



KINGDOM OF MOROCCO



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural
Development, Water and Forests
Department of Fisheries

ND EDITION
2 HIGH LEVEL
CONFERENCE
BLUE BELT INITIATIVE

FOR SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL
INTEGRATION IN FAVOR OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

CONCEPT NOTE

JANUARY 31, 2023
AGADIR, MOROCCO

THE BLUE BELT INITIATIVE

Born in the wake of the Paris Agreement (CoP21), recognizing the importance of the integrity of marine ecosystems in the response to climate change, the Blue Belt Initiative, commonly referred to as the "Blue Belt Initiative" (BBI), is launched by the Kingdom of Morocco in 2016 (CoP22, Marrakesh, 2016) within the framework of the Action Agenda of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in particular alongside partners such as the United Nations for Food and Agriculture (FAO) and the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT), the African Development Bank (ADB), and many other regional and international organizations.

The initiative contributes to the international dynamic of strengthening coherence between the fight against climate change, the fight against the collapse of biodiversity and the fight against hunger and poverty, to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) by 2030.

The vital role of the oceans in the climate machine and their function as providers of many ecosystem services (oxygen, food, medicines, transport and energy, etc.), requires us to preserve them. As such, their state of health, particularly affected by human activities, led to the declaration of the "state of emergency of the oceans" at the last United Nations Ocean Summit (Lisbon, July 2022).

Accelerating the implementation of concrete actions to transform the way we exploit the regions in order to ensure their resilience is now a widely shared necessity, but it still faces a lack of consensus on how to get there.

To facilitate the adhesion of all and anchor the desired blue transformation on sustainable bases, the actions undertaken must be such as to target as a priority the users of the oceans,

encouraging them to adopt new ways of exploiting and helping them to seize the opportunities offered by the oceans in optimal, ecological, social and economical ways.

The Blue Belt Initiative (BBI) aims to provide an effective collaborative instrument to promote responsible practices in the use of marine ecosystem goods and services,

which will facilitate and accelerate the implementation of regional and national strategies. fisheries sustainability.

Targeting coastal areas, a priority area generating more than 85% of global fish production, the objective of the BBI is the establishment of a real belt of food security, preservation of biodiversity, and fight against effects of climate change.

BBI relies on the circular economy and multi-stakeholder networking, it promotes and supports the incubation of innovative projects based on verified, actionable, effective solutions that promote the adaptation and mitigation of climate change. It places ocean operators and users at the heart of the process of training and transition to an inclusive blue economy.

To catalyze networking, federate methodological efforts, promote technology transfer, support and accompany incubated projects, BBI provides a "collaborative platform"

which brings together and mobilizes all the actors and resources necessary for the success of projects (research, innovation, expertise, institutions

state, financial institutions and implementing agencies).

The BBI's strategic plan frames the actions and solutions to be implemented and promoted. The latter are divided into three interconnected and fundamental axes for the sustainable development of the fisheries production system: observation (ocean sciences), sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture. This will involve:



Develop and strengthen national and regional capacities for oceanographic, biological and environmental monitoring and surveillance, as well as environmental and health alert systems.

In this sense, the development of participatory and citizen approaches such as the concepts of "Fisherman - observer", "sentinel fishing", and "sentinel village", are encouraged and can constitute real "game-changers" to quickly emerge optimal observation systems.



Develop solutions to maintain a biologically sustainable rate of fisheries production, reducing fishing pressure, valuing catches along the value chain, and protecting and restoring marine habitats.

Particular attention is paid in this sense to solutions such as new ways of identifying and managing Marine Protected Areas through marine spatial planning in connection with the connectivity of essential habitats, bio-developments (coastal protection solutions, ecosystem restoration based on nature, and traditional know-how).

It is also a question of promoting solutions allowing the transfer of fishing fleets towards vessels and means of fisheries production that are more economically and ecologically efficient, favourable to the ecological certification of fisheries.

The recovery and procession of seafood, generating added value locally, while limiting post-harvest losses according to the principles of the circular economy is also a major field of development to be promoted and will contribute significantly to a desired goal of all "producing more by fishing less".



Develop aquaculture (seaweed farming, fish farming, multi-trophic aquaculture, etc.), based on the principles of the circular economy, resilient to climate change, contributing to food security, supplying the marine biotechnology market, mitigation of greenhouse gases (CO2 sequestration, biomass, biofuel, carbon market, etc.), clean-up and restoration of ecosystems.

AGADIR CONFERENCE

The High-Level Conference of the Blue Belt Initiative (BBI) provides a platform for ministerial dialogue and decisive political sponsorship to strengthen priority regional cooperation in Africa. It aims to accelerate coordinated responses to the major challenges of climate change adaptation and mitigation, ocean conservation and the need for sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture.

Finally, it helps to guide the states and the whole some parties Stakeholders à Through one frame of consultation and regional political dialogue, towards the necessary blue transformation, in order to promote one other ways to exploit the Oceans. In demonstrating What the durability east economically profitable and in Making the fishermen and the aquaculturists, some champions of the durability.

Its 1st edition, held on February 19, 2019 in Agadir,

constituted a high point in the implementation of the Blue Belt Initiative, through the accession and political sponsorship of 17 African states and 5 strategic partners of the North including the EU, who unanimously expressed the firm will to strengthen multilateral cooperation within the framework of the collaborative platform proposed by the Blue Belt Initiative within the framework of the "Agadir Declaration".

The 22 countries expressed their support for BBI and called for the emergence of a "community- partners", through the rapid realization of its collaborative platform. An instrument for coordinating and facilitating cooperation activities to support partnerships, investments and the implementation of projects that fall within the framework of the BBI's Strategic Plan solution portfolio. In particular, it will help replicate success stories, transforming local experiences into global solutions.



OBJECTIVES OF THE 2ND EDITION

1. Present "Sustainable Business Oriented" projects, and "Proof of Concept", which are part of the BBI's axes, with a view to strengthening interest and engagement around the objective of transforming fisheries and aquaculture into locomotives of sustainability and the blue economy.
2. Present the respective contributions of BBI partners to the different axes of the initiative (ocean observation and science, Sustainable fisheries, and Sustainable aquaculture), and bring out, through dialogue and political sponsorship of the conference, potential cooperation actions and an active Blue Community Partners under the coordination of the BBI-Collaborative Platform.

PARTICIPANTS

- High-level political figures ;
- International organizations ;
- Funders;
- Institutional, economic, social and scientific actors operating in the fields of fisheries, aquaculture, the blue economy and the management of marine ecosystems and the environment.

DATE AND PLACE

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 from 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
At Hilton Taghazout (Agadir)





CONFERENCE AGENDA

OPENING AND WELCOME

Opening Remarks

13:30-13:45

- The Minister of Agriculture , Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests (MOROCCO)
- Welcome from the President of the Souss-Massa Region, Agadir

OCEAN OBSERVATION

13:45-14:45

- Expert advocacy : Why is data so important? (5 min)
- Inspiring African stories, how to move forward (film, 5 min)
- Ministers' Discussions: Achievements, Potential Contributions and Requests (5 min / Head of Delegation)

FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

14:45-16:00

- Expert advocacy : How to improve the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture? (5 min)
- Some inspiring stories in Africa and how to move forward (5 min film)
- Ministers' Discussions: Achievements, Potential Contributions and Requests (8 min / Head of Delegation)

GOVERNANCE & FUNDING BBI :

16:00-17:00

- Presentation of the BBI Collaborative - Platform
- Recommendations from International Organizations and funders : What mechanism to accelerate cooperation within the BBI?



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