



RÉPUBLIQUE
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BLUE CARBON
FACILITY

A TOOL



Blue Carbon — Facility

An AFD initiative to strengthen knowledge, public policies, and financing in support of blue carbon.

#WorldInCommon

A blue carbon facility — Why ?

Key ecosystems for climate and coastal life

Blue carbon refers to the carbon captured and stored by coastal ecosystems—such as mangroves, seagrass meadows, and salt marshes—in their biomass and sediments. These ecosystems can absorb up to four times more CO₂ per hectare than terrestrial forests, and do so over very long periods. Beyond their role in carbon sequestration, they are essential for the protection and adaptation of coastal areas: they shield shorelines from storms, support marine biodiversity, and provide vital resources for local communities. When these ecosystems are destroyed, they stop capturing carbon and instead become sources of emissions. Their protection therefore serves a dual purpose in addressing the climate crisis: mitigation and adaptation.



Over 30% of mangroves have disappeared in less than 50 years.



Seagrass meadows are declining at a rate of approximately 2 to 7% per year.



Salt marshes are affected by sea level rise, pollution, and land artificialization.

An underutilized lever for the ecological transition

Despite their importance, blue carbon ecosystems are still largely overlooked in climate and biodiversity policies. Yet their potential is recognized by the IPCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and instruments such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The Blue Carbon Facility aims to enhance the protection and management of these vital ecosystems through three main areas of action.

Scaling up

— To effectively protect these ecosystems

- ⌞ Better understand, measure, and map them;
- ⌞ Anchor their protection in public policies (climate, biodiversity, land use planning)
Mobilize sustainable financing, notably through
- ⌞ carbon finance or payments for ecosystem services.

A concrete response to strengthen actions — on the ground

The Blue Carbon Facility (BCF) is a financing program launched by the French Development Agency (AFD) with the support of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. With a budget of 6 million euros over four years (2024–2028), its objective is to create lasting conditions for the protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems in partner countries. The Facility operates as a flexible instrument supporting pilot projects—technical, scientific, and institutional—and is structured around three complementary pillars:

Strengthen knowledge

- ┌ Support for scientific research on coastal ecosystems (mapping, monitoring, and carbon stock estimation)
- ┌ Improvement of national and regional databases
- ┌ Dissemination of results to policymakers and the general public

Pilot innovative financing models

- ┌ Support for pilot projects in blue carbon finance (carbon credits, payments for ecosystem services, debt-for-nature swaps)
- ┌ Establishment of scalable and attractive mechanisms for investors and donors
- ┌ Sharing of experiences and advocacy for fair and inclusive blue finance

Support public policies

- ┌ Integration of blue carbon into policy frameworks (climate, biodiversity, coastal zones)
- ┌ Support for local and national authorities in planning and regulation
- ┌ Capacity building for institutions responsible for coastal zone management

How does it work ?

— Samuel Henry, AFD Blue Carbon Facility Project Officer

To select the initiatives to be supported, we identify project opportunities through our technical experts—particularly in biodiversity and rural development—as well as through our field offices, or via targeted calls for proposals. We also rely on the support of colleagues from other technical divisions and agencies to help identify potential projects. Each initiative benefits from tailored support, adapted to the local context, and activities are carried out by consortia of actors

(NGOs, scientific institutions, local authorities). Overall coordination is ensured by AFD, in close collaboration with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and technical partners.

The Facility plans to support around 15 actions,

distributed among:

- ┌ 5–8 light support actions (studies, ~€100,000)
- ┌ 5–8 medium-scale support actions (technical assistance, ~€500,000)
- ┌ 2–3 pilot projects (~€600,000–750,000)

Fo a world in common

The AFD Group helps implement France's policy on development and international solidarity. It is composed of the French Development Agency (AFD)—responsible for financing the public sector, NGOs, research, and training on sustainable development—its subsidiary Proparco, dedicated to private sector financing, and Expertise France, the technical cooperation agency. Together, the Group finances, supports, and accelerates transitions toward a fairer and more resilient world.

We work hand in hand with our partners to design shared solutions, with and for the people of the Global South. Our teams are engaged in over 4,000 projects on the ground, in the French overseas territories, across 115 countries, and in crisis-affected areas, addressing global commons—climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality, education, and health.

Through this action, we contribute to France's and the French people's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For a world in common.



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