assessed, an integrated maritime strategy launched, and a SOP developed involving the government, civil society, private sector, and research. Priorities include maritime security and the sustainable use of marine resources across five axes (health, wealth, equity, financing, knowledge). Ghana aims to finalize the plan by next November.

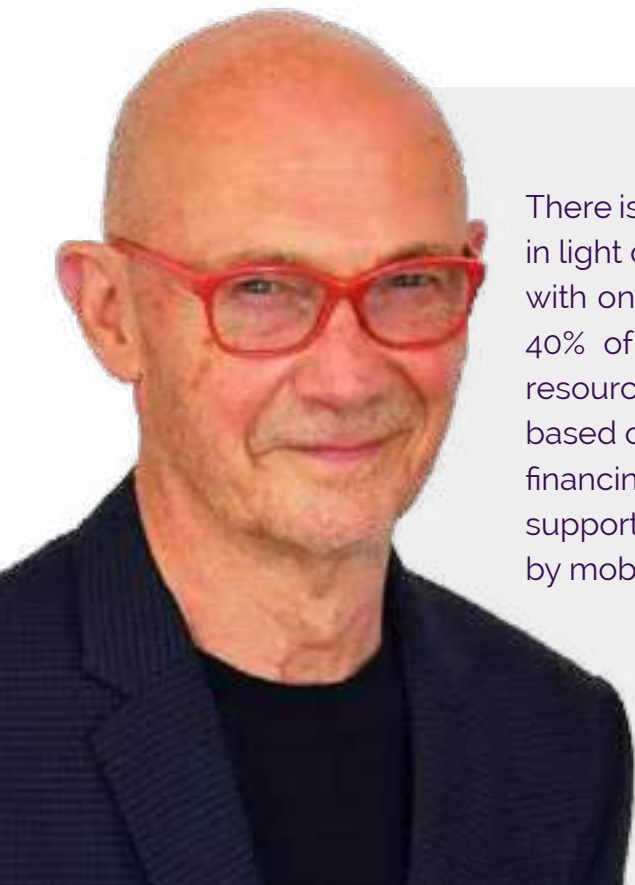


Phillianne Ernesta | Senior Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Economy, Seychelles
Blue Economy in the Seychelles: Challenges and Perspectives

The Seychelles' approach to a blue economy is structured as follows: a roadmap approved in 2018, development of marine plans, and multi-stakeholder governance. Major challenges include low awareness, limited local ownership, conflicting user objectives, and constrained capacities and resources. Dialogue, skills development, and innovative solutions are needed today.

ECONOMY

The panel highlighted the importance of the blue economy for sustainable development in Africa, combining responsible management, technological innovation, and international partnerships. Port capacity, marine resource preservation, economic diversification, social inclusion, and strong governance are essential to harness the ocean's potential while protecting the environment. Cooperation, awareness-raising, and the implementation of concrete initiatives remain central to this transition toward a resilient, balanced, and equitable maritime economy, as well as to the finalization of global treaties (BBNJ, plastics) and the equitable sharing of knowledge and technology.



There is an urgent need to finance a sustainable blue economy in light of the ocean's estimated economic value of \$25 trillion, with only 1% currently invested. Ocean degradation threatens 40% of this value, underscoring the urgency of reforming resources and financing strategies. I emphasize an approach based on concrete, field-based initiatives, supported by a new financing hub in Monaco, designed to identify and effectively support innovative projects for sustainable ocean management by mobilizing all relevant actors and networks.

PASCAL LAMY - President of the Forum Mondial de la Mer Bizerte, Coordinator of the Jacques Delors Institutes



Patrice brehmer | Researcher, Marine Socio-Ecosystems, IRD
Économie bleue en Afrique : durable et inclusive

We note an evolution of the blue economy since 2017 toward a more sustainable and inclusive dimension. It is essential to integrate all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to promote governance, international cooperation, and sectoral strategies in order to harness the ocean responsibly in Africa.



Gabriella Gonthier | Programme Manager – Blue Economy, Seychelles
Aquaculture to Transform the Blue Economy

The Seychelles have ratified the BBNJ treaty to safeguard their marine resources. Their commitment is total: diversifying the marine economy, strengthening governance, and protecting biodiversity. Ratification ensures preservation for future generations while fostering the country's sustainable economic development.



Masanori kobayashi | Program Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Overfishing, Value Chains, and Governance

We observe Africa's challenges in achieving sustainable management of marine resources, particularly overfishing and the transformation of value chains. Strengthening governance, transparency, and market access is essential for Africa to truly benefit from its marine wealth while protecting its ecosystem.



TIAGO PITTA E CUNHA | CEO, Oceano Azul Foundation
Blue economy, biodiversity and decarbonization

The blue economy can focus on decarbonization and the preservation of marine biodiversity. It is essential to understand its challenges to mobilize financing and technological innovations, in order to reconcile economic development, climate action, and the protection of marine ecosystems.

PORTS

Ports, true barometers of the economy, politics, and the environment, lie at the heart of global development and sustainability challenges. Facing issues such as scale, pollution, and ballast water management, they are evolving toward more responsible models focused on decarbonization, climate resilience, and the integration of renewable energy. Innovation, connectivity, and inclusive development are essential—particularly in Africa, where securing port value chains and leveraging local expertise must be strengthened to fully realize the strategic value of this sector. The creation of a common African maritime space, inspired by European models, offers a promising path to ensure sustainable, equitable, and efficient management of the continent's blue economy.



Christophe Castaner | Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Port of Marseille-Fos
Strategic Ports : Engines of Sustainable Development

Ports reflect the state of the world: economic, political, and environmental impacts. Amid the decarbonization revolution, they are becoming hubs of innovation. Massive investments, such as those at Marseille-Fos, are transforming the port industry toward an energy- and environmentally-transitioned model, redefining cargo flows and management.



Nisrine Louzzi | Director of Construction, Dakhla Atlantic Port
Dakhla Atlantic : un hub stratégique de l'économie bleue africainede Dakhla

Dakhla Atlantic Port is strategic for Africa's blue economy, facilitating trade with Europe and the Americas. Committed to sustainable development, it aims to integrate Africa into the global market, promote renewable energy, and foster inclusive growth for coastal communities, while adhering to international maritime standards.



Sanaa El Amrani | Director of Maritime Ports and Public Domain
Moroccan Ports : Charting a Course for Sustainability

Morocco has launched an ambitious port strategy integrating green transition, energy efficiency, decarbonization, climate resilience, sustainable mobility, and maritime preservation. Data sharing and technological innovation are essential for collective adaptation to climate change challenges and the sustainable management of the coastline.



Florentine Guihard-Koidiou | Head of Client Relations & IT Quality Department, Port of Abidjan
Economic, Social, and Environmental Impact of Ports

African ports, as key economic drivers, face major environmental and social challenges: waste management, ballast water, pollution, and women's inclusion. Developing smart ports, fostering regional cooperation, and investing in training and awareness are crucial for sustainable and equitable growth.



Mohamed El Jaouadi | Former President, Moroccan Shipowners' Association (ARMA)
Ports and Ships: An Inseparable System

Ports and ships are inseparable, serving as essential drivers of global trade. Africa must now share this value, modernize its fleet, establish a common maritime policy, and benefit equitably from this strategic activity. Together, let us innovate for sustainable management and African maritime prosperity.



MAGALI LINE VICTOIRE THADDEES | General Coordinator, RFPMP-AOC
Women's Leadership for Sustainable Ocean Management

African ports, where women remain underrepresented, face numerous environmental and operational challenges. Piracy, pollution, and ballast water management threaten their development. It is urgent to invest in sustainable policies, information sharing, and training to achieve responsible and inclusive port management.

BLUE FINANCE

The meeting focused on financing mechanisms for the blue economy, with presentations from the World Bank, the World Economic Forum, the Mohammed VI Foundation, and the French Development Agency. These institutions outlined their strategies and tools to channel financial resources toward sustainable blue economy projects.



Martin Ochoa | Senior Specialist, Environment & Blue Economy (SMNEN)
Financial Instruments for Blue Finance

Ports are barometers of the economy, politics, and the environment, amid the decarbonization revolution. Massive investments, such as those at Marseille-Fos, are transforming the port industry toward an energy transition, with innovative projects supporting a more sustainable model and structuring both commercial and ecological flows.



Cécile Couprie | Regional Director, French Development Agency (AFD)
Appui régional et partenariats pour la résilience maritime

The French Development Agency (AFD) has provided €4 billion to strengthen public policies, develop climate transition infrastructure, and promote marine protected areas in Africa. Regional cooperation, technical assistance, and multilateral partnerships are essential to support sustainable and resilient ocean management.



Silvia Guzzin | Program Director, Ocean Action Agenda, WEF
Towards Inclusive and Locally Tailored Finance

Silvia Guzzin advocates a financial catalysis approach combining multilateral banks, philanthropy, concessional finance, and public-private partnerships to strengthen the blue economy in Africa. She emphasizes innovation, impact assessment, and support for start-ups (incubator, ~50 projects) to mobilize capital and locally adapted solutions. The goal is to bridge the financing gap while ensuring sustainability and inclusion.



Ayman Cherkaoui | Director, Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training
University Incubation and Innovation Hubs for the Ocean

Guided by the royal vision, Morocco is advancing awareness of the blue economy, combating plastic pollution, and developing protected areas through educational and innovative projects. Engaging youth, strengthening research, and fostering community initiatives are essential for a sustainable transition, inspired by wise and creative governance.

When Finance Meets the Ocean



Diversifies and Grows
Economies



Protects Communities
Against **le changement
climatique**



Creates
Sustainable
Ocean Tourism



Strengthens
Marine Health



Helps Reduce
**Carbon
Emissions**



Improves **Livelihoods**
and Creates **Jobs**

PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE

The panel emphasized the critical importance of strengthening the protection and resilience of coastal cities against threats such as erosion, pollution, overfishing, and climate change. The coalition of coastal communities, led by Nice, aims to share best practices, support local policies, and mobilize public, private, and philanthropic financing. Contributions from representatives across Africa, notably from Yoff, Moroni, and Yvonne Moyu, highlighted concrete challenges, including data gaps, the need for awareness-raising, and the urgency of technical and financial support. All participants underscored that international cooperation, community engagement, research, and biodiversity protection are essential for sustainable blue economy development and for translating international decisions into actions tailored to each territory.



Africa, with its strong population growth and extensive coastal zones, plays a crucial role in global resilience to climate change. The creation of a coalition of coastal communities offers a unique opportunity to share best practices, strengthen cooperation, and mobilize financing to safeguard ocean health and support the blue economy.

AGNES RAMPAL - Deputy Mayor & Vice President, Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur, Euro-Mediterranean Affairs



Seydina Issa Laye Samb | Mayor of Yoff
Erosion, Pollution, and Illegal Fishing: An Alarming Daily Reality

We are facing a real local emergency: erosion, pollution, illegal fishing, outdated infrastructure, and a lack of cold storage facilities. We lack data and awareness-raising actions, making it crucial for the coalition to raise the voice of municipalities to secure technical support, funding, and sustainable, tailored solutions.



Abdul Fatar Saïd Mohamed | Mayor of Moroni
Urbanization, industrialization, and pollution: key challenges

As a vulnerable island capital, Moroni is committed, through the Great Blue Wall initiative, to preserving its marine ecosystems, restoring mangroves, combating plastic pollution, and developing a sustainable blue economy. International solidarity is essential to fund these initiatives, protect our coastlines, and ensure a resilient future in the face of environmental and economic challenges.



Théophile Bongarts Lebbe | Head of the Coastal Adaptation, Ocean & Climate Program
Cities in Action Against Rising Sea Levels

Cities are ready to act against rising sea levels and coastal degradation. Their strong commitment and long adaptation journey are noteworthy. The platform supports over 250 stakeholders, promotes the sharing of experiences, and emphasizes the need to unite political, scientific, and financial efforts for lasting resilience.



Cyrille Barnerias | Director of European & International Relations, OFB
Towards the 2027 World Congress of Marine Protected Areas

With 17% of Africa's marine areas under protection, progress has been achieved, yet much remains to be done to reach the 30% target by 2030. Safeguarding ecosystems, supporting local communities, and hosting the World Congress on Marine Protected Areas in Africa in 2027 are essential challenges to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the oceans.



Bouchta El Moumni | President of Abdelmalek Saadi University
Morocco: A Pillar of Ocean Protection in Africa

The Tangier Tétouan Al Hoceima region, situated between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, plays a strategic role in ocean protection. In partnership with Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, marine research and training are strengthening resilience to climate challenges. Regional and international cooperation, particularly through the establishment of a future African institute, will be essential to safeguarding marine life.



Yvonne Moyu' Tagne | Chief Executive Officer, Africa Blue Strategies Corporation International
Blue Woman Africa : Awareness and Action

Ocean protection requires strategic communication, early awareness-raising in schools, and the inclusion of vulnerable communities, such as fishers and women engaged in recycling. The mobilization and commitment of coastal cities, together with international cooperation particularly at the 2025 meeting in Nice—are essential to building a sustainable and resilient blue economy in Africa.



Jérôme Noël Petit | Senior Manager, France/Mediterranean
Marine Protected Areas : Essential for Biodiversity Conservation

The Mediterranean, a region of exceptional biodiversity, remains critically under-protected amid climate change, overexploitation, and pollution. Urgent action is needed to accelerate the establishment of 30% protected areas, phase out destructive trawling practices, and create sanctuaries such as Pelagos to safeguard its vulnerable ecosystems.



CIVIL SOCIETY AND INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES

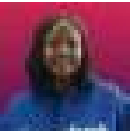
The panel explored innovative solutions for a sustainable blue economy, emphasizing the key role of civil society. Speakers presented a range of initiatives including smart aquaculture, marine energy, and waste management, highlighting the importance of collaboration, technological innovation, and circular models. Challenges such as costs and financing, as well as Africa’s potential, were also discussed. The panel called for strengthened cooperation to ensure an ocean-respecting future.



Neila Benzina | Ceo Wimbee
Data, AI, and Digital Transformation for a Sustainable Ocean

Innovation in data technologies and artificial intelligence offers tremendous potential to transform our approach to the blue economy and environmental protection. By harnessing these advancements and engaging civil society, we can build a sustainable future for our oceans.

Neila Benzina, an entrepreneur specializing in data, artificial intelligence, and digital transformation, chaired the panel, emphasizing the importance of civil society and innovative projects for the blue economy. She shared her vision of the crucial impact of emerging technologies in addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development. In her role as moderator, she guided the discussions and provided perspective on the various initiatives presented.



Deborah Falope | Founder, AquaTrack
Optimizing Production for Sustainable Aquaculture

Deborah Falope presented Aqua Shark, an innovative platform that leverages artificial intelligence to enhance the aquaculture industry. Its goal is to provide cultivators with precise information to optimize production and promote sustainable aquaculture. Aqua Shark aims to become a leading player in the sector by harnessing the potential of data and modern technologies.



Mohamed Taha El Ouaryachi | Director General and Co-Founder, ATAREC
Marine Energy : Tackling Challenges and Reducing CO₂ Emissions

Mohamed Taha El Ouaryachi emphasized the urgent need to address marine energy challenges, particularly by exploring the potential of ocean-based energy. He highlighted the importance of unlocking the ocean's self-resilience, reducing CO₂ emissions, and developing commercially viable wave energy solutions, leveraging partnerships with stakeholders such as the Port of Tanger Med.



Richmond Kennedy Quarcoo | Founder and Executive Director, PlasticPunch
Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis in Ghana

Richmond Kennedy Quarcoo presented PlasticPunch's efforts in Ghana to manage plastic waste, raise public awareness through educational programs, and collaborate with supermarkets to reduce plastic use. The initiative aims to address the triple planetary crisis by curbing plastic pollution and promoting sustainable practices within communities.



Danford Mkunda | R&D Director, Coastal BioTech
Innovative Solutions for Food Security and Environmental Protection

Danford Mkunda explained how Coastal Biotech leverages marine bioresources to decarbonize agriculture, reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, and combat oceanic dead zones. The company aims to address food insecurity while protecting the marine environment through innovative solutions rooted in marine biotechnology.



Mohammed Adnane Ouzzine | Doctor of Law and Political Science – Mohammed V University, Rabat
Innovative Solutions for Food Security and Environmental Sustainability

Mohammed Adnane Ouzzine advocated for the establishment of a Moroccan maritime company focused on green hydrogen, in line with decarbonization objectives and marine environmental protection. He highlighted Morocco's potential in green hydrogen production and the importance of an ambitious maritime strategy to address environmental challenges.



Camilla Floros | Marine Program Director, Oceans Without Borders
Coral Reef Restoration and Sustainable Tourism

Camilla Floros shared her organization's efforts to preserve the marine ecosystem through collaboration with the local community and NGOs on an island in Tanzania. The focus is on coral reef restoration, raising awareness of sustainable tourism, and promoting a development model that benefits local populations while protecting the marine environment.



Asma Benslimane | President, WIMAFRICA & WISTA Morocco; Member, Blue Women Africa
Reducing the Environmental Impact of Port Activities

Asma Benslimane highlighted Tanger Med Port's initiatives in ocean protection, including a roadmap toward carbon neutrality, investments in renewable energy, and efforts to promote a circular economy. The port positions itself as a key player in advancing sustainable development and reducing its environmental impact.



Marwen Mokdad | Manager and Founder, POLYCHAETA by Tunisia Baits
Valorizing Aquaculture Waste for Sustainable Food Production

Marwen Mokdad explained how Tunisia Baits produces marine worms using organic waste from aquaculture farms, thereby reducing pollution and replenishing natural stocks. This circular approach valorizes aquaculture waste while providing a sustainable solution for fish feed.



Giulia Antidormi | Public Relations Officer – Mediterranean Region, SDG4MED
SDG : SDG Observatory for the Mediterranean

Giulia Antidormi presented the role of SDG as an observatory for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mediterranean and oceans. The NGO works with municipalities to implement concrete solutions for water restoration, pollution prevention, and the promotion of sustainable development at the local level.



Imed Hamdi | Head of Growth, Kumulus Water
Technological Innovation for Sustainable Water Management

Imed Hamdi presented Kumulus Water, a company that produces drinking water from the air using innovative technology. This solution reduces plastic bottle consumption, lowers the carbon footprint, and provides access to potable water in areas with limited water resources.



Vincent Doumeizel | Senior Advisor & Food Program Director, UN Global Compact / Lloyd's Register Foundation
Plankton: A Pillar of Planetary Health

Vincent Doumeizel announced the launch of the Plankton Manifesto, an initiative aimed at raising awareness of plankton's fundamental role in planetary health and the future of humanity. The manifesto calls for greater understanding and protection of this essential ecosystem.



SETTING SAILS

From Horizon to Horizon: When Sailing Inspires Science



Eric Machu | Marine Biogeochemist, IRD Researcher, Assigned to INRH Tangier
Strengthening Oceanographic Research in Africa

Eric Machu, a researcher, emphasized the need for strong national and regional commitment in Africa to support oceanographic research. He highlighted the lack of funding, the challenges in sustaining fundamental research, and the need to strengthen local capacities for impact studies. He illustrated his points with the example of the sardinella in Senegal, whose local consumption declined by half between 2009 and 2018.



Richard Brisius | Director, Ocean Race
The Ocean Race: Fostering an Emotional Connection with the Ocean

Richard Brisius, President of The Ocean Race, emphasized the importance of fostering an emotional connection between people and the ocean. He highlighted how the race can promote positive values and inspire ocean protection, while advancing social rights and a universal declaration of ocean rights. A video illustrated the initiatives undertaken, including data collection on plastic pollution and raising awareness among thousands of schoolchildren.

Protection Is Freedom



Lamya Essemlali | President, Sea Shepherd France
Restoring Harmony Between Humanity and the Sea

The ocean, a vital link between humanity and nature, requires our urgent commitment. Raising awareness, protecting marine biodiversity, and restoring harmony between humanity and the sea are essential. Together, with passion and imagination, we must safeguard this exceptional heritage to ensure a sustainable future.

From the Levant to the Rising Sun



Atsushi Sunami | President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
The Blue Economy at the Heart of Japan-Africa Cooperation

The blue economy will take center stage at the upcoming Tokyo conference, strengthening Japan-Africa cooperation in fisheries, tourism, and technological innovation. The Osaka Ocean Pavilion will showcase these solutions, creating links between global events and philanthropy to accelerate concrete projects and share sustainable knowledge.



Tatiana Antonelli Abella | Founder and Director, Goumbook
MENA Initiative : Connecting and Empowering the Oceans

The MENA Initiative aims to raise the profile of the oceans in the Middle East and Africa by breaking down silos between stakeholders. It promotes the sharing of data and best practices, and fosters the creation of a network of female academics and scientists, in partnership with Sorbonne Abu Dhabi, to strengthen international cooperation.



JEDDAH CONVENTION

The Jeddah Convention of 14 February 1982 for the Protection of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment: Innovation in Tradition

Adopted in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), 14 February 1982



DE NAIROBI CONVENTION

Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region

Adopted in Nairobi (Kenya) on 31 March 2010



BARCELONA CONVENTION

Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean against Pollution,adopted under the auspices of UNEP within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP).

Adopted in Barcelona (Spain) on 16 February 1976,
revised on 10 June 1995



ABIDJAN CONVENTION

Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West African Region

Adopted in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) on 23 March 1981



BIZERTE DECLARATION

The Bizerte Declaration for Promoting Regional Cooperation and Transparent Governance in Support of a Sustainable Blue Economy

Adopted in Bizerte, Tunisia, on 12 September 2025



YAOUNDÉ DECLARATION

Declaration to Promote Regional Cooperation and Transparent Governance for a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Gulf of Guinea

Adopted in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 10 July 2025



Speakers at the Blue Africa Summit 2025



Rym Benzina



Pascal Lamy



Abdeljalil Lahjomri



Zakia Driouch



Emelia Arthur



Walaa Gad El-Karim



Peter Thomson



Charlina Vitcheva



Olivier poivre d'arvor



Geneviève Pons



Marieme Bekaye



Jean Louis Coffi Moulot Moïse



Abdelaziz Sibauai



Tatiana Antonelli



Cynthia Barzuna



Patricia Ricard



Ashok Adicéam



Carmen Do Sacramento Neto



Claire Jolly



Robin Degron



Pierre Bahurel



Nancy Karigithu



Carole Martinez



Marina Lévy



Miaretsoa Longondraza



Miguel Bernal



Driss Tazi



Paul de Bruyn



Ysaac Chavely Mbile Nguema



Valérie Verdier



John Nyemah Natt Jr



Gabriella Gonthier



Ayivi Ernest Tindo



Salma Kabbaj



Alassane Sarr



Koffigan Agbati



Tamaryn Morris



Lilian Diarra



Fedra Francocci



Mohamed Najih



Hamid
Halim



Bouchta
El Mounni



Marine
Herrmann



Gil
Mahé



Suchana Apple
Chavanich



Azza
Jiddou



Edoh
Komla



Alexis
Aquereburu



Jean Baptiste
Harelimana



Zefi
Dimadama



Khouloud
Kahime



Amel Hamza
Chaffai



Faustine
Sinzogan



Martin
Ndende



Cécile
Couprie



Alessadra
Sensi



Samuel
Megwa



André
Julien Koutou



Jean-
Renaud Bikoe



David
Willima



Nicole
du Plessis



Demetrio
Bocuma Mene



Willy Mbusisi
Heukoua



Joseph
Magloire Olinga



Ibrahim Ali
Mohamed



Mariette
Degan



Ayivi Ernest
Tindo



Sylvie Laure
SIBE



Florentine
Guihard-Koidio



Cécile Mawe
Mombre



Hamadi Baba
Hamadi



Éric
Lafontaine



Raphael
Danglade



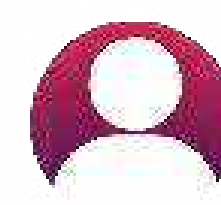
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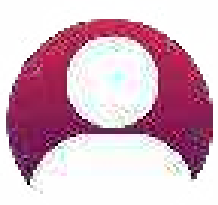
Mouchtadi Badi
Bamdou



Laurent
Ahongbonon



Jade
Velonjara



Mohamed
KOÏTA



Jean-Paul
Wong Mpondo



Caroline Mawandji
Masala



Kaoutar
Merbough



Aristide
Takoukam kamila



Maximin
Djondo



Asmaa
Benslimane



Yassine
El Aroussi



Abdelmalek
Alaoui



Omar
Akkouri



Béatrice
Gorez



Eric Le
Quéré



Chantal Ngoie
Mbwese



Abdellah
Laouina



Jeanine M.
Cooper



John Nyemah
Natt Jr



Naima
Hamoumi



Hassan
Agouzoul



Sekula
Robson



Henry-Serge
Kemgang



Louise Soppi
Ndock

Produced and Directed by



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