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20th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy meeting
Brussels, 14 -15 October 2026

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

Major updates on progress at national level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

- **National Blue Economy Strategy – final draft validated in May 2026.**
- **Blue economy projects embedded in Jordan’s Economic Modernization Vision Executive Programme 2026–2029.**
- **Aqaba Marine Reserve inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2026- more commitment towards adopting Blue economy principles.**
- **Blue Economy Center for Innovation (BECI) officially launched in Aqaba and operational.**
- **Aqaba ICZM Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2030 completed/published.**
- **Marine Spatial Planning process initiated for the Jordanian Gulf of Aqaba.**
- **Blue finance, green ports, circular economy and marine pollution preparedness advanced during 2026.**



Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	Seasonal fishing closure implemented; Training Manual for Fishermen in Aqaba launched; and fishing regulations currently being updated to strengthen sustainable fisheries management.
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	Local Green Ports Working Group established in Aqaba under GREENMEDPORTS; port and logistics stakeholders engaged on green-port actions, Dive Sites Carrying Capacity, Sustainable Diving in the Gulf of Aqaba: Identifying the Carrying Capacity of the Aqaba Marine Reserve
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	Blue Flag coverage expanded to 16 sites in Jordan, including 13 in Aqaba; two Aqaba tourist vessels became the first eco-tourism boats in the Middle East awarded Blue Flag certification; and an Ecotourism Strategy for Aqaba was developed to promote sustainable, nature-based tourism.
Marine Renewable Energies	Green ammonia development advanced in Aqaba, linking renewable energy, seawater desalination, green hydrogen and low-carbon industry.
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	Creative Circular Economy Center construction launched; Integrated Waste Management Master Plan consultancy initiated for Aqaba.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	Integrated Marine Pollution Preparedness and Contingency Plan initiated to strengthen preparedness and response to oil, chemical and other marine pollution risks.
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	BECI launched; blue economy entrepreneurship and community innovation initiatives advanced; Aqaba Ocean Innovation Hub / Marine Park initiative progressed. Marine research Awards International and regional collaboration on Marine research e.g. with Norway, Switzerland and Saudia Arabia Active Blue Economy Programs & Training in Aqaba

Projects at national (and sub-national) level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Projects at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	HESBERSGA and MedPROACT include sustainable fisheries/community components relevant to Jordan; national seasonal fisheries management continued. RedSeaFish Project – FAO/GEF regional project supporting sustainable fisheries management, improved fisheries governance and sustainable use of marine resources in the Red Sea Large Marine Ecosystem, with Jordan as a participating country.
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	GREENMEDPORTS; Maqta Ayla Digital Solutions / Port Community System and truck-management implementation.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	Protecting Marine Biodiversity in Aqaba (EmBRACE), Support and build a more Sustainable Blue Economy in Aqaba through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and effective management of the first marine reserve in the country, Green Fins Jordan – Gulf of Aqaba Resilient Reefs Programme (GFCR), Blue Flag Programme
Marine Renewable Energies	Aqaba Green Ammonia Project.
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	Integrated Waste Management Master Plan; Creative Circular Economy Center.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	Integrated Marine Pollution Preparedness and Contingency Plan under EmBRACE.
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	Blue Economy Center for Innovation (BECI); Advancing Blue Economy Innovation through Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurship; Aqaba Ocean Innovation Hub / Marine Park Initiative. Aqaba Blue Finance Platform (ABFP) funded by Green Environment Fund (GEF)
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	HESBERSGA and MedPROACT include sustainable fisheries/community components relevant to Jordan; national seasonal fisheries management continued. Support and build a more Sustainable Blue Economy in Aqaba through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and effective management of the first marine reserve in the country

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?

Yes. Jordan has advanced preparation of a National Blue Economy Strategy. A national validation workshop was held in Aqaba on 14 May 2026 to review the final draft. The Strategy covers governance, sustainable tourism, fisheries and aquaculture, ports and logistics, renewable energy, marine environmental protection, innovation, coastal infrastructure and sustainable blue finance. The final draft was validated in 2026 and is currently undergoing the formal approval process.



Open questions

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.

Jordan is advancing dedicated blue-finance mechanisms, particularly through the Aqaba Blue Finance Platform (ABFP). The platform is designed to mobilize and channel public and private finance toward sustainable and reef-positive Blue Economy investments, develop an investment pipeline, strengthen enterprise investment readiness and connect promising businesses and projects with financing opportunities. BECI complements this through Blue Economy entrepreneurship and enterprise development. The newly operational Environment Fund is another national funding/financing scheme that is promoted as an instrument to support blue economy initiatives and projects.



Open questions

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

The main challenges include effective coordination across sectors and institutions, mobilizing sustainable financing, strengthening data and monitoring systems, and translating emerging strategies and plans into coordinated implementation in addition to regional unrest and geopolitics.

