

# WEST AFRICA SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PROGRAMME

## CONTEXT

The blue economy stakeholders network, or “Blue Network”, is an operational tool of Pillar 2 – “Sustainable Blue Economy” – of the [WASOP programme](#), implemented by Expertise France.

The Blue Network aims at connecting regional public and private stakeholders through thematic networks to strengthen their capacities and foster the development of strategic partnerships in West and Central Africa and with European players.

This initiative is part of the European Union’s Global Gateway strategy, which aims to support the emergence of a sustainable, inclusive, and competitive blue economy.

# THE BLUE & GREEN PORT NETWORK for West & Central Africa

## KEY ISSUES FOR WEST AFRICA

### The port sector, key challenges at a glance:

- ▶ **major economic pillar:** between 80 and 90% of West African countries’ foreign trade passes through ports, which are a key driver of GDP contribution, employment, and economic growth.
- ▶ **at the heart of international environmental challenges:** (i) ongoing negotiations on the adoption of the IMO - International maritime organization’s revised strategy targeting carbon neutrality in international maritime transport by 2050; (ii) a sector that cuts across multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): #8 #11 #12 #13 #14
- ▶ **strong value of territorial integration,** regional and international integration: ports are gateways for international trade and exchanges, linking national and regional economies to global value chains.
- ▶ The environmental transition is a lever for **sustainable modernisation of ports and a key competitiveness factor** (access to new markets), and also enables access to financing on more favourable terms.

The structuring of this regional network in West Africa offers port stakeholders the opportunity to play a driving role in the green and blue transition, building on concrete solutions, experience-sharing, and tailored tools.

## ANCHORING AND GOVERNANCE

### A network led by the [Port Management Association for West and Central Africa \(PMAWCA\)](#)



The “Blue & Green port network” is led by PMAWCA which mission is to: “cooperate and share knowledge on best practices in port management and operations in order to provide efficient and effective port services, while maintaining the best culture of safe, secure, and environmentally responsible port operations.” PMAWCA covers 20 coastal and island countries and 24 port authorities along the Atlantic coast of Africa from Mauritania to Angola, whose ports handle approximately 300 million tonnes of import-export maritime cargo for the sub-region (excluding crude oil).



## A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PUBLIC-PRIVATE APPROACH

The network will be composed of port authorities that are members of PMAWCA, as well as other business players from the port and maritime ecosystem, such as shipowners, logistics operators, terminal managers, and financial actors, in order to:

- ▶ facilitate the emergence of strategic public-private partnerships,
- ▶ co-develop green and blue solutions tailored to the diversity and specificities of stakeholders, ensuring their differentiated needs are taken into account.

## OBJECTIVES

**General:** Federate a network of public-private stakeholders committed to the environmental transition of the port and maritime sector in West and Central Africa, to support sustainable port partnerships and operations, particularly within the framework of Global Gateway.

More specifically:

- ▶ **Strengthen the capacities of stakeholders** and improve access to operational standards and tools,
- ▶ **Facilitate the emergence of strategic public-private partnerships** and financing with intra-regional stakeholders in West Africa as well as with European actors,
- ▶ **Advocate a coordinated regional voice** on the challenges and stakes of the environmental transition of the port and maritime sector.

## SERVICES OFFERED

- ▶ Experience-sharing and best practice exchange among regional and European peers
- ▶ Dissemination of knowledge on relevant standards/certifications
- ▶ Development of tailored methodological tools
- ▶ Support to structure public-private partnerships and financial arrangements
- ▶ Production of regional strategic analyses and studies
- ▶ Coordination of regional advocacy aimed at policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders on issues related to the environmental transition of the sector

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE BLUE & GREEN PORT NETWORK OR STAY INFORMED OF FUTURE NEWS ? CONTACT :** [secretariat@agpaoc-pmawca.com](mailto:secretariat@agpaoc-pmawca.com) and [wasopcoordination@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:wasopcoordination@expertisefrance.fr)

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