



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
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13th UfM Working Group on Blue Economy (Brussels - 14 March, 2023)

Monitoring and Reporting by Ministerial priority:
Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 202 UfM
Ministerial Declaration on SBE – **MOROCCO**

1. Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region (1)

- Morocco has been a party to **the United Nations Convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS 1982)** since 2007;
- Morocco has been actively involved in the negotiations for the conclusion of an **agreement on a legally binding international instrument on marine biodiversity within areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)**;
- **The GFCM 2030 Strategy** for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea constitutes an efficient roadmap at the national level;
- The Adhesion on May 2022 to **the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)** expresses the strong political will of the country to reinforce the existing legal framework aiming to prevent and fight IUU fishing;
- The country is contributing actively to the review process related **to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols**;
- The country is determined to build on the achievements attained so far by **the WestMED Initiative** in order to realize blue projects, falling within the established national priorities.



1. Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region (2)

- Although Morocco does not have an integrated maritime policy per se, the synergy between all the stakeholders remains viable in practice;
- The involvement of the country in **the FAO Blue Port Initiative (BPI)** will foster the managerial and technical capacities of port operators and create a network of blue ports;
- During the « **One Ocean Summit** » (Brest, 2022) and the **UN Ocean Conference** (Lisbon, 2022), Morocco have reiterated its political will to endeavor towards the preservation of the ocean and urged countries and international organizations to promote the exchange of technical and scientific research capacities;
- the updated version of the **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** reflects the commitment to reducing the effects of climate change.



1. Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region

(3)

- **The 2030 National Port Strategy** is a comprehensive roadmap for the development of the port sector;
- **The National Coastal Plan** (2020) aims essentially to reconcile environmental protection and economic activities;
- The “**clean beaches Program**” (1999) monitored by the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection (M6FEP) aims to protect beaches and coastlines;
- **A National Emergency Plan for the Fight Against accidental Marine Pollution** (PUN) has been established to protect Moroccan waters from potential hazards. This contingency plan is assessed through regular exercises (SIMULEX);
- **The Halieutis Strategy** has paved the way toward the elaboration of a set of best practices within the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, in particular with regard to Mediterranean fishing activities.



1. Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region (4)

- The implementation of the **National Sustainable Development Strategy (2017)** seeks a transition towards a green and inclusive economy by 2030;
- In terms of energy transition objectives, Morocco aims to increase production capacity for solar, wind, and green hydrogen so as **to achieve a green energy share of 52% by 2030**;
- **The New Development Model (2021)** aims to release energies and regain trust to accelerate the march of progress and prosperity.



2. Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment (1)

- The National strategy for the development of scientific research by 2025 is an institutional roadmap for the promotion of research and innovation;
- **The National Institute for Fisheries Research (INRH)**, has carried out an ambitious research and development program since 2010, through, among other things, the assessment of fish stocks and the impact of climate change on fishery resources (200 million DH);
- **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 and ensures the monitoring and anticipation of technological innovation;
- **The Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM)** has contributed to Morocco's inclusion on the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) white list and to the recognition of the Moroccan certificates by the European Commission.



Audits and Certifications



IMO audit

Recognition by IMO: audit carried out on May 20-21, 2015 (Whitelist).



EMSA audit

European recognition: audit carried out on May 10-11, 2017.



IALA audit

Accreditation for providing IALA training sessions : audit done on July 2018.



ISEM is a partner of WMU

MoU signed on June 19, 2019



ISO audit

ISO Certification 9001/2015, on April 26, 2019.

Validity: April 2022

Major partners of the ISEM



2. Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment (2)

- **The Port Training Institute (IFP)** provides quality education on the management of port operations and leads currently several actions of international cooperation, with respect, particularly to training dealing with aids to navigation in partnership with IALA and IMO;
- Morocco took part in the project called "**Entrepreneur Generation**" as part of the Mediterranean initiative for jobs (Med4Jobs) launched in 2017;
- The project « **Morocco-Med Blue innovation corridor** » designed for the Oriental region has sought to stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation, develop and skills, encourage regional, cross-border, international cooperation and financing possibilities and opportunities for technical and financial partnerships;
- With respect to the **PortNet electronic platform**, the National Ports Agency has set up an online service allowing the processing of badge requests for the users of the port of Casablanca.



3. Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports (1)

- The EBRD and the National Port Agency signed on May 2022 the documents of a loan of 40 million Euros (without state guarantee) to support the Agency in its policy on ensuring climate resilience with respect to ports;
- Conclusion of a partnership with the Moroccan Agency of Sustainable Energy (Masen), aiming to speed up the transition process;
- The NPA launched on October 2022 a call for tenders for a study **aiming to carry out a carbon balance sheet and to assess direct and indirect GHG emissions related to the activities carried out in ports falling under the competency of the NPA (The project is underway);**



3. Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports (2)

- Pursuant to its social and environmental responsibility Policy established in 2016, the NPA has endeavored to achieve the envisaged objectives with due consideration to economic, environmental social, and societal factors;
- Technical assessment and sizing study of marine pollution prevention and control systems in certain NPA ports (Quality of water along the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Coast...);
- **The Moroccan Logistics Development Agency (AMDAL)** endeavors pursuant to state-region contracts to develop logistics zone projects:
 - The launch of development works related to the first phase of the logistics zone in the Souss Massa region (45 ha, 350 million DH)



4. Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture (1)

- **The Halieutis strategy (2010-2020)** has been instrumental in creating a new dynamic within the fisheries sector;
- **Some achievements of the Halieutis Strategy:**
 - Two-fold increase of sectoral added value and export turnover
 - Creation of **48 000** new direct jobs
 - An average annual increase of **15%** in investment in fishing industries
- **What about the current situation?**
 - Production: **1.56 million tons**
 - Sectoral employment: **890 000**, including **240 000** direct jobs
 - The contribution to the **GDP is around 2.3%**.



4. Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

- The establishment of a roadmap aiming to reinforce the sustainability of small pelagic fisheries;
- **The Blue Belt Initiative** (UNFCCC COP 22), is a collaborative platform that put into practice innovative solutions for the adaptation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to climate change and for the resilience of oceans and climate;
- Morocco hosted the second Blue Belt Conference at the side of the Halieutis Expo organized in Agadir from January 31 to March 05, 2023, with the participation of quite a number of African ministers and other regional and international organizations;
- Participation of Morocco in **the technical Group AquaWest**, which aim to support the adoption of innovative, eco-compatible sustainable aquaculture practices in the western Mediterranean region;
- the process of finalization of a new strategy is underway.



5. Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy (1)

- An **eco-tax on plastic** was introduced in **2014** in Morocco, in order to encourage the recycling and recovery of plastic waste;
- The promulgation of **Law 77-15 on the Banning of plastic bags (2015)** represents a coercive legal tool to limit the use of plastics, particularly within the commercialization process;
- The amendment of **law 28-00 on Waste Management (2006)** introduces for the first time the concept of **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**, which consists, particularly on setting up an end-of-life collection and recycling system;
- **The program «Plastic-Free Coastline»** provides tools to reduce marine plastic pollution, through the implementation of circular economy models and the promotion of the use of ecological alternatives;
- **The « Clean Beaches » campaigns** launched by the Foundation Mohammed VI for the Protection of the Environment are efficient actions whose objective is to strengthen ecological awareness through partnership and pooling of efforts of all stakeholders.



5. Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy (2)

- The adhesion of the country to the international efforts aiming to end plastic pollution as reflected through the adoption of the UN Environment Assembly **resolution 5/14** ((2022) is an impetus to promote the inception of more valorization and recycling projects;
- Initiatives such as the “**Moroccan Supermarkets tackling Single-Use Plastics**” (MOSSUP) project has been partnering with Moroccan supermarket chains since early Spring 2021, helping the country to take important steps to address plastic pollution.



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6. Coastal and maritime tourism

- As a whole, 2022 was the year of recovery for Moroccan tourism, with a recovery after the COVID pandemic of around 72%. 92% of air traffic was recovered and more than 10 million visitors have chosen the country as their favorite destination;
- The main partners of the sector are the Department of tourism, the Moroccan National Tourism Office, and the Moroccan Tourism Engineering Company;
- The objectives of the new roadmap of the sector 2023-2030 are:
 - Establish new engineering of the tourist offer
 - Boost international and domestic air connectivity
 - Stimulate the private investment
- A partnership between the Department of Marine Fisheries and ACCOBAMS on an ecotourism project.



7. Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

National workshops

November, 2019 (MSP Global)	The Maritime Spatial Planning and the Blue Economy
September, 2020 (MSP Global)	Strategic perspectives for the implementation of MSP at the national level. -National recommendations for setting a regional roadmap-
December 2021 (MSP Global)	Maritime spatial planning in the framework of the blue economy and Morocco's new development model
June , 2022 (European Commission)	The development of a sustainable blue economy in the context of maritime spatial planning

Regional workshops and Seminars

- September,2022 (MSPMED) Morocco, Spain	<i>Technical Workshop on MSP and specific sectors: marine renewable energies and aquaculture</i>
- December 2022- February 2023 (UN Environment Programme) Mediterranean ActionPlan PAP/RAC	<i>Online seminar entitled “MSP for the Mediterranean” (GEF funded MedProgramme</i>





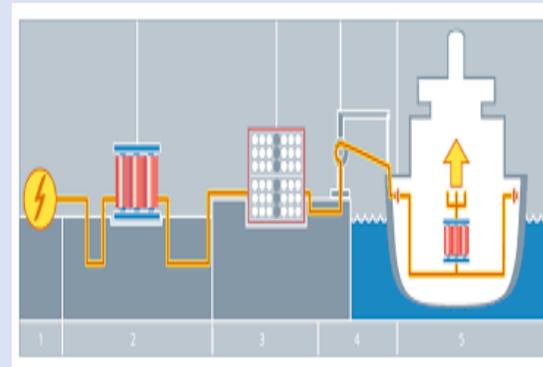
8. Marine renewable energies (1)

- The National Ports Agency has carried out an electrical audit on 15 ports, mainly small ones in order to identify the source of energy savings, with due consideration to the study of integration of renewable energy alternatives;
- A partnership agreement has been convened with the Solar Energy Research Institute (IRESEN), in order to provide support and technical assistance in the field of green hydrogen and its derivatives;
- Conclusion of a partnership with the Moroccan Agency of Sustainable Energy (Masen), aiming to speed up the transition process;
- Consultations are underway with the World Bank to launch a study on the bunkering of ships with clean fuel within moroccan ports.



8. Marine renewable energies (2)

- Installation of photovoltaic lighting in the ports covered by the NPA ;
- Feasibility study for supplying cruise ships with electrical energy at the port of Casablanca. The objectives to be achieved are the following:
 - Assess the state of supply at quayside and the needs of electrically powered cruise ships;
 - Carry out an international benchmark on the practices of supplying cruise ships with electrical energy;
 - Study the technical and economic viability of supplying cruise ships with electrical energy.



9. Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities (1)

- As a port state, the country approves security assessments to ensure the certification of its ports and port facilities;
- There is a will to consolidate the national legal and regulatory framework so as to be in line with existing mandatory international regulations prescribed by the IMO (SOLAS, ISPS...);
- As a coastal state, considerable efforts have been deployed to ensure the safety of navigation through investing, inter alia, in the maintenance of maritime beacons, lighthouses, and aids to navigation along the Moroccan coasts;
- **The Maritime Traffic Monitoring Center (CSTM)** of Tangier is tasked to monitor maritime traffic in the Strait of Gibraltar, known for its restrictive navigation conditions (high density, unfavorable weather conditions);



9. Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities (2)

- As a party to the 1979 International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue at Sea (SAR), the Kingdom of Morocco has endeavored to develop a national Search and Rescue (SAR) system, covering a strategic maritime area of more than 1 million km²;
- The coordination of SAR operations is ensured by **the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) located in Bouznika** and the Royal Moroccan Navy is tasked with on-scene duties.
- the MRCC of Bouznika is at the same time the regional Center for the Coordination of Maritime Search and Rescue Operations of the West African region, including the maritime areas of Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, and Guinea-Bissau;
- Morocco was re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the period 2022-2023.

10. Sustainable investments in the blue economy (1)



The port of Tangier Med ranks in the Top 3 of the most efficient container ports in the world, according to the assessment of « Priceonomics »



10. Sustainable investments in the blue economy (2)

New Port of Dakhla Atlantic

- This mega project of strategic importance for West Africa and for the southern provinces of the country will support the economic, social, and industrial development of the region.
- It will provide the region with modern logistics able to attract investment opportunities and boost connectivity, particularly with respect to African ports.
- **industrial-logistic zone, a commercial exchange zone, and another dedicated to the promotion of maritime fishing activities.**
- Main works: trade basin equipped with **an oil berth, a coastal and deep-sea fishing basin and a ship repair yard**
- Expected area : **1650 hectares**
- Expected cost : **12,5 billion DH**
- The timeline: **2021-2028**
- The first terminals will be in service in **2029**



40 km from the southern city of Dakhla located on the Atlantic coast of the country



New Port Nador West MED

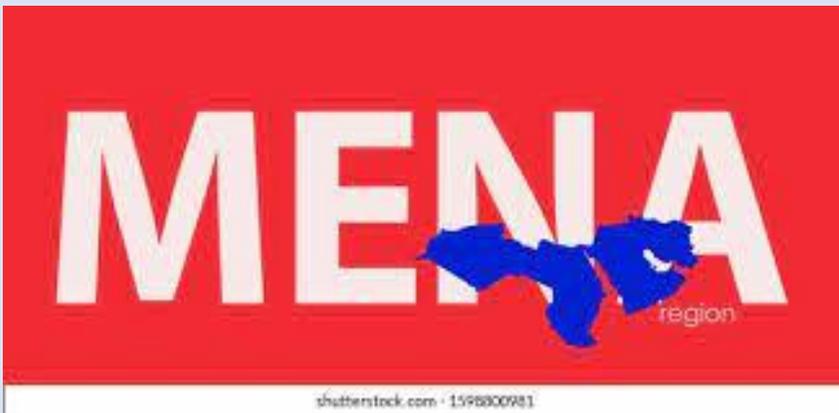
- Initiated in 2016, the port of Nador West MED envisages the creation of capacities for bulk and energy products, in addition to container terminals;
- This infrastructure seeks the economic, social, and industrial development of the oriental region of the country;
- The construction of the first port module is expected to be finalized **before the end of June 2024**;
- - *a main breakwater: 4300 m*
- *two container terminals: 1620 m, 600 m*
- *An oil terminal with three oil berths with a depth of -18 m*
- *a bulk carrier terminal: 360 m quay and a depth of -20m*
- *a miscellaneous terminal with a depth of -11m*
- The EBRD granted a loan of 100 million euros to the Nador West Med company (NWM).



30 km from the northern city of Nador located on the Mediterranean coast of the country



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- The World Bank approved on June 09, 2022, a US\$350 million loan to support the Government of Morocco in launching of its Blue Economy program. The program aims to **improve job creation and economic growth, as well as the sustainability and resilience of natural resources and food security;**
- The Ministry of Economy and Finance represented by the program management Unit and the World Bank jointly carried out a supervision mission of the Blue Economy Program, from October 17 to 26, 2022. This mission was marked by various meetings with partners as well as visits on the ground mainly in the region of Agadir;
- It is expected to establish three marine protected areas in Agadir, Larache, and Cap of three Fourches and to develop income-generating activities for the benefit of Moroccan fishermen;
- The program will support the project on the multi-year acquisition of very high-resolution satellite images, which is monitored by the Directorate of Ports and the Public Maritime Domain.

Strengthen the capacity of North African countries to develop Blue Economy growth opportunities and climate resilient coastal investments at national and regional levels

Pillar 1: Building the Analytical Foundation for Strategic Engagement on the Blue Economy

Coastal erosion analytics on the North Africa shore

Tacking marine and coastal pollution

Pillar 2: Blue Economy and Integrated Coastal Management in Morocco

Analytics for the Rabat-Sale Kenitra regional coastal plan

Marine Spatial Planning

Natural capital accounting for Morocco

Inputs for a Blue Economy Strategy in Morocco

Technical note for the Blue Economy in Morocco

COVID-19 impacts on the fisheries

Innovative Financing

Pillar 3: Blue Economy and integrated coastal management in Tunisia

Technical note for the Blue Economy in Tunisia

Inputs for a Blue Economy Strategy in Tunisia

Pillar 4: Blue Economy and integrated coastal management in Gaza and the West Bank

Marine plastic pollution

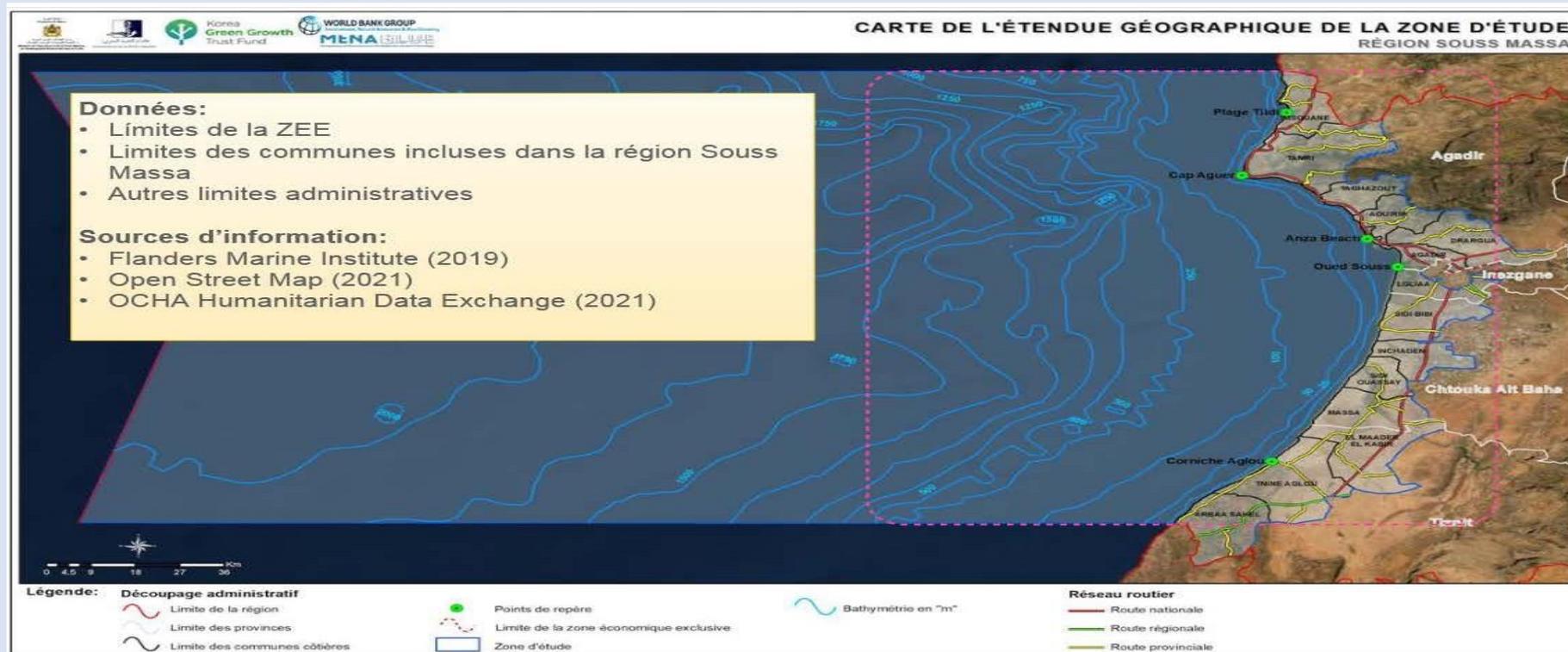
Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management



Development of a marine spatial planning process to support the creation of an MPA in the Agadir Souss Massa region

Technical assistance from the Korean fund managed by the World Bank

- The National Strategy for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for fishing Morocco validated in September 2011 is a genuine framework.



THANK YOU

anwari.nabil2020@gmail.com