



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



15th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy
Brussels - 27 June 2024

***Annual reporting by Ministerial priority:
Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial
Declaration on SBE – Morocco***

Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Development of socioeconomic observatories	The National Strategy for the Development of Scientific Research by 2025	The Specialized Center of Valorization and Technology on Marine Products (CSVTPM) of Agadir contributes to the development of seafood processing technologies and the promotion of fish products, ensuring monitoring and anticipation of technological innovation.
Clusters development	The program Blue Economy Morocco (World Bank)	-Morroco-Med Blue Innovation corridor - It is expected to create regional coastal clusters
Training activities	Dahir n° 1-97-208 of 18 rabii II 1424 (June 19, 2003), enacting the 1978 STCW Convention, as it was modified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) has contributed to Morocco's inclusion on the IMO White list and recognition of Moroccan certificates by the European Commission • The Institutes of Marine Fisheries Technology • Entrepreneur Generation • Port Training Institute • Morroco-Med Blue Innovation corridor
Other	Reiteration of political will to support and promote Exchange of technical and scientific research capacities during One Ocean Summit 2022 and UN Ocean Conference 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Institute for halieutic Research (INRH) has carried out an ambitious research and development program since 2010 through the assessment of fish stocks and impact of climate change on Fishery resources • PortNet Electronic Platform



Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Establishment of Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Strategy for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for fishing purposes (Law n° 22-07 related to protected areas and its implementing decree of 2021) - Decree n° 2-18-722 (September 2019) related to fisheries development and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification of three National Parks: Al Hoceima, Souss Massa and Khnifiss • Classification underway of three MPAS: Massa, Alboran and Mogador • Initiation of an MSP process for the creation of an MPA in the Souss Massa region (World Bank Program) • It is expected to establish two MPAs under the framework of the World Bank Program: Larache , Cap trois fourches (North) • At the request of fishing associations, there is a proposal for establishing an MPA in Boujdour (South)
Tackling Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)	Ratification of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of a national VMS program • Contribution to the PSMA consultations of parties. Morocco hosted the Africa and Near East regional coordination meeting in Casablanca on May 27–31, 2024. the
Support to Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halieutis Strategy 2010-2020 • Roadmap aiming to reinforce the sustainability of small pelagic fisheries • Establishment of fisheries management plans (FMP) • Law n° 84-21) of 2023 related to aquaculture activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project of introduction of plastic containers within the process (Total investment of around 230 MDH) • Electronic declaration of landings • The digitalization scheme in auction operations is a new milestone toward fostering transparency in fishing operations.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law n° 84-21 of 2023 aimed at establishing appropriate conditions for the development of aquaculture activities. • GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Roadmap • Blue Belt Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Institute for Fisheries Research (INRH) has carried out an ambitious research and development program since 2010 • Participation of Morocco in AquaWest Technical Group • Implementation of an aquaculture geoportal • « FAO Nansen» and «Support for the Development of Aquaculture Professions in Morocco» programs

Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Setting up an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides in the Mediterranean Sea	Morocco has always been committed to complying with IMO regulations. There is a will to comply with the provisions for the control zone for emissions of sulfur oxides and particles from the Mediterranean sea (ECA SOx Med).	The merchant marine directorate launched awareness campaigns for the promotion of compliance with the new regulations.
Development of alternative and transitional fuels	Morocco's 2050 low-carbon strategy seeks , among others, to boost the development of renewable energies, attain an electricity mix of 96% by 2050 and promote the development of green hydrogen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 different measures in the 7 sectors are included in the Net Zero scenario • On July 29, 2023, a circular was published in relation to “Morocco’s Offer” for the development of the green hydrogen sector.
Digitalisation of the sector		
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2030 National Port Strategy • The FAO Blue Port Initiative (BPI) • EBRD and National Port Agency signed documents of loans of €40 million to support the Agency in policy to ensure climate resilience for ports in 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion of a partnership with the Moroccan Agency of Sustainable Energy (MASEN) to enhance transition process • NPA call for tenders for study aimed at carrying out a carbon balance sheet and to assess direct and indirect GHG emissions related to activities carried out in ports falling under its competence • Technical assessments and sizing study of marine pollution prevention and control systems in certain NPA ports • NPA led an electrical Audit on 15 ports to identify source of energy savings and study integration of renewable energy alternatives • Consultations underway with the World Bank to launch a study on the bunkering of ships with clean fuel within Moroccan ports • Installation of photovoltaic lighting in ports covered by the NPA • Feasibility study: supplying cruise ships with electrical energy at the port of Casablanca • New Port of Dakhla Atlantic and new Port Nador West MED

Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Prevention measures and circular approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tax on plastic introduced in 2014 to encourage recycling and recovery of plastic waste Law 77-15 on banning of plastic bags 2015 Amendment to law 28-00 on waste management (2006) introducing Extended Producer Responsibility 	Plastic Free Coastline Program
Raising awareness and addressing marine litter including microplastics	The Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection has been actively engaged in ocean matters, including the prevention of plastic pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Beaches Program / Campaign Organization of regular editions of the #b7arblaplastic operation, the relevance and quality of which have been recognized and rewarded around the world Technical assessment and sizing study of marine pollution prevention and control systems in certain NPA ports Moroccan Supermarkets tackling Single Use Plastics (MOSSUP)
Other		



Coastal and maritime tourism

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Eco-tourism, slow tourism and reduction of carbon emissions of the industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap of the sector 2023-2030 • Strategy for the growth of tourism around concrete and other cross-cutting sectors relating to the valorization and preservation of intangible heritage • Beach tourism development program; • Support Program for Tourism Development in Rural Villages • Leisure development program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership between the Department of Marine Fisheries and ACCOBAMS on ecotourism is underway • Establishment of SMIT which is a State company in charge of boosting tourism investment • 9 thematic tourism sectors are to be developed including 03 niches: Ocean waves, Sun and beach and seaside, with establishment of prioritized clusters • Development of new seaside touristic areas
Promotion of the digitalisation of the sector	<p>The Moroccan Society of Tourism Engineering (SMIT), the Federation of Information Technologies, Telecommunications and Offshoring (APEBI,) and the Digital Development Agency (ADD) signed a partnership intended to promote investments linked to the digitalization of tourist activities and services.</p>	
Other		



Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Stakeholder engagement, consultations or establishment of MSP plans	Development of a MSP process to support the creation of an MPA in the Agadir Souss Massa región	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various workshops between 2019 and 2022 (MSPGlobal) • Regional workshop 2022: technical workshop on MSP and specific sectors • December 2022 – February 2023: : online seminar under the UNEP Med Action Plan
Other		



Marine Renewable Energies

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Research and innovation on MRE technologies	Morocco's 2050 low-carbon strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Ports Agency : electrical Audit on 15 ports to identify source of energy savings and study integration of renewable energy alternatives • Convened partnership with Solar Energy Research Institute (IRESEN) • Partnership with the Moroccan Agency of Sustainable Energy (Masen) • Consultation underway with World Bank to launch study on bunkering of ships with clean fuel within Moroccan ports • Feasibility study for supplying cruise ships with electrical energy at the port of Casablanca
Specification of licensing procedures	On July 29, 2023, a circular was published in relation to “Morocco’s Offer” for the development of the green hydrogen sector.	
Other	Morocco aims to increase production capacity for solar, wind and green hydrogen to achieve a green energy share of 52% by 2030	



Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Development of training activities	The curriculum of the Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM)	
Exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance and best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Maritime Traffic Monitoring Centre (CSTM) of Tangier is to monitor maritime traffic in the Strait of Gibraltar Approval of security assessments to ensure certification of ports and port facilities Development of a Search and Rescue System, in coordination with the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and the Royal Moroccan Navy 	Regular regional maritime search and rescue exercises, particularly “SAREX Detroit ” which brings together representatives of various civil and military departments, coming from a set of countries such as Belgium, Benin, Ivory Coast and Spain.
Other	Will to consolidate the National, legal and regulatory framework to be in line with existing mandatory international regulations of IMO	



Open questions

1 – Related to the priority on Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region: **Is there any overarching blue economy strategy in your country? Or any process initiated leading to the elaboration of such a strategy?**

PROGRAM FOR RESULTS: “DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLUE ECONOMY IN MOROCCO” in cooperation with the World Bank

2 – Related to the priority on Sustainable investments in the blue economy: **is there any national funding/financing scheme related to the blue economy (or any of its sectors) promoted by your country? If yes, please specify.**

Apart from the funds related to sectoral strategies, there is a program mainly dedicated to the Moroccan blue economy,

- Budget: 350 M\$
- Financing instrument: Program for Results (PPR)
- 2 pilot regions
- 8 Disbursement Linked Indicators (LDI) and 6 intermediate indicators
- Implementation period: 5 years (Closing date 07/31/2027)

3 - **What are the main challenges, issues, or bottlenecks for the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration in your country?**

- The fragmentation of policies and budgetary planning hinders unlocking the national potential of the blue economy
- Limited investment opportunities, hampering the potential for job creation, and business development.



Thanks for your attention