



Voluntary Commitments of German Federal Ministries for UNOC 2025

(Compilation, June 2025)

Overview: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/ocean-commitments>

Voluntary Commitments of the BMUKN for UNOC 2025

- In 2024, the Federal Environment Ministry endowed the DBU (German Federal Environmental Foundation) with 400 million euros to set up the **Marine Nature Conservation Fund**. The projected annual revenues of around 10 million euros will, in particular, provide long-term, guaranteed financing for projects to protect marine species and habitats and expand nature-friendly offshore wind energy. Even before the start of the new Fund's work in 2025, the Federal Environment Ministry launched an immediate action programme in 2024 with a current volume of over 70 million euros to implement projects with the same goals.
- The **immediate action programme for dumped munitions** is geared to developing and constructing an industrial facility to recover and clear dumped munitions (munition and munition parts) in the German North and Baltic Seas.
- The **grant programme against marine litter** continues supporting projects in developing countries to reduce inputs of waste into the ocean at key points of waste generation (land-based and sea-based). 20 million euros in funding is planned annually for the years 2026 to 2028.
- The Federal Environment Ministry created a specific field of action for seas and coasts in the **Action Plan on Nature-based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity**. The goal is to increase the resilience of the ocean and seas in the climate crisis and improve the natural carbon storage capacities of ecosystems, enhancing the biodiversity of the ocean and coasts. The field of action covers the period from 2024 to (as a maximum) 2031.
- Support for partner countries in the Global South for the **designation of marine protected areas in the framework of the UN BBNJ Agreement**, from 2026 to 2031 (Living High Seas project in the framework of the International Climate Initiative, IKI)

Voluntary Commitments of the BMFTR for UNOC 2025

Renewal of the German research fleet

- Modern research vessels with the appropriate scientific equipment are an important prerequisite for exploring the oceans and their marginal seas. The data obtained during research cruises contribute to a better understanding of the biological, chemical, physical and geological processes of the ocean. This makes it possible to develop strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, to use and protect the oceans more sustainably and to improve the prediction of marine natural hazards.
The German government will therefore pursue the renewal of the German research fleet and provide a total of around 1.5 billion euros for the new research vessel METEOR IV and the research icebreaker POLARSTERN II by 2030.

Voluntary Commitments of the BMZ for UNOC 2025

Blue Action Fund:

- Germany reiterates its commitment to conserving and improving marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries by contributing a further 9.95 Mio EUR since 2022 to the Blue Action Fund, a joint financing instrument to support marine protection worldwide together with FRA, IRE, SWE, NOR and the Green Climate Fund. By June 2025 the fund overall has mobilised 200 Mio. Euros for projects with non-governmental organisations and local actors to enable them to significantly expand their activities aimed at conserving the oceans' biological diversity and using it sustainably. BMZ is the biggest donor to the fund. With its portfolio the fund reaches more than 760.000 beneficiaries, covering a total surface of 462.000 km² of marine protected areas in 22 countries.

Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative:

- Germany has committed additional 12 Mio. EUR to the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative. In partnership with the Nairobi Convention and the European Union, the initiative aims to enhance collaboration among regional and local stakeholders by improving coastal management. The initiative focuses on maritime biodiversity and promotes a sustainable blue economy by encouraging private sector involvement and fostering partnerships. In total BMZ has supported the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative with 37,4 Mio. EUR.

Strengthening sustainable fisheries value chains in Mauritania

- Germany commits 19 million Euro to support sustainable fisheries value chains and enhance employment in Mauritania. Although marine fishing is an important economic sector in Mauritania, the fisheries value chains are underdeveloped, offer few jobs and focus on the export of minimally processed fish. The project aims to increase fish production for human consumption and increase employment along the fisheries value chain through targeted financing and capacity building measures.

Supporting marine and coastal conservation efforts while strengthening sustainable fisheries in Mauritania

- Germany is providing 4 million euros to support measures to protect the seas and coasts and to promote sustainable fishing in Mauritania.
- In Mauritania, the fisheries sector is an important economic and nutritional resource. However, the supply of products from sustainable fisheries to the

Mauritanian population is inadequate. The project promotes synergies between fisheries and the protection of marine biodiversity. It strengthens cross-sectoral cooperation and promotes traceable, ecologically sustainable supply chains for food security.

Driving change in aquatic food systems through strengthening of regional fisheries management and small-scale aquaculture in Southern Africa

- Germany commits 17 million Euro to support aquatic food production through sustainable aquaculture in Malawi, Madagascar, Zambia, Uganda and foster regional fisheries governance in the SADC region.
- Increasing rates of undernourishment and a decrease in per capita consumption of fish in Africa in the last decade continue to threaten food and nutrition security. By providing technical and financial trainings to 17.000 small-scale fish farmers, the global programme “Sustainable Aquatic Foods” aims to increase the productivity of extensive aquaculture ponds in Madagascar, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. Additionally, the programme supports measures against IUU fishing and the inclusion of small-scale fisher organisations in policy dialogues to strengthen inclusive and equitable policy making in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Supporting the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector in African Countries

- Germany commits 16 million Euro to the Aqua Spark Africa Fund to scale up sustainable aquaculture in African countries.
- Significant expansion of the aquaculture sector is required to meet the protein demands of the growing population in African countries. The Aqua Spark Africa Fund supports companies along the entire aquaculture value chain to enhance the sustainable expansion of the aquaculture sector. This includes both financial and technical assistance.

Supporting the implementation of the 2022 WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement in developing and least developed countries

- Germany supports the **WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism with 2 million Euro**.
- The 2022 WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement marks a major achievement for ocean sustainability by prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies in the most alarming situations, including illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities. The WTO fisheries fund provides technical assistance and capacity building to developing economies and least-developed countries to support the implementation of the agreement.

Improving transparency in marine fisheries management by supporting the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

- Germany commits 4 million Euro to support good fisheries governance and stakeholder participation through the Fisheries Transparency Initiative
- Achieving sustainable fisheries requires action on many fronts, but the public availability of reliable information is arguably one of the most essential conditions. The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) is a global, voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to make fisheries data publicly accessible and inclusive by supporting countries to achieve high levels of transparency and thus ensuring sustainable fisheries management.

Fighting IUU fisheries through the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

- Germany commits 4 million Euro to strengthen measures against illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fisheries.
- IUU fisheries deplete fish stocks, damage marine ecosystems, undermine sustainable fisheries, and threaten food security and livelihoods. The cooperation with the FAO to support the implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement in Kenya, Madagascar, The Gambia and Senegal aims to strengthen port controls and denying port access to vessels engaged in such activities thereby preventing fish from illegal sources to enter (international) value chains.

Fighting IUU Fishing, Protecting Livelihoods: A Regional Pact for Southeast Asia's Blue Future

- Germany commits 4 million Euro to support activities against illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fisheries in ASEAN member states (Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand).
- The BlueFairFish project strengthens cross-border cooperation among ASEAN countries to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It supports the development of regional monitoring and control systems, promotes policy frameworks for sustainable fisheries management, and enhances coordination among key stakeholders. At the local level, the project empowers coastal communities through training, digital monitoring tools, and partnerships with small-scale fishers to encourage fair and sustainable fishing practices. Together, these efforts aim to protect marine ecosystems and secure livelihoods across Southeast Asia.

Shared Voluntary Commitment of BMUKN and BMLEH

OECD Recommendation on Eliminating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing

- Germany commits to strengthen its fight against IUU fishing by implementing the OECD Recommendation on Eliminating Government Support to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, which calls on Adherents to take strong measures to prevent public resources from unintentionally benefitting unscrupulous actors.
- Germany will develop and implement policy measures to reduce the risk that support benefits IUU fishing and to withdraw public money if it does, through careful subsidies design, rules on eligibility, and information-sharing and co-operation between relevant domestic, regional and international authorities. These measures will also contribute to the implementation of some of the key disciplines of the 2022 World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and support Germany in creating a sustainable and resilient fisheries.