

ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTHY OCEANS



INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE MARINE ECONOMIES FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ADB commits to expanding its investments and technical assistance in ocean health and the blue economy to **\$5 billion** between 2019–2024

The Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies, along with a new ADB Oceans Financing initiative, will support the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and promote inclusive livelihood opportunities. Supporting ADB's developing member countries to improve ocean health and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water ensures the livelihoods, health, resiliency, and food security of billions of people in the region.

FOCUS AREAS



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.

OCEANS FINANCING INITIATIVE

A new **Oceans Financing Initiative** will accelerate investment in projects that will improve ocean health and stimulate the blue economy. 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”.



OUR APPROACH



Catalyzing the use of high-level and digital technologies for wastewater management and integrated solid waste management systems, coastal and marine resource management, and improved coastal cities planning.



Supporting regional cooperation on ocean health issues, transboundary marine ecosystems, and the development of marine economies through policy dialogue, action, and investment planning.



Strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks for pollution management and good governance of coastal and marine resources.



Engaging women, youth, and communities in addressing ocean health issues and benefiting from marine economy opportunities.



Sharing knowledge on social and economic costs, impacts, and investment needs to improve ocean health, plus lessons learned in wastewater, integrated solid waste management and circular economy approaches.



ASIA PACIFIC AND OCEANS



Billions of people in Asia and the Pacific, especially poor and vulnerable communities, depend on healthy ocean ecosystems for livelihoods, food, good health, and enjoyment. Coral reefs and mangroves are important natural buffers that protect the region's growing coastal populations against increasingly common and severe extreme weather events like storms and coastal flooding. However, climate change, pollution, unsustainable fishing, and rapid coastal development are threatening the productivity of our oceans. **Eight million tons of plastic** are entering the ocean every year and mostly from Asia, along with huge volumes of agricultural pollutants and untreated wastewater. Climate change is causing rising sea levels, ocean warming, and acidification, while unsustainable fishing is depleting fish stocks. Not taking action means the **death of 90% of coral reefs by 2052** and the loss of all commercially exploitable wild fish stocks by 2048. We must restore and protect our oceans now to secure the future of Asia and the Pacific, because when oceans thrive, people thrive.



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.

