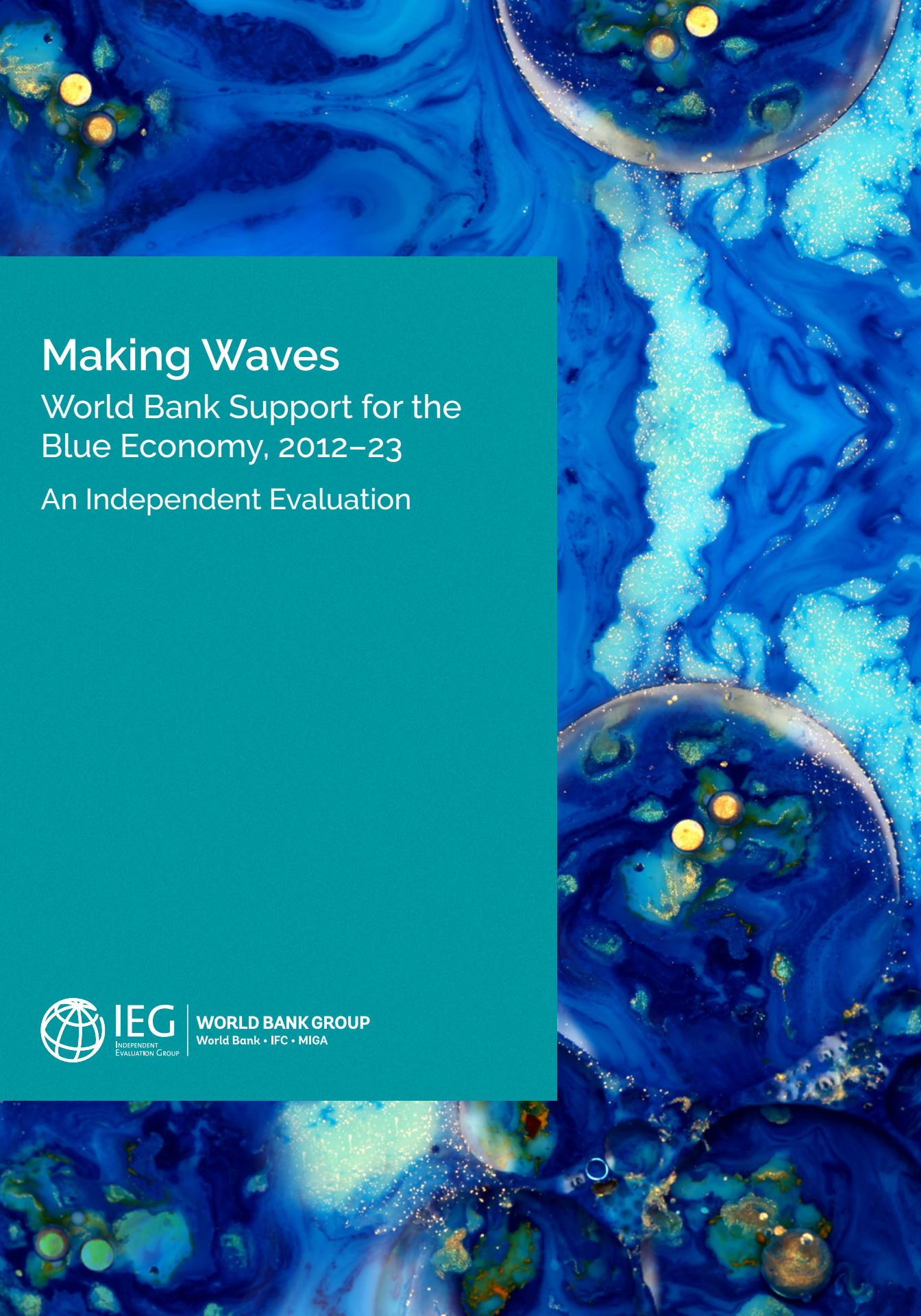

Making Waves

World Bank Support for the Blue Economy, 2012–23

An Independent Evaluation

IEG
Independent Evaluation Group

WORLD BANK GROUP
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An Independent Evaluation

August 19, 2024

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Abbreviations

ASA	advisory services and analytics
CCDR	Country Climate and Development Report
CEM	Country Economic Memorandum
CROP	Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project
ENB	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
FY	fiscal year
GP	Global Practice
ICZM	integrated coastal zone management
MSP	marine spatial planning
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
SCD	Systematic Country Diagnostic
SIDS	small island developing states

All dollar amounts are US dollars unless otherwise indicated.

Acknowledgments

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Gabrielle Johnson (marine scientist and senior international marine program manager), and Sanittawan Nikki Tan conducted the Indonesia case study, and Chikako Miwa (evaluation analyst) conducted the project performance assessment of the Indonesia Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project Phase II and Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program—Coral Triangle Initiative. Alvina Erman and Edward Willsteed (associate director at HMC) conducted the Cabo Verde case study. Joy Butscher, Lauren Kelly, and Antaya March conducted the Kenya case study. Elizabeth Dodds and Sally Judson (consultant) conducted the Morocco case study on desk and the project performance assessment of the Morocco Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project. Stephen Porter (senior evaluation officer) conducted an expanded Implementation Completion and Results Report Review of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program. Edward Willsteed conducted the small-scale fisheries analysis. Vanessa Smith (head of practice in natural capital at HMC) and Joseph Kofi Ansong (expert coastal and marine planner and consultant at HMC) conducted an analysis of integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning. Dickon Howell (director at HMC and visiting professor of practice at Newcastle University) provided overall advice and guidance.

The report was peer-reviewed by Chamberlain Emmanuel (head of the Environmental Sustainability Division at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission), Melissa Garren (founder and chief executive officer of Working Ocean Strategies), and Jonathan McCue (managing director of Sustainable Seas Ltd).

Management Response

Management of the World Bank thanks the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) for the opportunity to provide comments on *Making Waves: World Bank Support for the Blue Economy, 2012–23*. The evaluation assesses the implementation of the World Bank's blue economy approach to address ocean and coastal governance from 2012 to 2023. This agenda is critical because the ocean and coastal resources are integral to inclusive growth, jobs, livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and a livable planet. The report is also relevant for the evolution discussion and the Global Challenge Programs. Management thanks IEG for its ongoing collaboration.

World Bank Management Response

Overall

Management is pleased that the report acknowledges the progress made by the World Bank to integrate the blue economy lens into country diagnostics and operations. Notwithstanding the focus on assessing fidelity of actions to a particular definition of the blue economy, the report recognizes progress made by the World Bank in the overall agenda to emphasize further attention to scale-up and replication. Using focused analytics that support a holistic approach to the blue economy and incorporating the blue economy approach into country diagnostics of coastal nations, including small island developing states, is important given their acute vulnerability to climate change and economic reliance on coastal and marine natural assets. The blue economy remains a priority for the World Bank Group as signaled by having dedicated ocean-related Scorecard indicators under the green and blue planet and resilient populations outcome area and by recognizing the blue economy contribution to several other Scorecard indicators (for example, those related to food and nutrition security and renewable energy).

Management appreciates the recognition given to the groundbreaking PROBLUE multidonor trust fund, which has contributed to the uptake of the blue economy approach and the expansion of the investment portfolio.

PROBLUE has been recently extended to 2030 and will continue to act as a blue economy accelerator for clients, leveraging donor financing and supporting building a robust pipeline of investments. PROBLUE has also been at the forefront of numerous strong partnerships not only at the global and regional levels but also at the country level.

Management welcomes the report's recognition of the World Bank's work on regional platforms and enabling conditions. Considerable progress has been made in advancing the blue economy agenda, especially given the lengthy time frames and behavioral shifts that are necessary to transition to the blue economy approach. The World Bank has made use of financial instruments, including development policy operations, to help build enabling conditions for the adoption of the blue economy approach and has strengthened regional platforms. Progress is noteworthy in strengthening the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program Platform, various regional fisheries bodies, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' capacity to address coastal resilience, sustainable fisheries, and marine plastic pollution. The World Bank also made efforts to strengthen governance systems, including institutional arrangements, policies, and regulations, and to support marine spatial planning in a growing number of countries.

Recommendations

Management agrees with the first recommendation to further articulate the commitment to helping clients achieve a more holistic meaning of the blue economy. Although management believes that climate change and biodiversity are implicitly embedded in the World Bank's existing definition of the blue economy, it agrees that the explanatory statement could include these elements more explicitly. Management concurs that these changes would better highlight the integration of the various oceanic sectors under the blue economy approach, as described in *Riding the Blue Wave: Applying the Blue Economy Approach to World Bank Operations*. This will help redouble the efforts to communicate the multiple dimensions of the blue economy both internally and among partners and clients in relevant country engagements.

Management agrees with the second recommendation on proactively supporting a holistic blue economy approach in coastal and marine areas.

The blue economy work continues to evolve, and the management remains committed to proactively supporting clients to achieve sustainable and inclusive development of coastal and marine areas through the blue economy approach. Management welcomes IEG's assessment on how to better integrate the blue economy in country diagnostics (Systematic Country Diagnostics and Country Climate and Development Reports) but notes that the World Bank's work is country driven and focused on priorities identified by each country to meet their development goals. Management will continue operationalizing the blue economy approach in relation to country contexts; how it plays out in real time at the seascape level will look different—in scale and shape—from country to country.

Management agrees with the third recommendation on working effectively with partners and clients to help them develop necessary policy and institutional reforms in support of blue economy objectives. Management agrees with the recommendation to strengthen partnerships at the regional level and to promote the uptake of the blue economy approach across Global Practices and country units. Management will continue using the PROBLUE trust fund to implement the blue economy approach across sectors and to advance the report's recommendations.

Report to the Board from the Committee on Development Effectiveness

The Committee on Development Effectiveness met to consider the Independent Evaluation Group evaluation *Making Waves: World Bank Support for the Blue Economy, 2012–23* and the draft management response.

The committee welcomed the evaluation as timely and forward-looking and acknowledged its value in informing the next phase of the World Bank's support for the blue economy and future discussions on the wider climate change aims, including Corporate Scorecard discussions. Members expressed support for the Independent Evaluation Group's recommendations aimed at enhancing World Bank support for the blue economy. They also appreciated management's agreement with the evaluation's recommendations and commitment to implementing them. They underscored the significance of the blue economy in the context of the World Bank Group Evolution Roadmap and the importance of partnering with other development institutions to address Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below Water). Members acknowledged the World Bank's progress in implementing the blue economy agenda and encouraged management to better cover this agenda in the Bank Group Scorecard and the planned Global Challenge Programs. Members emphasized the cross-cutting aspects of the blue economy, noting its links to food security, climate change, biodiversity, poverty alleviation, and circular economy and its role as a driver of growth. They stressed the importance of addressing the knowledge gaps identified and expressed support for management's commitment to articulate a more holistic definition of the blue economy, enabling the concept to be used as a policy framing tool.

Members called on management to establish a more comprehensive approach to integrate the blue economy into the Bank Group's diagnostics and operations through cross-sectoral coordination, including Country Partnership Frameworks, Systematic Country Diagnostics, and Country

Climate and Development Reports, while continuing to tailor the approach to country-specific contexts. Some cautioned against using the holistic blue economy approach to restrict countries from accessing water to address essential livelihood needs. Members encouraged management to strengthen cooperation with key partners, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, and partnerships with regional platforms and national initiatives for enhanced effectiveness and impact. They expressed interest in identifying success stories from the World Bank's support for the blue economy to foster peer learning. The challenges of plastics and marine pollution were recognized, and the World Bank was urged to expand and support the production of plastic substitutes. Members also called for more green jobs, sustainable trade, and women's empowerment. They urged management to proactively support clients toward achieving sustainable development of coastal and marine areas by leveraging partnerships and enhancing the use of the PROBLUE trust fund as a catalyst for promoting the blue economy agenda across sectors.

Overview

Ocean and coastal resources are integral to sustaining life on Earth.

Oceans cover 71 percent of our planet's surface, contain 97 percent of its water, are home to over 90 percent of its species, and produce more than 60 percent of all oxygen (Cousteau, Cousteau, and Kraynak 2021). Oceans play a crucial role in climate regulation, and coastal resources, such as mangroves, sequester significant amounts of carbon. Acre by acre, mangroves store up to four times more carbon than terrestrial forests (Donato et al. 2011). Coastal resources also buffer hazards caused by natural disasters.

Oceans and coastal resources are vital for inclusive growth, jobs, and food and nutrition security. The value of marine and coastal resources and associated industries is estimated to be between 3 and 5 percent of global GDP (Patil et al. 2016). A total of 500 million people depend on small-scale fisheries for their welfare, mainly in developing countries (FAO, Duke University, and WorldFish 2023). In the least-developed countries, seafood is the primary protein source for over 50 percent of people and an important social safety net (FAO 2022). For small island developing states (SIDS), the exclusive economic zone—the area of ocean under their control—is, on average, 28 times the land mass. Thus, the economies of many SIDS are dependent on ocean and coastal resources. In these states especially, tourism (80 percent of which is coastal and marine) is a critical source of income and jobs.

However, ocean and coastal resources are in a state of emergency as a result of governance and management failures, which are compounded by low institutional capacity. Policies governing ocean and coastal resources are often fragmented, characterized by legal and regulatory gaps and overlapping institutional mandates. As a result, oceans and coastal areas have been treated as limitless resources and largely cost-free repositories of waste (World Bank and UN DESA 2017). Poorly regulated coastal development has resulted in the destruction of one million hectares of mangroves since 1990 (FAO 2020a; Merzdorf 2020). Some 34 percent of global fish stocks have been overfished, and 11 million tons of plastic waste and harmful agricultural and industrial

chemicals enter oceans annually (UNEP 2018). Delayed climate action is further threatening these resources.

The Blue Economy

International actors have proposed using a blue economy approach to address ocean and coastal governance failures. The blue economy concept was introduced at the 2012 Rio+20: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by coastal countries that wanted to draw attention to the negative effects of unmitigated economic growth on ocean and coastal areas and the lack of focus on this issue in international forums. Although there is no single definition of the blue economy, international actors have coalesced around the need to achieve healthy ocean and coastal resources to ensure life-sustaining ecosystem services that underpin inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of social welfare benefits (including food and nutrition security). The blue economy implies a shift from sector-led to integrated approaches requiring sector collaboration to identify synergies to manage trade-offs among different resource user groups and development aims. The blue economy also supports the achievement of climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy aims.

Evaluation Purpose, Questions, Scope, and Methods

The World Bank adopted a blue economy approach in 2016. Although the World Bank has historically supported marine and coastal development, it put forth a definition for the blue economy for the first time in 2016. It defined the blue economy as the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and job creation while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems" (World Bank 2017e). Since then, the World Bank has produced blue economy advisory and analytics, housed a multi-donor PROBLUE trust fund, and changed the name of its Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice to Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy.

The overarching evaluation question is, How well is the World Bank supporting a blue economy approach to achieve sustainable and inclusive

development of ocean and coastal states? We answer the overarching question by addressing two subquestions: (i) How well is the World Bank articulating blue economy aims, including in relation to other actors? and (ii) How well is the World Bank operationalizing blue economy aims? Because the blue economy is a relatively new concept, management requested and the Independent Evaluation Group agreed to conduct a forward-looking evaluation—that is, an evaluation that aims to help surface early implementation lessons to inform the future development of the World Bank's blue economy approach.

The evaluation scope consists of three parameters: geographic considerations, types of activities, and timing. The evaluation scope covers 109 countries with a coastline or any form of ocean access, including activities in their exclusive economic zones (within 200 nautical miles of their shoreline) but not activities in international waters where the World Bank has had any analytic or lending activities engaged (see appendix B for the country list). These 109 countries include 32 SIDS and 77 coastal countries. For these countries, we cover all Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCDs), Country Economic Memorandums, and Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs). We also cover all World Bank–published focused blue economy analytics at the global, regional, and country levels. The evaluation scope also includes four established sectors critical for the blue economy: (i) small-scale fisheries, (ii) plastics and marine pollution, (iii) marine and coastal tourism, and (iv) maritime transport infrastructure. For these sectors, we cover all projects (advisory services and analytics and lending) approved between 2016 and 2023. The overall evaluation covers 2012–23 but mainly focuses on 2016–23, after the World Bank's adoption of a blue economy approach. This is a World Bank–only evaluation (it excludes the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency).

The evaluation used a triangulated set of methods to answer the evaluation questions. To assess how well the World Bank has articulated the blue economy, in relation to other actors, we undertook a focused literature review, content analysis of World Bank blue economy–focused analytics and key partner publications, and global expert interviews and used content analysis to assess the presence and level of integration of the blue economy concept in World Bank country diagnostics for countries in scope. To assess

how well the World Bank is operationalizing the blue economy at the country and regional levels, we conducted case studies in 9 out of 19 countries that have (i) an ongoing national blue economy process (strategy, policy, or institutional development) and (ii) World Bank operational support focused on the blue economy that was mature enough to evaluate. The nine cases are Bangladesh, Belize, Cabo Verde, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, the Seychelles, and St. Lucia (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS]); an expanded validation review was also conducted for the Pacific Islands. To assess how well the World Bank is operationalizing the blue economy at the sector level, we used portfolio review and analyses and key informant interviews. We also examined the role of the PROBLUE multidonor trust fund—the fund established in the World Bank to support the blue economy—as part of the sector analyses.

Articulation of the Blue Economy

As a knowledge broker, the World Bank helped lift a progressive blue economy concept out of country workshops and onto the world stage, heightening its credibility through blue economy–focused analytics, often financed by bilateral partners. These analytics, mostly regional in nature, focused on the potential of the blue economy to achieve balanced economic, environmental, and social development aims in coastal and marine areas.

However, the World Bank's corporate definition of the blue economy falls short of articulating key tenets of the blue economy as expressed in its analytics. By corporate definition, we refer to the definition that can be found on the World Bank web page labeled "What Is the Blue Economy?" and on the PROBLUE homepage. The World Bank's corporate definition leaves out core tenets of the blue economy concept; these are more clearly and comprehensively articulated in the World Bank's own blue economy analytics (including *Riding the Blue Wave*, World Bank 2021d) and in the evolving concept put forth by key partners. Although the World Bank's corporate definition references three pillars (growth, livelihoods, and ocean health), the definition's focus on economic growth while *preserving* the health of the oceans suggests that the oceans are in a state of existing good health. The definition lacks references to the restorative potential of the blue economy, including efforts to regenerate, restore, and conserve resources. The definition also

lacks references to inclusion and equity, does not refer to integrated approaches, and appears decoupled from pressing food and nutrition security, climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy goals. Alongside the definition, the World Bank put forth a schematic and guidance note referred to as the *Blue Economy Development Framework*, which also exhibits the same limitations as the definition and is largely unfamiliar to and unused by both clients and partners.

The World Bank's corporate definition of the blue economy is also increasingly unaligned with the way key partners are evolving and articulating their understanding of the blue economy. International actors that work to achieve blue economy aims alongside the World Bank have increasingly clarified that the sustainable blue economy concept converges around the need for a more balanced approach, reconciling economic growth with environmental stewardship and social equity. In the case of the European Union, for example, this clarification represents a sea change compared with the previous definition that was focused on growth.

Clearly articulating the holistic purpose of the blue economy is important because clients are using the World Bank's corporate definition to inform their own blue economy strategies, and key partners rely on the World Bank to communicate the more holistic aim. As identified in the case studies, clients are using the World Bank's corporate definition to inform their own blue economy strategies. However, the case studies showed that these strategies are better at articulating blue growth aims than at articulating how triple-bottom-line objectives will be achieved across relevant ministries. The global expert interviews also indicated that many international, regional, and bilateral development agencies supporting clients with their blue economy development look to the World Bank to communicate holistic blue economy aims as part of their economic dialogue with clients. However, apart from a few key staff, the evaluation found that there is low understanding among World Bank staff interviewed of the more holistic meaning of the blue economy.

Integration into Country Diagnostics

The blue economy is being referenced in many SIDS country diagnostics, and it is slowly emerging in those for coastal states. Two-thirds of SIDS SCDs refer to the blue economy, which is logical because the concept is derived from the SIDS experience. The concept began to emerge in coastal state SCDs in 2020. Since then, 15 percent of the 72 coastal state SCDs have referred to the blue economy even though all SCDs reference at least one marine sector. It is also worth noting that the blue economy has been included in just five Country Economic Memorandums, four of which cover SIDS.

Although SCDs are beginning to reference the blue economy, comprehensiveness of the concept is low overall, and this limits decision makers' abilities to use the blue economy as a policy framing tool for the sustainable development of coastal and marine areas. Only 5 out of 18 SCDs that refer to the blue economy (OECS, the Seychelles, São Tomé and Príncipe, Kenya, and Mauritius) articulated well the need to reconcile economic, environmental, and social aims through sectoral coordination and planning in ways that identify synergies and address social trade-offs (with the OECS SCD being a best-case example). The remaining SCDs (13 out of 18) refer to the blue economy but continue to address sector issues in silos. Although emerging blue economy opportunities (for example, offshore energy) are cited, there is neither a discussion of sectoral coordination nor an analysis of how to address trade-offs, especially between growth and environmental sustainability. The absence of a discussion of trade-offs was most notable in SIDS that refer to the blue economy or multiple marine sectors as a source of comparative advantage (for example, fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism) without considering the negative impacts on other sectors (for example, impacts of rapid tourism development on fisheries through increased pollution and land use change or the negative impacts aquaculture facilities can have on coastal tourism).

Few CCDRs articulate how a blue economy approach can support national climate change and development goals. A total of 7 out of 23 CCDRs in scope refer to the blue economy, and 4 articulate clear links between marine activities and climate action (Ghana is a best practice example); 3 of the CCDRs that do not refer to the blue economy cover the countries for which this

topic is a key government priority (Indonesia, Morocco, and South Africa), and another 2 cover the countries where the blue economy is used to set priorities in the SCD. Apart from Indonesia, no CCDRs discuss the potential of blue carbon toward achieving nationally determined commitments.

CCDRs only partially identify risks posed by climate change to marine and coastal areas, and there is scant reference to how emerging sectors will affect the marine environment. A total of 74 percent of CCDRs identified at least one marine sector at risk from climate change. Risks posed to fisheries and coastal development were cited in half of the CCDRs, but there were few references to and no robust analyses of the effects of climate change on other sectors, such as ports and shipping. There is scant reference to how some infrastructure sectors—proposed as part of countries' mitigation or adaptation strategies, such as offshore renewables or desalination plants—will affect the marine environment.

The evolution reshapes the World Bank's vision and mission to include a "livable planet" but omits references to marine ecosystems. As per the September 2023 Development Committee paper, the newly launched Global Challenge Program on Forests for Development, Climate, and Biodiversity does not refer to the blue economy, and actions on biodiversity and nature do not refer to coastal or ocean resources (World Bank 2023a). This reflects a limited interpretation of a "livable planet," restricted to terrestrial environments, which overlooks the significant role of marine ecosystems in global ecological and economic systems.

Operationalizing the Blue Economy

The World Bank led a very effective effort to support blue economy policy and institutional development in the Eastern Caribbean. The World Bank relevantly used a governance approach in the Eastern Caribbean to help harmonize and develop blue economy policies and practices through regional analytics and the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project. This approach was in line with the World Bank's global blue economy analytics that cite the need for the World Bank to identify and address governance and institutional issues required to achieve blue economy aims (Patil et al. 2016; World Bank 2021d). As articulated by the World Bank, and as agreed to by

regional clients, the World Bank's focus on governance and data-driven decision-making in the Eastern Caribbean was a model to emulate in building the blue economy.

Elsewhere, the World Bank is mainly using sector entry points to address marine and coastal development challenges that are achieving sector results but that are not yet being leveraged to support more effective blue economy development. The governments of all nine case study countries are just beginning to establish coherent policy, strategy, and institutional mechanisms for effective blue economy development. World Bank operations in these countries are achieving sector results but are not yet being leveraged to seek out opportunities for sector synergies that maximize benefits and address trade-offs, and most are not supporting blue economy policy or institutional development (with few exceptions, such as in the OECS and Morocco). Addressing blue economy policy and institutional gaps is critical for achieving sustainable sector results. For example, in the absence of a blue economy approach, effective conservation efforts will be undermined by unsustainable tourism practices. Increased and diversified coastal and marine tourism will be negatively affected by inadequate waste management.

There have also been critical gaps between the launch of influential blue economy analytics and operational support that have hindered blue economy development. Across all the case study countries, World Bank analytic work on the blue economy, funded by PROBLUE or other trust funds, is well regarded by clients and has often helped shape the blue economy narrative. However, progress in taking forward this diagnostic and analytic work in blue economy policies and strategies either has stalled or has not been reinforced after initial engagements are completed. Maintaining country engagement is important since the blue economy approach requires a strong shift in practices and mentalities and often involves policy and institutional reforms that can face resistance. Engagement challenges are associated with the limited number of staff with blue economy expertise, staff rotations, and Country Management Unit buy-in for the concept.

The World Bank is also insufficiently leveraging its country experience with integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) to support inclusive blue economy development. A sustainable blue economy calls for a strategic,

integrated, and participatory approach to planning and managing coastal and marine areas. The World Bank was an early adopter of ICZM, a bottom-up, iterative governance approach to coastal development. In all projects, ICZM improved coastal management by resolving policy and institutional and jurisdictional issues and achieved environmental and social benefits. However, the World Bank has not updated its ICZM guidance in 30 years and is not connecting this approach to wider marine spatial planning or top-down marine and coastal investment.

Although the World Bank has helped strengthen sector platforms at the regional level, these efforts have yet to use a blue economy lens to promote coordination and coherence between sectors, including in areas such as fisheries, coastal resilience, marine plastic pollution, and so on. There have also been missed opportunities, for example within the African Union, to support regional bodies developing blue economy strategies. The landscape of regional organizations influencing the blue economy is complex. Influenced by regional political dynamics, these organizations include economic unions, fisheries management organizations, and ocean governance bodies that offer various blue economy entry points. In cases where the World Bank partners with regional organizations influential to the blue economy, its support has sometimes been out of step with the organizations' capacities and mandates.

The World Bank has integrated blue economy considerations in key sector analytics. It has put forth progressive global fisheries management guidance and a blue tourism report, and its marine plastics analytics and estimation models are being used to tackle plastic pollution globally, with support from the PROBLUE trust fund. It has also supported analytics on decarbonization in shipping and the greening of ports in the marine transport infrastructure sector.

Small-scale fisheries projects are increasingly being designed in line with progressive global fisheries guidance, which is capable of achieving blue economy aims. The World Bank's 2021 Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit includes social, ecological, and economic criteria that have the potential to improve the treatment of resource sustainability and social protection, alongside economic development, in operations. These principles are reflected in the analytic support to Myanmar (2020–21), where the

World Bank made a business case for improved fisheries governance and management as a means of fostering sustainable and inclusive growth. Projects in Peru (2017–23), Bangladesh (2019–present), Liberia (2022–present), Indonesia (2023–present), the Philippines (2023–present), and Senegal (2023–present) provide additional examples of fisheries projects that are transforming to include a blue economy focus or that better align with blue economy principles. In Madagascar (2017–24), social protection features strongly as a means of offsetting overfishing challenges.

Consistent application of the World Bank's Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit could promote more holistic treatment of sector issues and equal consideration of social, ecological, and economic outcomes in the ongoing and future portfolio. There are some concomitantly approved small-scale fisheries and aquaculture projects that are not well aligned with more holistic blue economy aims. In Sri Lanka (2020–21), fisheries analytics were focused on increased production in a sector where resource sustainability is a concern (IOTC 2022). Investments in Kiribati (2018–19), India (2022–present), and Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2017–present) that support fisheries and aquaculture expansion do not articulate how they will address overfishing and resource scarcity.

Consistent application of the World Bank's Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit can also support enhanced considerations of climate change. Climate change risks are discussed in all Project Appraisal Documents, but explicit climate resilience measures featured in only 40 percent of them.

Assumptions about fisher behavior are not being fully tested as part of an inclusive blue economy approach. Three-quarters of projects that include fishing communities seek to provide livelihood assistance to members of those communities. Project theories are not clear as to whether this assistance is a household resilience-building strategy or a job substitution strategy, and this has affected the efficacy of projects' livelihood components because the project evidence shows that small grant programs alone are incapable of supporting such transitions (for example, moving fishing communities out of fishing and into marine tourism or agriculture). Projects are also not testing assumptions about the impact that such livelihood support will have on reducing pressure on marine and coastal resources.

Plastics and Marine Pollution

The World Bank was an early actor in tackling marine plastic pollution: its global plastics analytics and estimation models are being used by governments worldwide to estimate the costs, revenues, and impacts of new plastics policies. These models are filling an important gap because very few similar open-access tools exist for national-level exploration of plastics policy options and show positive signs of early uptake.

The World Bank has provided a considerable amount of development policy support to combat the marine plastics issue in SIDS, but it has yet to do so for coastal nations that rank as major contributors to plastic waste production. The World Banks's plastics and pollution agenda analytics could better clarify its links to achieving a just climate change transition.

Marine and Coastal Tourism

The World Bank's 2022 blue tourism paper represents a shift away from its prior tourism theory of change that focused mostly on competitiveness and diversification toward one that embraces economically viable and environmentally and socially sustainable approaches (World Bank 2022a). Tourism engagements that adopt a blue economy approach can help mobilize financing, knowledge, and technical assistance to implement integrated development strategies that build resilience, address climate change, reduce pollution, support ecosystem regeneration and biodiversity conservation, and invest in local jobs and communities (Northrop et al. 2022).

Blue economy principles are only just emerging in marine tourism operations. The World Bank's core coastal and marine tourism portfolio has contributed and continues to contribute to local economic development and jobs, but, with few exceptions, it pays insufficient attention to upstream environmental issues, including water use and waste. Since the World Bank published its blue tourism paper in 2022 (World Bank 2022a), newly approved projects would be expected to incorporate more holistic principles into their design.

Maritime Transport Infrastructure

Aspects of the blue economy in the marine transport space—such as decarbonization and greening of ports—are being incorporated into operations, but uptake overall is low. With the support of PROBLUE, the World Bank has developed analytics on the decarbonization of shipping and the greening of ports, which are being incorporated in to operations in the Africa and Pacific regions.

The PROBLUE multidonor trust fund occupies a unique and potentially transformative role in financing blue economy development, but there is room to enhance its strategic relevance and impact. The PROBLUE multidonor trust fund has been instrumental in helping the World Bank finance blue economy analyses lodged within advisory and operations. Blue economy analytics have been critical for articulating the blue economy in country diagnostics. PROBLUE played an important role in knowledge creation and awareness raising for marine plastics; it has also increased its finance for other themes that are critical for blue economy development. PROBLUE funds have only infrequently been used to help integrate blue economy principles into investment operations in other key sectors such as tourism and transport, however. PROBLUE is proactively supporting gender integration through analytics and through specific criteria lodged within their grant proposals, but World Bank operations in the blue economy space require the attention of gender specialists to ensure that gender-disaggregated results are achieved.

Recommendations

These findings draw forth the following recommendations:

» At a corporate level, the World Bank should articulate its commitment to helping clients achieve the more holistic meaning of the blue economy, including by updating its corporate definition and ensuring that the concept is consistently articulated in relevant country engagements. An update of the corporate definition would include acknowledging the restorative potential of the blue economy, inclusion, equity, and the need for integrated approaches, and clarify links to pressing food and nutrition security, climate change,

biodiversity, and circular economy goals. It would also require the World Bank to ensure that relevant management and staff working in coastal and marine areas can understand, own, and consistently articulate the merits of the blue economy agenda to clients in country-facing engagements.

» The World Bank should proactively support a holistic blue economy approach in coastal and marine areas. World Bank management should ensure that blue economy diagnostics are used to inform key country diagnostics and country strategies, where relevant. Country Management Units should ensure coherence across sector operations implemented in coastal and marine areas to help clients maximize the restorative and inclusive development potential of the blue economy and to help manage trade-offs. Global Practices should ensure that projects implemented in coastal and marine areas are designed and implemented in line with progressive blue economy guidance. Both should aim to situate these portfolios of projects within wider participatory spatial planning processes to ensure equitable and sustainable development outcomes.

» The World Bank should work more effectively with partners engaged in the blue economy space to help clients develop needed policy and institutional reforms to achieve blue economy aims. This entails the collective identification and the addressing of policy and institutional gaps that currently undermine blue economy development through effective partnering with regional organizations, multilateral development banks, and bilateral agencies. Suitable policy reform will be especially important in the face of emerging industries (for example, offshore renewables and deep-sea mining) and new technologies in the blue economy space.

1 | Background and Context

Ocean and coastal resources are integral to sustaining life on Earth.

Oceans cover 71 percent of our planet's surface, contain 97 percent of its water, are home to over 90 percent of its species, and produce more than 60 percent of all oxygen (Cousteau, Cousteau, and Kraynak 2021). Oceans play a crucial role in climate regulation, absorbing 30 percent of carbon dioxide emissions and over 90 percent of the excess heat from global warming (IPCC 2019). Coastal resources are natural resources occurring within coastal waters and their adjacent shorelands that include salt marshes, wetlands, floodplains, estuaries, beaches, dunes, barrier islands, mangroves, and coral reefs, as well as fish and wildlife and their respective habitats. Coastal resources, such as mangroves, are vital for carbon sequestration—acre by acre, mangroves store up to four times more carbon than terrestrial forests (Donato et al. 2011). Moreover, coral reefs and mangroves act as natural buffers and mitigate coastal flooding; coral reefs can dissipate up to 97 percent of wave energy, and mangroves provide flood protection benefits of some $65 billion in annual avoided losses (Menéndez et al. 2020).

Oceans and coastal resources are vital for inclusive growth, jobs, and food and nutrition security. The value of marine and coastal resources and industries (for example, fishing, aquaculture, shipping, tourism, offshore energy) is estimated to be between 3 and 5 percent of global GDP (Patil et al. 2016). Tourism—80 percent of which involves coastal and marine activities—is a crucial source of jobs and livelihoods in developing countries, where most people who work in tourism reside (OECD 2020; WTTC 2022). Small-scale fisheries account for at least 40 percent of the world's total fisheries catch, and approximately 500 million people depend on small-scale fisheries for their livelihoods, mainly in developing countries (FAO, Duke University, and WorldFish 2023). In the least-developed countries, seafood is the primary protein source for over 50 percent of people, and fishing is used as a social safety net for people living in poverty (FAO 2022). For small island developing states (SIDS),[1] the exclusive economic zone—the ocean under their control—is, on average, 28 times the country's land mass. Thus, the

economies of many SIDS are largely dependent on ocean and coastal resources that also sustain livelihoods and employment.

Ocean and coastal resources are in a state of emergency as a result of governance and management failures compounded by low institutional capacity. Oceans and coastal areas have been treated as limitless resources and largely cost-free repositories of waste (World Bank and UN DESA 2017). The policies governing ocean and coastal resources are often fragmented, characterized by legal and regulatory gaps and overlapping institutional mandates. There are limited incentives for institutions to coordinate rather than compete. Institutions also often exhibit information and skill gaps, such as in natural capital accounting and ocean and coastal spatial planning, which undermine their ability to effectively govern. Ill-regulated coastal development has resulted in the destruction of 1 million hectares of mangroves between 1990 and 2020 (FAO 2020a; Merzdorf 2020). Some 34 percent of global fish stocks have been overfished, including as a result of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (FAO 2020b). Oceans and marine life are also at risk from perverse policies that have failed to prevent 11 million tons of plastic waste and harmful chemicals from agricultural runoff, industrial processes, and wastewater from entering oceans annually (UNEP 2018). In addition, the lack of regulation does not bode well for the sustainable growth of established and emerging ocean and coastal sectors that are competing for limited space and resources.

Delayed climate action is further threatening oceans and coastal resources, resulting in a cascade of negative environmental and human welfare effects. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has pointed to the unprecedented and enduring threats to the ocean from climate change, including the escalating costs and risks of delayed action. The projected global rise in sea levels and temperatures threatens to destroy valuable ocean and coastal resources critical for livelihoods and human well-being. Sea level rise is displacing hundreds of millions of people living in coastal areas (Kulp and Strauss 2019). Changes in ocean currents and temperatures are altering fish migration patterns, affecting yields and community welfare. For example, a 1°C increase in sea surface temperature is expected to reduce global fishery yields by 4 percent, or 3.4 million tons (IPCC 2019). Coral bleaching and mortality events, caused mainly by rising sea temperatures, can lead to a

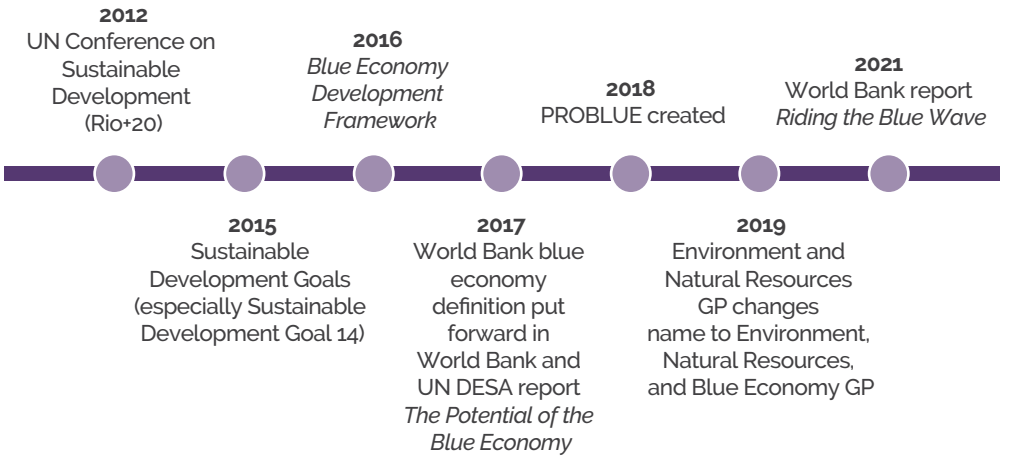
significant loss of local revenue from reduced tourist activity and access to the fish that feed off coral reefs. Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Maldives derive almost 60 percent of their tourism income from their coral reefs (UN-OHRLLS 2021).

International actors have progressively proposed using a blue economy approach to address ocean and coastal governance failures. The notion of the blue economy was introduced at the 2012 Rio+20: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by coastal countries that noted that even though many understand how to stimulate economic growth in ocean areas, there has been a lack of focus on the policies, conditions, and pathways needed to achieve sustainable and inclusive ocean and coastal economies. Although there is no single definition of the blue economy, international actors have coalesced around the need to achieve a triple bottom line—that is, the need to achieve healthy ocean and coastal resources that underpin inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of social welfare benefits (including food and nutrition security). The blue economy implies a shift from sector-led to integrated approaches requiring sector coordination to identify potential synergies and to manage trade-offs among different resource user groups and development aims. Although important sector outcomes have been achieved, these outcomes have been undermined by externalities from other sectors. For example, efforts to restore mangroves or support fishers have been undermined by ill-sited ports and unregulated tourism. Governments and the private sector have also missed opportunities to invest in ecosystem services to increase profits from seafood harvests and enhance food and nutrition security. In addition, international actors point to a sense of urgency because of the expansion of existing and emerging ocean industries (for example, offshore renewable energy and deep-sea mining) that, together with the negative effects posed by climate change, are threatening the life-sustaining services provided by ocean and coastal resources. The blue economy is also seen as a way to support wider climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy aims.

The World Bank adopted a blue economy approach in 2016. Although the World Bank has engaged for decades in marine and coastal development,[2] it put forth a blue economy definition and an initial blue economy framework

between 2016 and 2017. The World Bank's 2017 definition of the blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and job creation while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems" (World Bank 2017e). Pursuant to this definition, the World Bank published a series of blue economy analytics at the global, regional, and country levels; became home to a multidonor PROBLUE trust fund that supports the blue economy; and, in 2019, changed the name of its Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice (GP) to Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy (ENB). The World Bank's support for the blue economy aligns with its support to clients to achieve the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, especially Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below Water), and climate change aims (figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1. Timeline of World Bank Engagement in the Blue Economy



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: GP = Global Practice; UN = United Nations; UN DESA = United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Evaluation Purpose, Questions, Scope, and Methods

The evaluation purpose is to assess how well the World Bank is supporting a blue economy approach to achieve sustainable and inclusive development of ocean and coastal economies. The overarching evaluation question is, How well is the World Bank supporting a blue economy approach to achieve

sustainable and inclusive development of ocean and coastal states? The two subquestions are (i) How well is the World Bank articulating blue economy aims, including in relation to other actors? and (ii) How well is the World Bank operationalizing blue economy aims? This evaluation was requested by the Board of Executive Directors' Committee on Development Effectiveness and by World Bank management. Noting that the blue economy is an evolving approach, the World Bank explicitly requested a forward-looking evaluation—that is, an evaluation that aims to help surface early implementation lessons to inform the future development of the World Bank's blue economy approach.

The evaluation scope consists of three parameters: geographic considerations, types of activities, and timing. The evaluation scope covers 109 countries with a coastline or any form of ocean access, including activities in their exclusive economic zone (within 200 nautical miles of their shoreline) but not activities in international waters where the World Bank has had any analytic or lending activities (see appendix B for the country list). These 109 countries include 32 SIDS and 77 coastal countries. For these countries, we cover all Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCDs; $n = 84$), Country Economic Memorandums (CEMs; $n = 46$), and Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs; $n = 23$). We also cover all World Bank–published focused blue economy analytics at the global, regional, and country levels ($n = 38$). The evaluation scope also includes four established sectors critical for the blue economy: (i) small-scale fisheries, (ii) plastics and marine pollution, (iii) marine and coastal tourism, and (iv) maritime transport infrastructure. For these sectors, we cover all World Bank advisory services and analytics (ASA) and lending approved between 2016 and 2023. The evaluation covers 2012–23 but mainly focuses on 2016–23, after the World Bank's adoption of a blue economy approach. This is a World Bank–only evaluation (it excludes the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency).

The evaluation used a triangulated set of methods to answer the evaluation questions. To assess how well the World Bank has articulated the blue economy, in relation to other actors, the evaluation undertook a focused literature review, conducted content analysis of World Bank blue economy–focused analytics and key partner publications, convened and

conducted global expert interviews, and used content analysis to assess the presence and level of integration of the blue economy concept in World Bank country diagnostics (SCDs, CEMs, and CCDRs) for countries in scope. Structured templates and scoring rubrics were then used to quantify and conduct comparative analyses of these diagnostics. To assess how well the World Bank is operationalizing the blue economy at the country and regional levels, we conducted case studies in 9 out of 19 countries that have (i) an ongoing national blue economy process (strategy, policy, or institutional development) and (ii) World Bank operational support focused on the blue economy that was mature enough to evaluate. The nine cases are Bangladesh, Belize, Cabo Verde, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, the Seychelles, and St. Lucia (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS]); an expanded validation review was also conducted for the Pacific Islands. To assess how well the World Bank is operationalizing the blue economy at the sector level, we used portfolio review and analyses and key informant interviews. We also examined the role of the PROBLUE multidonor trust fund—the fund established in the World Bank to support the blue economy—as part of the sector analyses. The methods are fully explained in appendix A.

[1] In recent years, the language of the "large ocean state" has increasingly been used by the leaders of various Pacific and Indian Ocean states as a counterpoint to the usual "small island developing state" nomenclature (Chan 2018). This emerging self-identification of large ocean states juxtaposes their small landmass and populations with the possession of sovereign authority over large swaths of the world's oceans. Such authority is increasingly being exercised in the context of biodiversity conservation through expanding marine protected areas (an element of both the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity). The term *large ocean state* has been deployed in the United Nations General Assembly debates (for example, by Anote Tong, former president of Kiribati) and as the theme of a regional meeting (at the 2012 Pacific Islands Forum summit, hosted by the Cook Islands, under the banner of "Large Ocean Island States: The Pacific Challenge"). In September 2016, when addressing the Annual Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., president of Palau, declared his country not to be a "small island state," as might be the conventional description for a country of 25,000 people and a land area of only 500 square kilometers, but a large ocean state. The main justification for this was the establishment of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, which designated 80 percent of Palau's exclusive economic zone of 600,000 square kilometers as a "no-take zone" entirely closed to fishing activities—an area the size of California and the sixth-largest marine protected area in the world. The remaining 20 percent of Palau's exclusive economic zone would be limited to domestic fishing only, barring foreign fleets in the service of marine protection and biodiversity conservation (Chan 2018).

[2] Since the launch of the blue agenda at Rio+20: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, it became apparent that the sustainable development of ocean and coastal resources would require collaboration across nation states, sectors and industry areas, and public-private actors on a larger scale than previously achieved. At that conference, the World Bank launched the Global Partnership for Oceans and subsequently hosted the secretariat until 2015. The partnership focused on the sustainable economic development of ocean resources, including by supporting the implementation of projects designed to promote sustainable fishing, the protection of coastal and ocean habitats and biodiversity, and the reduction of marine pollution. Trust funds, such as the Global Program on Fisheries, known as PROFISH, helped enable the implementation of this portfolio.

2 | The World Bank's Articulation of the Blue Economy

Highlights

As a knowledge broker, the World Bank lifted a progressive blue economy concept onto the world stage, heightening its credibility through blue economy–focused analytics, often financed by bilateral partners. These analytics focused on the potential of the blue economy to achieve balanced economic, environmental, and social development aims in coastal and marine areas.

However, the World Bank's corporate definition of the blue economy falls short of articulating key tenets of the blue economy as expressed in its own analytics and that of key partners. The World Bank's corporate definition refers to resource preservation, rather than restorative goals; lacks references to inclusion and equity; does not refer to integrated approaches; and appears decoupled from pressing food and nutrition security, climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy goals.

Clearly articulating the holistic purpose of the blue economy is important because clients are using the World Bank's corporate definition to inform their blue economy strategies, and key partners rely on the World Bank to communicate the more holistic aim in their dialogue with clients. With some exceptions, there is low understanding among World Bank staff of the more holistic meaning of the blue economy.

The blue economy is being referenced in many small island developing states country diagnostics (that is, Systematic Country Diagnostics and Country Climate and Development Reports) and it is slowly emerging in those for coastal states, but the comprehensiveness of the concept is low overall. Apart from those for small island developing states, the blue economy concept is not being referenced in Country Economic Memorandums.

Whereas focused blue economy analytics have been critical for integrating the blue economy concept in country diagnostics, sector analytic work (for example, on fisheries, waste management, or pollution) has not sufficiently reflected blue economy considerations.

This chapter focuses on how well the World Bank is articulating blue economy aims, including in relation to other actors, at the corporate and country levels. To assess how well the World Bank is articulating blue economy aims at the corporate level, we used content analysis to determine the presence, meaning, and evolution of the blue economy concept as expressed in focused World Bank–published blue economy analytic products. To evaluate how well the World Bank is articulating blue economy aims at the corporate level in relation to other actors, we used content analysis to assess how the blue economy concept is articulated in key partner strategies and publications. We then complemented these analyses of partner publications by conducting 24 global blue economy expert interviews. These interviews were conducted with representatives of other agencies and organizations, including PROBLUE donors (Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, and Sweden), the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative, the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Global Environment Facility, the World Wide Fund for Nature (previously the World Wildlife Fund), the International Coral Reef Initiative, the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as well as individual global experts who are helping shape global and country blue economy policies (anonymized information on interviewee selection—ensuring representative viewpoints—is included in appendix A). To assess how well the World Bank is articulating blue economy aims at the country level, we used content analyses, coding templates, and scoring rubrics to determine the presence and comprehensiveness of the blue economy concept in all 84 SCDs, 46 CEMs, and 23 CCDRs for countries in scope. These diagnostics were chosen because they serve as reference points for client consultations and are used to set priorities for World Bank Group country engagements (World Bank 2016c; see appendix A for coding templates for each diagnostic; the data package for the coded qualitative data is available on request).

Corporate Articulation of the Blue Economy

As a knowledge broker, the World Bank lifted a progressive blue economy concept onto the world stage, heightening its credibility through analytics.

Beginning in 2016, the World Bank helped lift the blue economy concept out of country conferences into a series of client-facing, focused analytics that enhanced the concept's credibility and reach. This effect was confirmed by interviews with clients and donor partners. By explicating the concept in its earliest analytic, *Toward a Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean* (Patil et al. 2016), the World Bank helped lift the concept out of the Eastern Caribbean onto the global stage, including by presenting the concept, together with Caribbean leaders, at the 27th Conference of the Parties.[1] These blue economy analytics included clear purpose statements and explanations about the potential of the blue economy to achieve balanced economic, environmental, and social development objectives in ocean and coastal areas. The report stated that the blue economy is "a lens by which to view and develop policy agendas that simultaneously enhance ocean health and economic growth, in a manner consistent with principles of social equity and inclusion" (Patil et al. 2016, 43). Pursuant to its support in the Eastern Caribbean, the World Bank transferred this knowledge to South Asia (Bangladesh) through analytics co-produced with the European Union. The Bangladesh analytic (the second of its kind) refers to the blue economy as "a sustainable ocean economy, in which economic wealth is balanced with the health of ocean ecosystems and their natural assets, and is socially sustainable" (Patil et al. 2018, 5). The World Bank also acted globally to facilitate a common understanding of the blue economy concept. By partnering with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Bank convened a multistakeholder event and copublished the seminal report on the topic, titled *The Potential of the Blue Economy: Increasing Long-Term Benefits of the Sustainable Use of Marine Resources for Small Island Developing States and Coastal Least Developed Countries* (World Bank and UN DESA 2017). This effort produced a common understanding that the blue economy must prioritize ocean health; it also established parameters for blue economy investments that must (i) provide social and economic benefits for current and future generations; (ii) restore, protect, and maintain the diversity, productivity, resilience, core functions, and intrinsic value of marine ecosystems; and (iii) be based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows that reduce waste and promote recycling.

However, the World Bank's corporate definition of the blue economy falls short of articulating key tenets of the blue economy as expressed in its analytics. As indicated in chapter 1, the corporate definition for the blue economy put forth by the World Bank in 2017 is "the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and job creation while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems" (World Bank 2017e). This definition leaves out core tenets of the blue economy concept that are more clearly and comprehensively articulated in the abovementioned analytics. Although the World Bank's corporate definition references three pillars (growth, livelihoods, and ocean health), the focus on economic growth while preserving the health of the ocean implies that the oceans are in a state of existing good health. The definition lacks references to the restorative potential of the blue economy, including efforts to regenerate, restore, and conserve resources, which also deliberately tackle the drivers of degradation. The definition also lacks references to inclusion and equity; does not refer to integrated approaches;[2] and appears decoupled from pressing food and nutrition security, climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy goals. Alongside the definition, the World Bank put forth a schematic and guidance note referred to as the *Blue Economy Development Framework* (World Bank 2016a; World Bank Group and European Commission 2021), which also exhibits the same limitations as the definition and is largely unfamiliar to and unused by both clients and partners.

The World Bank's corporate definition of the blue economy is also increasingly unaligned with the way key partners are evolving and articulating their understanding of the blue economy. International actors that work to achieve blue economy aims alongside the World Bank have increasingly clarified that the sustainable blue economy concept converges around the need for a more balanced approach, reconciling economic growth with environmental stewardship and social equity (box 2.1). In the case of the European Union, this clarification represents a sea change compared with the previous definition. The World Bank has historically partnered with the European Union in its blue economy analytics (the *Blue Economy Development Framework* was originally produced in partnership with the European Commission). Since 2018, the World Bank has been a signatory to the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme

Finance Initiative, which—together with the European Commission, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the World Resources Institute, and the European Investment Bank—aims to support the integration of a set of environmental, social, and governance considerations into blue economy investments.

Box 2.1. Articulation of the Holistic Sustainable Blue Economy Aims by the Partners

The European Union. As part of the European Green Deal, the European Union has transitioned its blue economy approach from one focused on blue growth (on jobs and growth), stated in the 2012 Communication, to one focused on the sustainable blue economy, as articulated in the May 2021 Communication. This represents a fundamental reorientation of policy and objectives: a move away from primarily pursuing economic growth—"an initiative to harness the untapped potential of Europe's oceans, seas[,] and coasts for jobs and growth" (European Commission 2012, 2)—toward achieving balanced growth while integrating climate change and environmental priorities—"replacing unchecked expansion with clean, climate-proof[,] and sustainable activities that tread lightly on the marine environment" (European Commission 2021a, 2). Per its new position, the European Union has indicated that "under a sustainable blue economy, maritime and coastal activities reconcile economic development, improved livelihoods[,] and social inclusion with fighting the climate crisis, protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, using resources responsibly[,] and achieving the zero-pollution ambition" (European Commission 2021b).

The United Nations Environment Programme houses the Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative and is launching the Sustainable Blue Economy Decision Support and Enabling Framework. The latter states that the sustainable blue economy "increases revenue and enables sustainable growth in the marine economy through enhanced services provided by healthy environments; strengthens livelihoods and food security; ensures fair and equitable access to the oceans' wealth; and contributes to climate change mitigation through renewable energy and de-carbonizing blue sectors" (UNEP, forthcoming). A sustainable blue economy approach overcomes the disconnected way oceans are managed and is fundamental for addressing the three planetary crises (climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution) and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

(continued)

Box 2.1. Articulation of the Holistic Sustainable Blue Economy Aims by the Partners (cont.)

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative hosts the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles—a global framework developed in 2018 that is co-signed by the World Bank, the European Commission, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the World Resources Institute, and the European Investment Bank. The principles are designed to guide banks, insurers, and investors in financing a sustainable blue economy in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below Water). Taken together, the principles offer a road map for ensuring that financial activities and investments in the ocean and coastal sectors are environmentally sustainable and socially equitable.

The World Wide Fund for Nature put forth *Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy* (2015), which emphasizes the need for environmental restoration and protection to ensure intergenerational economic and social benefits. A sustainable blue economy "provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations[;] . . . restores, protects[,] and maintains the diversity, productivity, resilience, core functions, and intrinsic value of marine ecosystems[; and] . . . is based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows" (WWF 2015, 4). It also promotes an approach that is inclusive, cooperative, and cross-sectoral based on knowledge sharing and the development and application of standards, guidelines, and best practices.

Sources: European Commission 2012, 2021a, 2021b; UNEP 2018, forthcoming; WWF 2015.

Clearly articulating the holistic purpose of the blue economy is important because clients are using the World Bank's corporate definition to inform their own blue economy strategies and key partners rely on the World Bank to communicate the more holistic aim. The case studies show that clients are using the World Bank's corporate definition to inform their own blue economy strategies;[3] yet these strategies are better at articulating blue growth aims than articulating how triple-bottom-line objectives will be achieved across relevant ministries. Many international, regional, and bilateral development agencies supporting clients with their blue economy development also look to the World Bank to communicate holistic blue economy aims as part of their economic dialogue with clients. However,

apart from a few key staff, the evaluation found that there is low understanding among World Bank staff interviewed about the more holistic meaning of the blue economy.[4]

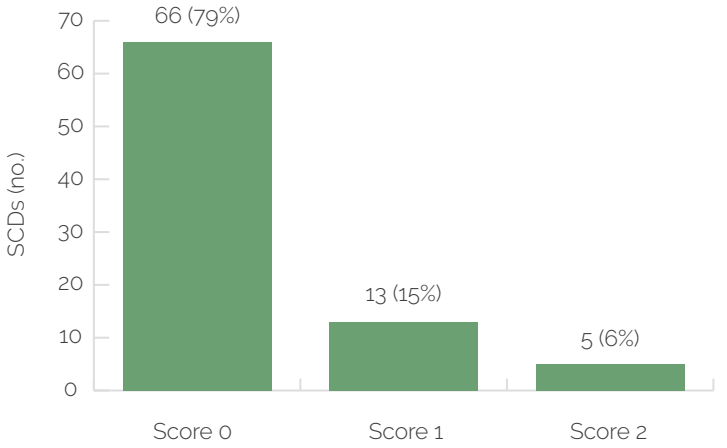
Articulation of the Blue Economy in Country Diagnostics

The blue economy is being referenced in many SIDS SCDs, and the concept is slowly emerging in coastal state SCDs. Eighteen out of the 84 SCDs in scope reference the blue economy, even though all 84 reference at least one marine sector. Seven out of 12 SCDs for SIDS refer to the blue economy (in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, and West Africa). Between 2016 and 2019, with one exception (Dominican Republic), the blue economy concept was articulated in SCDs of SIDS, which is not surprising since the concept was put forth by coastal countries. Between 2020 and 2023, with the rollout of increased blue economy analytics, the blue economy concept began to appear in the SCDs of coastal states in Albania, Indonesia, and Kenya (2020); the Arab Republic of Egypt, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, and Namibia (2021); Côte d'Ivoire (2022); and Togo and Panama (2023). The blue economy concept is referenced in five CEMs, of which four are SIDS (Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Mauritius, and São Tomé and Príncipe), and one is a coastal state (Albania).

Although SCDs are beginning to reference the blue economy, the comprehensiveness is low overall in many SCDs that reference it. A total of 5 out of 18 SCDs that refer to the blue economy (Kenya, Mauritius, OECS, São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Seychelles) articulated well the need to reconcile economic, environmental, and social aims through cross-sectoral coordination and planning processes that identify synergies and address sector trade-offs (figure 2.1). These SCDs speak to the need to transition away from sector-siloed approaches. They also recognize the connection between marine and terrestrial systems (for example, the way solid waste management or tourism affects coastal and ocean environments or the way that agriculture and deforestation contribute to runoff, sedimentation, pollution, and eutrophication in local coastal systems). The OECS SCD presents a best-case example of how to embed a blue economy approach into development planning: it focuses on the need to balance growth, environmental sustainability, and equity aims; sets milestones for achieving blue economy aims; and

highlights associated financing options. The remaining SCDs (13 out of 18) reference the blue economy but continue to address sector issues in silos. Although emerging blue economy opportunities (for example, offshore energy) are cited, there is neither a discussion of sectoral coordination nor an analysis of how to address trade-offs, especially between marine development and environmental sustainability. The absence of a discussion of trade-offs was most notable in SIDS that refer to the blue economy or multiple marine sectors as a source of comparative advantage (for example, fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism) without considering the negative impacts on other sectors (for example, impacts of rapid tourism development on fisheries through increased pollution and land use change or the negative impacts aquaculture facilities can have on coastal tourism).

Figure 2.1. Articulation of the Blue Economy in Systematic Country Diagnostics



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: The number of in-scope SCDs is 84. SCD scoring 1: Albania, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica, Maldives, Namibia, Panama, and Togo. SCD scoring 2: Kenya, Mauritius, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States countries, São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Seychelles. Scoring rubric: 0 = SCD does not reference the blue economy; 1 = SCD explicitly refers to the blue economy but lacks full articulation of commonly understood meaning, tends to treat sectors in silos, and neglects to identify trade-offs; 2 = SCD comprehensively explains the blue economy as a way of balancing economic, environmental, and social aims and refers to cross-sectoral coordination, planning, and identification of synergies and trade-offs. SCD = Systematic Country Diagnostic.

Few CCDRs articulate how a blue economy approach can support national climate change and development goals. CCDRs are new core Bank Group diagnostic reports that have the objective to help countries prioritize the most

impactful actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost adaptation while delivering on broader development goals. Per figure 2.2, only 7 out of 23 CCDRs (for countries in scope) refer to the blue economy; 3 of the CCDRs that do not refer to the blue economy are for countries for which this topic is a key government priority (Indonesia, Morocco, and South Africa), and 2 CCDRs are for countries where the blue economy is explicitly articulated in the SCD. For example, in Indonesia, climate change is woven throughout the country's Blue Economy Roadmap, yet the CCDR neither refers to the blue economy nor provides much context on coastal or marine issues (as opposed to forests), missing a critical opportunity to diagnose the policy integration and coordinated action needed to achieve blue economy–related climate change aims. Across the cohort, almost no CCDRs discuss the potential of blue carbon toward achieving nationally determined commitments. For example, mangroves, except for Indonesia, are not identified as part of CCDR priorities, which speaks to a gap in identifying nature-based solutions in relation to achieving climate change goals. Conversely, 4 out of 23 CCDRs articulate clear links between marine activities and climate action (scored as 2 in figure 2.2), with Ghana being a best practice example. The Ghana CCDR identifies a blue economy approach as a way to achieve the climate change objectives articulated in the CCDR (box 2.2).

Box 2.2. Articulation of the Blue Economy Approach in Ghana's Country Climate and Development Report

Ghana's Country Climate and Development Report advocates for a blue economy approach to enhance climate resilience along the coastline. In the short term, it recommends the establishment of a blue economy framework to maximize socioeconomic benefits and protect blue carbon to support mitigation goals. It cites the need to apply integrated coastal zone management tools for coordinated action and clear delineation of responsibilities across ministries. In the long term, the Country Climate and Development Report calls for a transformative shift from carbon-intensive offshore oil and gas to renewable marine-based energy and a move from infrastructure-based resilience approaches to nature-based solutions. This transition requires policy reforms, capacity development, and innovative financial mechanisms (such as blue bonds and carbon markets) to fund the shift

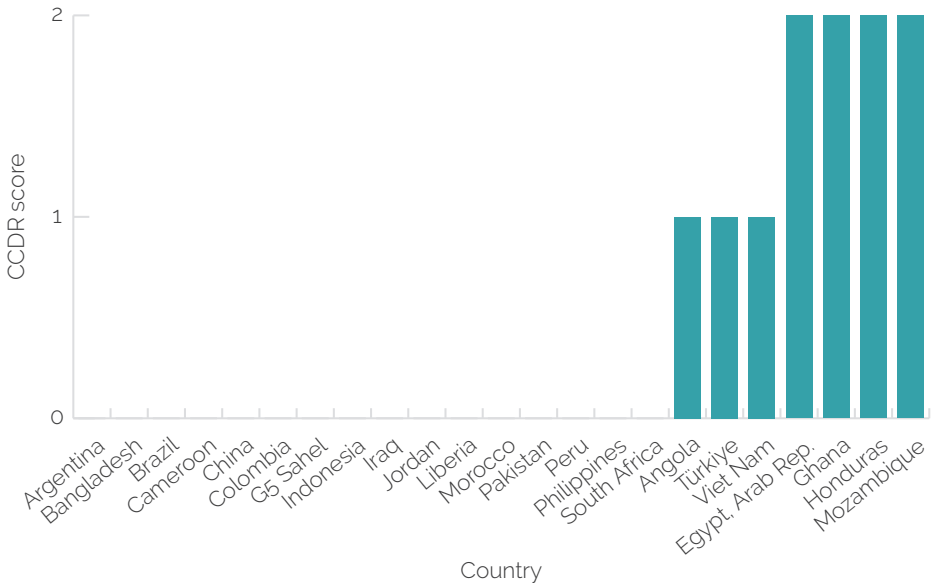
(continued)

Box 2.2. Articulation of the Blue Economy Approach in Ghana's Country Climate and Development Report (cont.)

toward a sustainable and resilient blue economy, ensuring a balanced approach that maximizes economic benefits while addressing climate challenges.

Source: World Bank 2022e.

Figure 2.2. Articulation of the Blue Economy in Country Climate and Development Reports



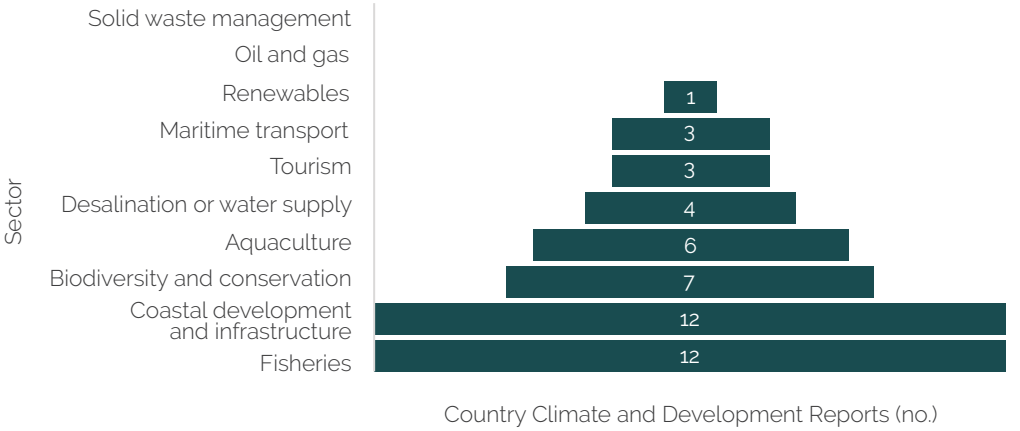
Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: The number of in-scope CCDRs is 23. Scoring: 0 = no articulation of the blue economy; 1 = explicit reference to the blue economy (coastal and marine sectors may be referenced, but there is no articulation of how to accurately apply the blue economy concept as a way to achieve climate change and development goals); 2 = explicit reference to the blue economy and demonstration of a comprehensive understanding of the potential of the blue economy approach as a way to achieve climate change and development goals. CCDR = Country Climate and Development Report; G5 = Group of Five.

CCDRs also only partially identify risks posed by climate change to marine and coastal areas, and there is scant reference to how emerging blue economy sectors will affect the marine environment. A total of 74 percent of CCDRs (in the countries in scope) identified at least one marine sector at risk from climate change. Risks posed to fisheries and coastal development (that is, housing, industry, and infrastructure at risk from flooding located on the

coast) were referenced in approximately half of the CCDRs. However, there were few references, and no robust analyses, of the effects of climate change on other sectors, such as ports and shipping (figure 2.3). Similarly, there is very little discussion across all CCDRs on how some sectors—proposed as part of countries' mitigation or adaptation strategies—will affect the marine environment, including the development of offshore renewables or the use of desalination plants for water security.

Figure 2.3. Country Climate and Development Reports That Reference Climate Risks to Blue Economy Sectors



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Focused blue economy analytics, largely financed by donors, have been critical for articulating the blue economy in country diagnostics. Almost all (27 out of 29, or 93 percent) of the country diagnostics (SCDs, CCDRs, and CEMs) that refer to the blue economy had prior or parallel access to blue economy–focused analytics. In the two cases where the country diagnostic referred to the blue economy without the benefit of underlying focused analytics, there either was a dedicated senior environmental staff member engaged (Panama) or the World Bank and the government were engaged in dialogue as part of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Namibia).[5]

Sector analytics, including those focused on fisheries, marine pollution, and waste, have been insufficient to support the transfer of the blue economy concept into country diagnostics. Twenty countries have had access to specific sector analytics focused on a coastal or marine sector, such as fisheries, pollution, and waste management. These analytics did not make explicit

the links to the blue economy, and none of the country diagnostics of the countries that had these sector analytics refer to the blue economy. A total of 80 percent of the focused blue economy analytics that informed country diagnostics were financed or co-financed by bilateral donors, including the European Commission, the Commonwealth, the Nordic Development Fund, the German Agency for International Cooperation, and the PROBLUE trust fund. By way of contrast, the World Bank has tended to fund sector analytics.

Articulation of the Blue Economy in the World Bank's Evolution

The evolution reshapes the World Bank's vision and mission to include a "livable planet" but omits references to marine ecosystems. As per the September 2023 Development Committee paper "Ending Poverty on a Livable Planet: Report to Governors on World Bank Evolution," the newly launched Global Challenge Program on Forests for Development, Climate, and Biodiversity does not refer to the blue economy, and actions on biodiversity and nature do not refer to coastal or ocean resources (World Bank 2023a). This reflects a limited interpretation of a "livable planet," restricted to terrestrial environments, which overlooks the significant role of marine ecosystems in global ecological and economic systems and important land-sea links.

[1] For more information, see https://live.worldbank.org/en/event/2022/cop27-unleashing-blue-economy-caribbean.

[2] The PROBLUE trust fund, which is administered by the World Bank, defines the blue economy as the sustainable and integrated development of economic sectors in a healthy ocean (World Bank 2022l). Although this definition acknowledges the need for an integrated approach in the blue economy, it exhibits most of the same limitations as outlined in the Corporate Articulation of the Blue Economy section in chapter 2.

[3] For example, at the regional level, the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources—the regional body charged with helping African countries draft their blue economy strategies—refers to the World Bank's definition in its country-facing engagements. The government of Belize indicated that the World Bank's definition of the blue economy is the definition of the blue economy at its official launch of their Blue Economy Development Policy and Strategy and Maritime Economy Roadmap. Indonesia's 2023 Blue Economy Roadmap also cites the World Bank's definition.

[4] Interviews with staff across the World Bank in the country case studies and in covered sectors demonstrate inconsistent awareness of and, in a few cases, a lack of buy-in for the blue economy concept. This finding is further exemplified by the limited integration of the blue economy concept into the reviewed client-facing country diagnostics (that is, Systematic Country Diagnostics, Country Economic Memorandums, Country Climate and Development Reports), as shown in the Articulation of the Blue Economy in Country Diagnostics section in chapter 2.

[5] There are also two cases where the World Bank performed blue economy—focused analytics where the blue economy has not been articulated in country diagnostics; however, Country Climate and Development Reports have not yet been conducted (Costa Rica and the Pacific Islands). In these countries, it may be anticipated that the forthcoming Country Climate and Development Reports will use the blue economy concept.

3 | The World Bank's Operationalization of the Blue Economy

Highlights

The governments of case study countries are just beginning to establish coherent policy, strategy, and institutional mechanisms for effective blue economy development.

The World Bank relevantly identified and addressed policy and institutional issues in the Eastern Caribbean to help harmonize and develop blue economy policies and practices. Elsewhere, the World Bank has mainly used sector entry points that are achieving sector results but are not being leveraged to support policy and institutional development critical for achieving blue economy aims.

There have been missed opportunities to support blue economy development after the World Bank launched influential analytics at the country level. Engagement challenges are associated with the limited number of staff with blue economy expertise, staff rotations, and a lack of Country Management Unit buy-in for the concept.

The World Bank has helped strengthen sector platforms at the regional level, but these efforts have yet to use a blue economy approach to identify cross-sector opportunities and address sector trade-offs. There have been missed opportunities to support regional bodies that are developing blue economy strategies. Where the World Bank has partnered regionally, its support has also sometimes been out of step with organizations' capacities and mandates.

The designs of small-scale fisheries projects are increasingly aligned with progressive global fisheries guidance that is capable of achieving blue economy aims. Consistent application of this guidance can promote more holistic designs for some projects that retain a growth aim and the enhanced integration of climate change considerations.

The World Bank's global plastics analytics and estimation models are being used by policy makers to tackle plastic pollution. The World Bank has used development policy lending to address marine plastics issues in small island developing states, but this policy support has yet to be extended to coastal nations that rank as major contributors to plastic waste production.

The World Bank's blue tourism paper can support more holistic tourism approaches in marine and coastal tourism operations that contribute to local economic development and jobs, but with few exceptions, these operations pay insufficient attention to upstream environmental issues, such as water use and waste.

Aspects of the blue economy in the marine transport space—such as decarbonization and greening of ports—have been covered in analytics, but operational uptake is low.

PROBLUE has been instrumental in helping the World Bank produce blue economy analyses within advisory and operations. PROBLUE has had a pronounced focus on marine pollution with increasing thematic diversification in line with blue economy aims. PROBLUE funds are just beginning to finance blue economy activities in investments outside of the environment sector. PROBLUE promotes gender integration in its grant applications, but targeted gender expertise is needed in operations to ensure gender outcomes are achieved and measured.

This chapter focuses on how well the World Bank is operationalizing blue economy aims at the country, regional, sector, and corporate levels. At the country and regional levels, we assess how well the World Bank is supporting enabling conditions—policies, institutions, planning, and blue bonds—for blue economy development by presenting cross-cutting evidence from the nine case studies. At the sector level, we then present the findings of our portfolio review analyses to show how well the World Bank is adapting its approach in four established sectors—small-scale fisheries, plastics and marine pollution, marine and coastal tourism, and maritime transport—to achieve blue economy aims. At the corporate level, we assess the extent to which the PROBLUE trust fund has supported the integration of the blue economy across sectors.

Enabling Blue Economy Development at the Country Level

Policy and Institutions

The governments of all case study countries are just beginning to establish coherent policy, strategy, and institutional mechanisms for effective blue economy development. The World Bank's global blue economy analytics cite the need for the World Bank to act upstream to identify and address the governance and institutional issues required to achieve blue economy aims (Patil et al. 2016; World Bank 2021d). This need to act upstream is because policies governing ocean and coastal resources are fragmented and characterized by legal, regulatory, and jurisdictional gaps (Patil et al. 2016; World Bank 2021d). Ministries often have overlapping mandates on the blue economy and few incentives to cooperate, rather than compete, for control over relevant sectors. For example, Belize has at least 16 different laws and regulations directly affecting the management of the country's coastal and marine areas that need to be reconciled as part of the government's blue economy policy development aims. In addition, Belize's newly established Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation brings together some institutions responsible for the ocean economy, including the Fisheries Department and the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, but not others, such as marine and coastal tourism and mangrove management

managed by the Forest Department. In Bangladesh, there is a lack of consensus on the institutional leadership of the blue economy despite the creation of a blue economy cell within the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, leading to power struggles among different ministries. In Cabo Verde, the Ministry of the Sea and the Ministry of Tourism and Transport have not agreed on who is responsible for tourism under a blue economy framing. In the Seychelles, the Tourism Department has not been included in the blue economy development process that has mainly focused on blue finance and fish. In India and Kenya, even though national ministries have important regulatory, monitoring, and guiding policy functions, they do not have a role in policy implementation, which is decentralized to the state and local governments.

The World Bank relevantly identified and addressed policy and institutional issues in the Eastern Caribbean to enable the harmonization and development of blue economy policies and practices. Funded by the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank's Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP 2017–21)—which covered Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines—achieved its aim of strengthening capacity for ocean governance. Although the Eastern Caribbean states had indigenously put forth the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS—the existing vision of the blue economy in the OECS—support was needed to translate that vision into regional and national policies, produce national asset accounts, and harmonize and update sector legislation. CROP supported, in a participatory manner, the development of regional and national marine spatial plans (endorsed at ministerial levels), national ocean governance committees, and regional and national ocean governance policies and laws (including model national fisheries and pollution laws) needed to achieve effective blue economy development.[1] The marine spatial planning (MSP) processes helped identify and prioritize blue economy investments in line with shared principles. Although no private investment was forthcoming, these processes helped mobilize other donor financing (Irish and Norwegian) and informed the development of a blue economy–focused development policy financing series to address marine pollution, among other aims. CROP's focus on governance and data-driven decision-making was, as

articulated in the Implementation Completion and Results Report, "a model to emulate" (World Bank 2022b).

With few exceptions, the World Bank has mainly used sectoral entry points that have not been sufficiently leveraged to support blue economy policy and institutional development. The World Bank has seized opportunities to engage in sector operations that can have a positive effect on the blue economy; however, in most cases, it has not seized the opportunity to leverage these sector operations to engage on blue economy policy or institutional development. In Belize, the World Bank's 2012 technical assistance cites opportunities offered by the development of a blue economy approach, but the World Bank did not use its subsequent Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (2015–20) as an entry point to engage with the government on blue economy development. The Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project was under implementation when the World Bank rolled out its blue economy agenda. A problem that arose during the Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project was the displacement of fishers because of expansion of protected areas supported by the project—a problem that could have been prevented, or solved, using a blue economy approach. In Kenya, the World Bank has engaged in fisheries operations, which are achieving enhanced local fisheries management (including through spatial planning) and community livelihoods, but not on blue economy strategy or institutional development. Our cabinet-level interviews confirmed that the Kenyan government needs support from donors to help address gaps (for example, participation, sector coverage, and gender gaps) in the development of their draft blue economy strategy and its implementation, especially in coastal counties receiving support from the World Bank's fisheries operation. In Indonesia, the World Bank has made and continues to make important contributions to biodiversity protection, carbon storage, and social welfare through the Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project (2004–present) and the Mangroves for Coastal Resilience Project (2022–present), but it has not engaged on blue economy policy development. The challenge in Indonesia is that the World Bank is effectively engaging with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, but the Blue Economy Roadmap is being rolled out by the Ministry of National Development Planning through a process that has minimal consultation

and that is opaque about ecological and social considerations in relation to its blue growth aims. In Cabo Verde, the World Bank has engaged in tourism and fisheries through the Resilient Tourism and Blue Economy Development in Cabo Verde Project (2022–present), which seeks to relevantly achieve sector synergies by improving the quality and diversity of local fish for the tourism sector and by improving market and credit access for the fisheries sector. It is also financing a development policy financing series for Cabo Verde's Resilient and Equitable Recovery (2022–24) that supports zoning, licensing, and other regulatory aims but that has dropped a prior action related to MSP integral to achieving higher-order blue economy policy aims. In Morocco, the World Bank is supporting a blue economy Program-for-Results that is focused on developing institutional frameworks to improve the integrated management of natural resources in line with blue economy aims.

Critical gaps between the launch of influential blue economy analytics and operational support have also hindered blue economy development. Across all the case study countries, World Bank analytic work on the blue economy, funded by PROBLUE or other trust funds, is well regarded by clients and has often been key to shaping the blue economy narrative.[2] However, progress in taking forward this diagnostic and analytic work in blue economy policies and strategies either has stalled or has not been reinforced after initial engagements are completed. For example, in Bangladesh, the World Bank and the European Union helped the government develop a blue economy strategy between 2016 and 2018, including by facilitating awareness across ministries. After the departure of a key World Bank staff member, the blue economy development process has stalled. Although members of the government have a general understanding of the blue economy concept, it is loosely articulated regarding the development of coastal sectors without the spatial dimension, with limited cross-sector coordination and no real appreciation of the triple bottom line. Recognizing the need to rekindle dialogue, the World Bank country office formed a blue economy team in 2023, but it is taking time to gain traction. A similar situation occurred in Sri Lanka after the launch in 2017 of *Managing Natural Wealth for Resilient Growth and Livelihoods: Unleashing the Potential of the Blue Economy.* In the OECS, although the World Bank effectively supported

blue economy policy and institutional development through CROP at the regional level, it prematurely transitioned from a focus on broader blue economy governance to national sector-level investments (waste management, tourism, and fish) and associated sectoral policy development in the follow-on investment operation. Although sector investment at the country level is necessary, the governance elements of CROP associated with the foundations of the blue economy needed reinforcement because the national policies and governance committees resulting from CROP have yet to be endorsed, formally adopted, and implemented by governments. Maintaining country engagement is important because the blue economy approach requires a strong shift in practices and mentalities and often involves policy and institutional reforms that can face resistance. Engagement challenges are associated with the limited number of staff with blue economy expertise, staff rotations, and Country Management Unit buy-in for the concept.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning

The World Bank is not sufficiently leveraging its experience with integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) to support inclusive blue economy development. A sustainable blue economy calls for a strategic, integrated, and participatory approach to planning and managing coastal and marine areas. The World Bank was an early adopter of ICZM—a bottom-up, inclusive, and iterative governance approach to coastal development implemented by regional or local governments with wide stakeholder participation. ICZM institutes legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure that coastal development supports environmental and social goals and minimizes conflict (European Commission 1991; European Parliament and Council of the European Union 2002; Post and Lundin 1996). The World Bank published its ICZM guidelines in 1996 to guide its operational work (Post and Lundin 1996), including in nine lending activities in Albania, Belize, Egypt, India, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, West Africa, and Viet Nam, implemented during the evaluation period (of which seven are closed and two are near closure). In all projects, ICZM has, to varying extents, improved coastal management by resolving policy and institutional and

jurisdictional issues and achieved environmental and social benefits, including coastal land and resource restoration, pollution reduction, job creation and increases in local incomes, and more stable coastal environments conducive to private investment.[3] Yet, whereas *Riding the Blue Wave: Applying the Blue Economy Approach to World Bank Operations* (World Bank 2021d) refers to ICZM as an important blue economy tool, the World Bank has not updated its guidance in almost 30 years; with two exceptions (Viet Nam and West Africa), no new lending in coastal areas since 2018 incorporates ICZM tools. Rather, in other projects, the World Bank is supporting a version of MSP that is top-down, focused on investment planning (as indicated in its 2022 MSP tool kit), and that often primarily centers on the fisheries sector. This is the case, for example, in Kenya and Morocco, where the World Bank has not created effective links or alignment between ICZM and MSP approaches. The literature indicates that ICZM and MSP need to come together for sustainable blue economy development. The Independent Evaluation Group, however, identified only one project that creates explicit links between these two approaches (in Viet Nam; see box 3.1).

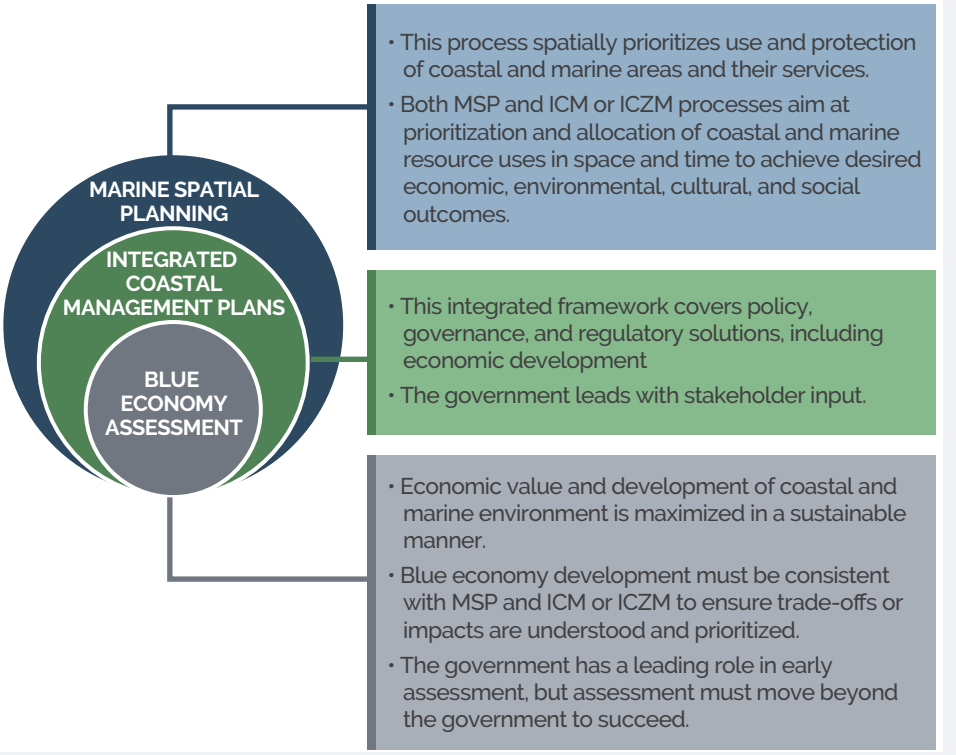
Box 3.1. Linking Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning Processes to Ensure the Success of the Blue Economy

In Viet Nam, through the programmatic advisory services and analytics (Enhancing Environmental Sustainability and Resilience, 2018–22), the World Bank has articulated how to use both integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) and marine spatial planning (MSP) approaches to support blue economy development. As depicted in a report produced by the World Bank's advisory services and analytics (figure B3.1.1), the success of the blue economy depends on effective planning, identification, and management of trade-offs at multiple levels to achieve desired economic, environmental, and social outcomes.

(continued)

Box 3.1. Linking Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning Processes to Ensure the Success of the Blue Economy (cont.)

Figure B3.1.1. Alignment between MSP and ICZM in Viet Nam's Blue Economy



Source: Adapted from World Bank 2022h.
Note: ICM = integrated coastal management; ICZM = integrated coastal zone management; MSP = marine spatial planning.

In Morocco, the World Bank effectively piloted the ICZM approach at the local level through a Global Environment Facility project (2012–17), and supported ICZM policies and regional coastal plans through the Green Growth development policy financing series (2014–16) and technical assistance (2020). The Global Environment Facility pilot demonstrated the successful application of the ICZM approach by integrating ICZM in local development plans and piloting investments in coastal resource management, which helped restore 500 hectares of land and created local jobs with sustained income benefits. The development policy financing series supported the approval of the coastal law and legislation on illegal fishing, and the technical assistance helped

(continued)

Box 3.1. Linking Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning Processes to Ensure the Success of the Blue Economy (cont.)

prepare the first regional coastal plan (in Rabat-Salé-Kénitra). More recently, the World Bank has supported MSP by training the government in MSP approaches and providing technical assistance to the Maritime Fisheries Department to use MSP in the creation of a marine protected area for fisheries management in the Souss-Massa region. However, having the pilot led by one sectoral ministry and focusing primarily on one sector (fisheries) deviates from the more multidisciplinary and integrated ICZM approach.

In Kenya's coastal counties, the World Bank used an ICZM approach (in the Kenya Coastal Development Project, 2011–17) to support sustainable fisheries management, with a focus on increasing incomes and effective natural resource management. The project used integrated conservation and land use plans—a participatory planning mechanism implemented at the local level—to increase awareness and influence behavior for enhanced fisheries and natural resource management. In a follow-on project, the Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project (2020–present) continues to focus on community welfare, through fisheries co-management arrangements, while also supporting national MSP. The latter effort discontinues work on integrated conservation and land use planning and does not make explicit how local planning processes will feed into national MSP and decision-making. This is especially important in a country like Kenya, whose constitution devolves responsibilities for coastal development to the local level.

Sources: Independent Evaluation Group; World Bank 2022h.

The World Bank's First Blue Bond

The world's first blue bond (supported by the World Bank in the Seychelles) brought blue finance to the global stage but does little to demonstrate how capital markets can support the development of the blue economy. The Seychelles issued the first sovereign blue bond of $15 million in 2018, facilitated by the World Bank. The World Bank defines a blue bond as "a debt

instrument issued by governments, development banks[,] or others to raise capital from impact investors to finance marine and ocean-based projects that have positive environmental, economic[,] and climate benefits" (World Bank 2018c). The objective of the blue bond, according to project documentation, is to demonstrate the potential for countries to harness capital markets for financing the sustainable and inclusive use and protection of marine resources. But the bond depended significantly on a World Bank partial guarantee of $5 million and a highly concessional $5 million loan from the Global Environment Facility Non-Grant Instrument Pilot. Therefore, although a highly innovative but concessional Blue Grants Fund was effective in piloting sustainable marine activities (for example, seaweed cultivation, oyster farming, pollution abatement, research and conservation activities), the effectiveness of the bond's loan component (the Blue Investment Fund) was negatively affected by a lack of local investors, due in part to high collateral and substantial down payment requirements. The fund is supporting an established investor in the fisheries sector but not other diversified sustainable blue economy opportunities, such as those piloted through the grants. The scale of the fund also likely limited the participation of mainstream institutional investors, who typically seek different incentive structures. The monitoring and compliance management framework is also not sufficient to ensure that the bond remains aligned with blue economy objectives and sustainability principles (March et al. 2024).

Enabling Blue Economy Development at the Regional Level

The varying mandates and capacities of regional organizations have been a key determinant of success for blue economy development, especially in the context of the OECS. The World Bank's support for blue economy development in the Eastern Caribbean was effective because the OECS—the regional implementing body for CROP—has high technical capacity in the area of the blue economy, long-standing relationships with member states, and a wide remit (extending to environmental, health, social, and economic policy areas). Furthermore, the homogeneity of the Eastern Caribbean islands makes managing opportunities and trade-offs relatively consistent. This example stands in stark contrast to the Pacific Islands Regional

Oceanscape Program, where project implementation arrangements called on Forum Fisheries Agency—a regional fisheries body—to take on governance activities necessary for blue economy development that went beyond their technical mandate.

Although the World Bank has helped strengthen sector platforms at the regional level, these efforts have not yet introduced a blue economy lens. The World Bank has worked to build or strengthen regional platforms—including the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program in West Africa and regional fisheries bodies through the West Africa Regional Fisheries Program, South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth, and Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program—and to help strengthen the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' capacity for addressing marine plastics. Although these platforms do not have an official mandate to engage in the various sectors that fall under the blue economy approach, the World Bank's support could be anchored in a blue economy lens to promote coordination and coherence—and to identify opportunities—between the disparate agendas (between fisheries, coastal resilience, marine plastic pollution, and so on).

There have also been missed opportunities to support regional bodies developing blue economy strategies. The landscape of regional organizations influencing the blue economy is complex. Influenced by regional political dynamics, these organizations include economic unions, fisheries management organizations, and ocean governance bodies. In Africa, there are several regional bodies that are contemporaneously developing blue economy strategies. These include the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the East African Community. The evaluation found that each organization is prioritizing a subset of blue economy aims in their strategies rather than balancing these aims and that members would welcome World Bank support for knowledge sharing, strategy harmonization, and capacity building for blue economy policy development but that this aid has not been forthcoming.[4]

In cases where the World Bank partners with regional organizations influential to the blue economy, its support has sometimes been out of step with

the organizations' capacities and mandates. As discussed, in the Pacific, the World Bank ineffectively engaged a regional fisheries organization to address ocean governance issues, a remit that exceeded its mandate. Conversely, although the Indian Ocean Commission in the southwest Indian Ocean has a comprehensive understanding of the blue economy and capacity to facilitate effective knowledge sharing among member countries, the World Bank relied on it to deliver regional fisheries activities that exceeded its sector technical capacity, and thus the project has underdelivered.

Adapting Established Sectors to Achieve Blue Economy Aims

Blue economy development requires traditional sectors to transition away from unsustainable approaches toward activities that seek to achieve a triple bottom line. Blue economy development calls for transitions in coastal and oceanic sectors, requiring "new practices and approaches that can both enhance the sustainability of these sectors and limit, to the extent possible, the negative impacts they have on ocean health" (World Bank 2021d, 18). It also requires policies that actively seek out opportunities for sector synergies that maximize benefits and address trade-offs. For example, in the Philippines, efforts to protect and restore mangroves have helped rejuvenate fish stocks while protecting elements of the country's pearl industry from the negative effects of disasters caused by natural hazards. We use a review of relevant literature (including internal and external publications) to understand and explain the challenges facing four key sectors within the blue economy—small-scale fisheries, plastics and marine pollution, marine and coastal tourism, and maritime transport infrastructure—and, relatedly, the way a blue economy approach is envisioned to address these. We then use portfolio review analyses to review the World Bank sector portfolios (ASA and lending), where we examine sector results and the extent to which sectors are transforming in line with blue economy principles.

Small-Scale Fisheries

Capture fisheries are essential to the well-being of millions of vulnerable households spread across most coastal nations. However, globally, fish stocks are massively depleted. Fisheries contribute to food and nutrition security,

employment, and economic development (Chuenpagdee and Kerezi 2022; Neiland et al. 2016) and can produce comparatively low-carbon protein for human consumption (Parker et al. 2018). In many regions, small-scale fisheries are fundamental, providing affordable protein and micronutrients that are difficult to replicate (Arthur et al. 2022), and they can be the buffer between precarious livelihoods and destitution (Belhabib, Sumaila, and Pauly 2015). Economic benefits extend for hundreds of miles along trading routes locally and globally. For example, small-scale fisheries represent 40 percent of global seafood capture, employ 90 percent of the sector's workforce, and are critical for improving gender equity because women make up 50 percent of the postharvest labor force—for example, processing, transport, sales, and so on (FAO, Duke University, and WorldFish 2023). However, between 30 and 35 percent of fish stocks globally remain overfished, and about 60 percent are fully fished with no potential for increased production (Link and Watson 2019; Ye and Gutierrez 2017). Small-scale fisheries in lower- and middle-income countries struggle to maintain their existence and are vulnerable to climate change (Chuenpagdee and Jentoft 2018; World Bank 2019a).

Investment in fisheries management is beneficial and necessary, but enabling sustainable fishing is complex and requires a blue economy approach. Effective fisheries management can lead to sustainable fisheries (Hilborn et al. 2020), and investment in improved fisheries outcomes will increase resilience and reduce poverty. Progress takes time, however, as the causes of unsustainability are myriad and connected. Poverty, political and economic marginalization, depleted stocks and habitats, competition for space, and, in some cases, corruption are common contributing factors (Chuenpagdee and Jentoft 2018). Progress, therefore, requires multiple factors to be addressed, including factors beyond the remit of traditional fisheries management. Fisheries, sustainability requires cross-sectoral alignment that emphasizes sustainable development, social inclusion, and environmental recovery—in other words, a blue economy approach.

Where fisheries are unsustainable, progress will involve managing trade-offs. Although fish stock health depends on the wider environment, the activity of fishing is often a primary driver of depletion (IPBES 2019). Shifting trajectories from unsustainable to sustainable involves transferring short- to medium-term costs onto those most dependent on the fished

resources (Bladon, Greig, and Okamura 2022). Hence, management measures and interventions that restrict fishing are often resisted and are politically sensitive (Oyanedel, Gelcich, and Milner-Gulland 2020). Interventions need to seek sustainability across all outcomes—ecological, economic, and social—which may require social protection and labor instruments to compensate for costs and to incentivize behavioral change (Bladon, Greig, and Okamura 2022).

The World Bank has supported a steady stream of analytics and lending in the fisheries sector, which is the subject of this assessment. The World Bank provided 43 ASA and lending projects focused on fisheries development between 2016 and 2023. There were 13 ASA and technical assistance products that included fisheries analyses, of which 8 were completed and 5 are ongoing, and 39 lending projects with a focus or co-focus on fisheries (including 36 investment project financing, 2 development policy financing, and 1 Program-for-Results), of which 12 were closed and 27 are active. Projects were widely dispersed geographically, with most projects located in the East Asia and Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa Regions.

The World Bank has put forth progressive global fisheries management guidance capable of supporting the blue economy goals that is increasingly reflected in the design of investments projects focused on small-scale fisheries. The World Bank published a new Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit in 2021 that progressively and explicitly includes social, ecological, and economic criteria and that has the potential to improve the treatment of resource sustainability and social protection, alongside economic development, in sector operations. This guidance is reflected in analytic support in Myanmar (2020–21), where the World Bank progressively set out to make a business case for improved fisheries governance, promoting good fisheries management as a means of fostering sustainable and inclusive growth. Projects in Peru (2017–23), Bangladesh (2019–present), Liberia (2022–present), Indonesia (2023–present), the Philippines (2023–present), and Senegal (2023–present) provide additional examples of fisheries projects that are transforming to include a blue economy focus or that better align with blue economy principles. For example, in Senegal, focal areas include intersectoral collaboration, resource resilience, and more inclusive

governance, and in the Philippines, fisheries management, diversified livelihoods, conservation, and climate resilience feature. In Madagascar (2017–24), social protection features strongly as a means of offsetting overfishing challenges.

Consistent application of the World Bank's Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit could promote more consistent and holistic treatment of sector issues and equal consideration of social, ecological, and economic outcomes in the ongoing and future portfolio. Some projects focused on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture that have been concurrently approved are not well aligned with holistic blue economy aims. In Sri Lanka (2020–21), fisheries analytics were focused on increased production in a sector where resource sustainability is a concern (IOTC 2022). Investments in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2017–present), Kiribati (2018–19), and India (2022–present) that support fisheries and aquaculture expansion do not articulate how they will address overfishing and resource scarcity.

Consistent application of the World Bank's Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit can also support enhanced considerations of climate change. Climate change risks are discussed in all Project Appraisal Documents, but explicit climate resilience measures featured in only 40 percent of them.

The World Bank is also not sufficiently testing its assumptions about fisher behavior as part of a wider blue economy approach. Blue economy development requires an assessment of trade-offs (between biodiversity and climate change goals and marine resource extraction, for example) and a consideration of how to compensate vulnerable resource users under changing circumstances. Of small-scale fisheries lending operations, 75 percent include livelihood components. A key assumption associated with the design of these components is that fishing pressure can be reduced by offering income-generating opportunities (outside of fishing, such as in tourism, agriculture, or agroforestry), alongside other management efforts. However, these project theories are ambiguous as to whether they intend to have fishers shift completely away from fishing to alternative forms of economic activity or to have them fish less while supplementing their income. This distinction is important because experience shows that it can be quite difficult to move individuals who have engaged in catch fishing as their primary

form of livelihood away from fishing on a permanent basis (Crawford 2002). World Bank projects measure participation rates, but less than half measure economic outcomes from livelihood activities, and none specifically assess the links between these livelihood activities and marine resource health (for example, reduced pressure on the ecosystem, fish stocks, and so on), including through studies. The World Bank's causal theory in this space needs to be tested because studies show the following:

1. Even if workers are successful in acquiring skills to engage in new sectors, they may diversify their livelihood activities without reducing fishing (Brugère, Holvoet, and Allison 2008).
2. Small-scale fishing is tied to identity and self-worth—individuals may not be willing to exit because of stock declines, even when equal or better opportunities are available (Blythe 2015; Knudsen 2016; Muallil et al. 2011; Pollnac, Pomeroy, and Harkes 2001).
3. Additional sources of income have enhanced the well-being of fishers, but they also contribute to additional pressure on nearshore resources (Epstein et al. 2022) and can reduce the likelihood of fishery exit in the long term (Slater, Napigkit, and Stead 2013).
4. Diversification reduces the risk of livelihood failure; thus, it can supplement and complement fishing activity that might not otherwise be economically viable because of factors such as seasonality or lack of credit (Allison and Ellis 2001).
5. Fishing is an enjoyable leisure activity for many, and increased income from alternative sources can increase the availability of time to engage in fishing (Reddy et al. 2013; Walsh, Groves, and Nagavarapu 2010).

Plastics and Marine Pollution

Marine plastic pollution is a chronic global problem that has reached a crisis level, with effects that are compromising ocean and human health and the potential of the blue economy. The productivity, viability, profitability, and safety of key blue economy sectors, including fishing, aquaculture, tourism, and heritage, are all diminished by plastic pollution, with coastal communities particularly vulnerable to the social and economic effects of marine

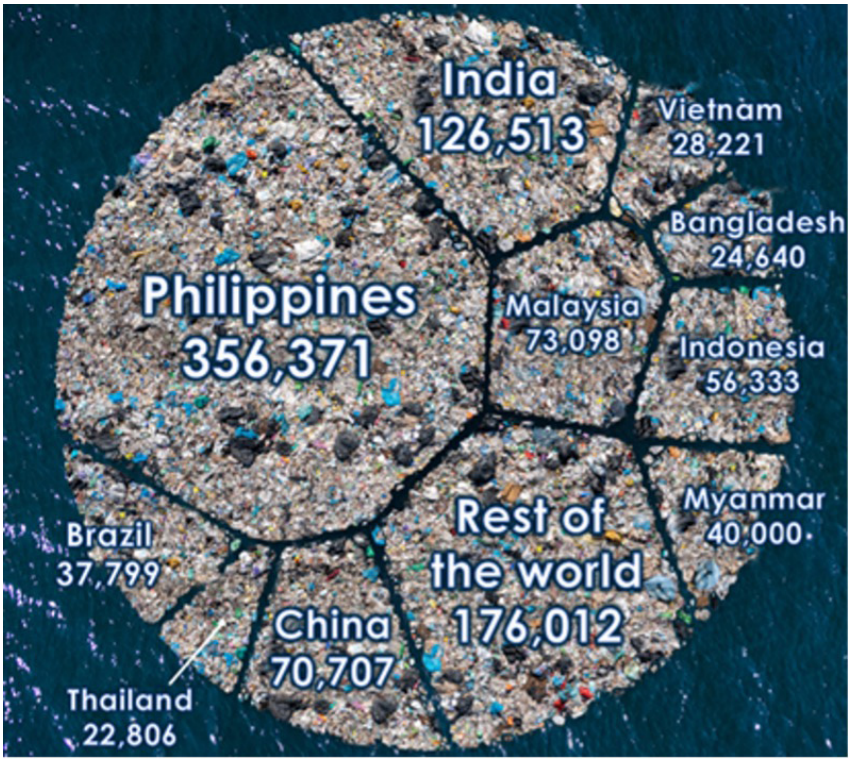
plastic pollution (UNEP 2021a). Plastic pollution entering the ocean is expected to triple by 2040 to 29 million metric tons per year, and the total plastic stock in the ocean will quadruple to 646 million metric tons by 2040 without significant action (Lau et al. 2020). The presence of plastics in the ocean threatens all marine life through entanglement and ingestion, habitat disturbance, and chemical uptake (Gall and Thompson 2015; UNEP 2021a). Microplastics in the ocean can act as vectors for pathogenic organisms and alter the reproduction rates and life expectancy of marine species (UNEP 2021a). There is also growing evidence that exposure to the chemicals in plastics can lead to chronic health conditions, including cancers, diabetes, obesity, and infertility, whereas microplastics and nanoplastics could have additional toxic effects because of their ability to cross biological membranes, including the brain and placenta (Bidashimwa et al. 2023). Given their proximity and exposure to plastic pollution, workers in the blue economy are likely to be particularly vulnerable to plastic-related health concerns.

The World Bank was an early actor in tackling marine plastic pollution largely because of the support of the PROBLUE trust fund. Although the World Bank has addressed marine plastic pollution through its investments in solid waste management for at least two decades, the World Bank's specific focus on plastic pollution can be traced to the establishment of a dedicated funding window (in 2018), within the PROBLUE multidonor trust fund. PROBLUE has provided 68 grants for $45 million in support of 39 pieces of analytic work and co-financing for 29 investment operations (representing 35 percent of PROBLUE's total budget). The World Bank also has provided policy support to address plastic waste (12 development policy loans).

The World Bank's global plastics analytics and estimation models are being used by policy makers to tackle plastic pollution. World Bank global analytics include the flagship report *Where Is the Value in the Chain? Pathways out of Plastic Pollution* (2022k), which brings insights from the development of two models: the Plastics Policy Simulator and the Plastic Substitution Tradeoff Estimator. The Plastics Policy Simulator is a capacity development model for policy makers to estimate how businesses and households will react to implementing new plastics policies and the costs, revenues, and other impacts of those policies. The Plastic Substitution Tradeoff Estimator assesses the costs and benefits of alternative materials in monetary, quantitative, and

qualitative terms in 10 single-use plastic products, including bottles, cutlery, food wrapping, and diapers. These models are filling an important gap because very few similar open-access tools exist for national-level exploration of plastics policy options and show positive signs of early uptake. We found that the Plastics Policy Simulator and the Plastic Substitution Tradeoff Estimator are being applied, for example, in countries such as the Philippines, which is one of the highest plastic waste polluters in the world, as shown in figure 3.1, and by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris, which has been endorsed by 10 countries, including many high-polluting countries.[5] The tools are also being applied in Georgia, Türkiye, and Ukraine as part of the Europe and Central Asia Regional program Blueing the Black Sea. Other tools developed by the World Bank, such as waste audits, were applied in Kiribati, Samoa, and Tonga in the Pacific Islands. The World Bank has also significantly contributed to shaping the national plastics road maps of Ghana, Indonesia, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia, and Viet Nam through its partnership with the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership. The Indonesia and Pakistan action plans, for example, use the World Bank's What a Waste database and, together with Ghana's road map, use its plastic hierarchy theory to outline the systematic changes needed for effective plastic waste management.

Figure 3.1. Highest Ocean Plastic Waste Polluters



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Note: Annual estimation is in metric tons.

The World Bank has provided important development policy support to address marine plastic issues in SIDS but not in the coastal nations that rank as major contributors to plastic waste production. The World Bank has concentrated its policy support on addressing plastic waste in or affecting the marine space through development policy financing, with 58 percent (7 out of 12) of prior actions targeting SIDS, which are not the principal generators of plastic waste.[6] Although this is suboptimal from a global perspective, these interventions are yielding considerable environmental advantages locally. For example, the Grenada Fiscal Resilience and Blue Growth development policy credits had prior actions to ban Styrofoam food containers, single-use plastic bags, and disposable plastic cutlery, which resulted in an almost complete import ban of such products. Similarly, prior actions for the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Second Fiscal Reform and Resilience development policy credit supported the phaseout of the import,

distribution, and use of single-use plastic bags and plastic food containers to reduce waste generation and marine pollution. Prior actions included in the Solomon Islands Transition to Sustainable Growth development policy operation series helped introduce an environmental levy on single-use plastics and other plastics with toxic components to reduce plastic pollution. However, there is a notable absence of policy operational support in many coastal nations shown in figure 3.1 that rank as major contributors to plastic waste production. Notable policy actions in the Philippines, the highest-polluting country, include the enactment of the Extended Producer Responsibility Act requiring large enterprises to recover up to 80 percent of plastic packaging waste by 2028. Otherwise, development policy operations have supported a tax on plastic bags in Colombia and a ban on the use of single-use plastic bags beneath a certain thickness in Albania, neither of which is a top polluter. This discrepancy suggests a potential misalignment between the geographical focus of policy support and the areas where it could achieve the most impact on global plastic waste reduction.

The World Bank has also not clarified the connection between its commitments to achieve a just climate change transition to its circular economy (plastics and pollution) agenda. A key area of debate in the ongoing Global Plastics Treaty negotiations is how the necessary circularity shift in the global plastics economy might affect vulnerable communities, with many countries and groups insisting that a just transition is essential to effectively tackle plastic pollution in a way that is acceptable to all parties. In alignment with this position, the World Bank has indicated that the solutions to plastic pollution should not "penalize poor countries, or poor communities in every country" and that "we must design solutions with the needs and realities of the poorest communities in mind, to ensure a 'just transition'" (Hickey 2023). However, this position is not clearly reflected in some of the World Bank's key guidance on tackling plastic pollution. For example, neither *Where Is the Value in the Chain? Pathways out of Plastic Pollution* (World Bank 2022k) nor *Tackling Plastics Pollution: Towards Experience-Based Policy Guidance* (World Bank 2022i) advocate a just transition or specifically mention the term. Although these reports, and the associated tools,[7] acknowledge social dimensions and the need for integrating social considerations into policy reforms, the broader concept or contemporary

understanding of a just transition, as highlighted by stakeholders in the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations,[8] is not captured, and the tools do not clarify specific measures. Similarly, the recently published *Plastic-Free Coastlines: A Contribution from the Maghreb to Address Marine Plastic Pollution* (World Bank 2022f) does not mention a just transition. Given the World Bank's view that tackling plastic pollution is key to its fight to tackle poverty and its commitment to supporting the blue economy, there is room for further alignment with this key consideration in the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations.

Marine and Coastal Tourism

Tourism, a key sector of the blue economy, offers significant opportunities for employment, income, and foreign exchange in developing countries, but it requires careful balancing of environmental and sociocultural impacts within a blue economy transition. Making up about 50 percent of global tourism, marine and coastal tourism generate $4.6 trillion annually, accounting for 5.2 percent of global GDP (Northrop et al. 2022). It is an essential part of the economy for small islands and coastal communities. Although COVID-19 severely affected the sector and those dependent on it, international tourism flows recovered to almost 60 percent of prepandemic levels by July 2022 (OECD 2022). Amid this recovery, tourism's potential benefits are contingent on sustainable management because unmanaged tourism exerts pressures on limited marine and coastal resources, leading to environmental, economic, and social harm. Environmental impacts include pollution (including plastics),[9] habitat and reef destruction for infrastructure development,[10] biodiversity loss, shoreline erosion, water resource depletion, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change exacerbates these pressures as rising sea levels and increased storm frequency threaten both natural ecosystems and the tourism infrastructure dependent on them. Unsustainable tourism can also erode traditional culture and local economies. It can lead to overdependence on tourism, increase crime and conflicts, and crowd out traditional businesses (Lei, Suntikul, and Chen 2023). Transitioning the marine and coastal tourism sector within a blue economy calls for an approach that (i) is informed by an integrated planning framework such as MSP to designate tourism locations appropriately and

balance trade-offs between tourism and other sectors; (ii) prioritizes and supports ecosystem health and resilience; and (iii) ensures comprehensive stakeholder engagement, with particular attention to the needs of marginalized groups (Hickey 2022). Tourism engagements that adopt a blue economy approach can help mobilize financing, knowledge, and technical assistance to implement integrated development strategies that build resilience, address climate change, reduce pollution, support ecosystem regeneration and biodiversity conservation, and invest in local jobs and communities (Northrop et al. 2022).

The World Bank's core coastal and marine tourism portfolio has contributed to local economic development and jobs, with some evidence of success, but it has paid insufficient attention to upstream environmental issues, including water use and waste. Since 2016, the World Bank has financed 17 analytic products and 14 lending projects focused on tourism development (all were developed by the Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation GP), which is the subject of this assessment.[11,12] Of the 14 lending operations approved since the launch of the blue economy agenda in the World Bank (2016 onward) that have supported coastal and marine tourism, 6 have passed the Mid-Term Review stage and 3 are closed; most (78 percent) are in Africa. In this cohort of mature or closed projects, most contributed to increased private investment in tourism destinations by supporting tourism promotion and marketing plans and by improving infrastructure. They also supported diversification aims by connecting micro, small, and medium enterprises to tourism markets through training and certification, which also enabled some of these micro, small, and medium enterprises to access finance. Notwithstanding these economic achievements, none of these projects worked upstream to reduce the production of waste or pollution, or excess use of water, that would result from the envisioned increase in tourism, and only 2 projects included and tracked tourism-related waste management activities (in Indonesia and Senegal).

As of 2022, the World Bank put forth a blue tourism paper that represents a shift away from its prior tourism theory of change and that is capable of supporting blue economy aims. *Blue Tourism in Islands and Small Tourism-Dependent Coastal States: Tools & Recovery Strategies* (World Bank 2022a), financed by PROBLUE, represents a strong departure from the World

Bank's prior tourism theory of change, published in 2018, which focused mostly on competitiveness and diversification (World Bank 2018d). That theory of change report did not reference the blue economy, oceans, pollution, waste management, or plastics. The concept of environmental sustainability is also not clearly integrated within the guidance. Most of the coastal and marine tourism portfolio, approved since 2016, focused on market development and investment promotion; micro, small, and medium enterprise integration, which enables infrastructure and services; and to a certain extent, more recently, economic diversification. Conversely, the World Bank's new tourism paper explains how countries and operations can shift to a more sustainable and resilient (financially, environmentally, socioeconomically, and culturally) tourism approach. The shift was stimulated by the sector crises caused by COVID-19, which prompted many governments and the World Bank to rethink the way they are engaging in the sector. The transition envisioned is one that moves the tourism sector away from high-impact, environmentally and culturally damaging activities toward low-impact, high-value tourism growth that proactively supports local communities and the conservation of natural resources. Importantly, the guidance also emphasizes the need for cross-sector coordination, which is critical for achieving blue economy aims: "tourism needs to be considered not as a discrete area but in connection with sustainable fisheries, agribusiness, transport, and rural development" (World Bank 2022a, 12). There is evidence that these principles have been taken up in one new tourism promotion project—the Resilient Tourism and Blue Economy Development in Cabo Verde Project (2022–present)—which promotes and tracks the number of beneficiary small and medium enterprises that take up environmentally friendly practices (for example, water conservation, waste management, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions). Time will tell whether other tourism operations will follow suit now that they are supported by PROBLUE.

Maritime Transport Infrastructure

Maritime transport is an integral part of a holistic blue economy system, but maritime policies and infrastructure have historically been developed in silos. Maritime policies that concern the securitization of water rights, shipping,

and navigational issues, as well as port design and expansion, have often been developed in isolation from other sectors. Decisions about the placement and development of fisheries ports and container or cruise terminals have been left to the markets without being integrated into marine and land use planning processes that consider their environmental and social effects. The industry has relied on heavy and intermediate fuel oils that pollute the sea and air and are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions (Helton 2023). Maritime transport contributes to approximately 30 percent of global nitrogen oxide emissions and 2.9 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions (OECD 2024). Solid waste has also been dumped into the ocean, winding up on coastlines and carried with the current to distant shores, rather than being managed responsibly.[13] Ports range from deepwater container terminals that often are not socially inclusive to fishing ports and docks where there are ample opportunities to support local jobs and provide access to local markets with appropriate upstream planning and community engagement.

Aspects of the blue economy in the marine transport space—such as decarbonization and greening of ports—have been covered by World Bank analytics, but operational uptake is low. With the support of PROBLUE, the World Bank has developed analytics on the decarbonization of shipping and the greening of ports. Since the introduction of the Blue Economy Development Framework in fiscal year 2016, the World Bank has approved 14 investment projects that support maritime transport, seaports, or inland waterways connected to the coast. Among them, 5 projects in the Comoros, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Tonga have interventions designed to enhance the disaster resilience of their seaports, mainly through gray infrastructure.[14] Only two maritime transport projects, in the Comoros and Kiribati, assess and address trade-offs as part of an MSP approach (financial, environmental, and social) using a blue economy lens (box 3.2). World Bank analytics are also yielding insights into the financial dimensions of decarbonizing maritime transport, particularly in carbon revenue allocation, and this knowledge has been shared globally at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Two South Asian maritime transport projects (approved in fiscal years 2016 and 2017) support decarbonization of maritime shipping through cleaner fuel adoption (however, both projects

were undergoing restructuring at the time of the evaluation, so results could not be reported). However, other maritime transport projects in coastal states that focus on operational safety, physical expansions, and administrative management do not include references to environmental or social considerations beyond safeguards or the wider blue economy (including in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Somalia, Tanzania, and Togo). There are also opportunities to partner or engage in mutual learning in this space, for example, with the African Union, which has placed sustainable port development at the center of its blue economy strategy with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB 2022).

Box 3.2. Maritime Transport Projects That Use a Blue Economy Lens

Two recently approved projects in Kiribati and the Comoros stand out for their integration of environmental and social considerations into maritime transport. The Kiribati Outer Islands Transport Infrastructure Investment Project (P165838), approved in fiscal year 2020, has technical assistance to enhance the government's capacity in using marine spatial data. This is expected to enable the monitoring of cargo shipping activities' impact on lagoon marine resources and reefs while facilitating climate-informed maritime operations. Similarly, the Comoros Interisland Connectivity Project (P173114), approved in fiscal year 2022, incorporates considerations for coastal communities' social welfare in its project design. The seaports are designed to accommodate fishing boats and other small cargo vessels, allowing local fishing communities to develop their business in the port areas and thus promoting coexistence between local fishery and maritime transport industries.

Sources: Independent Evaluation Group; World Bank 2020a, 2022c.

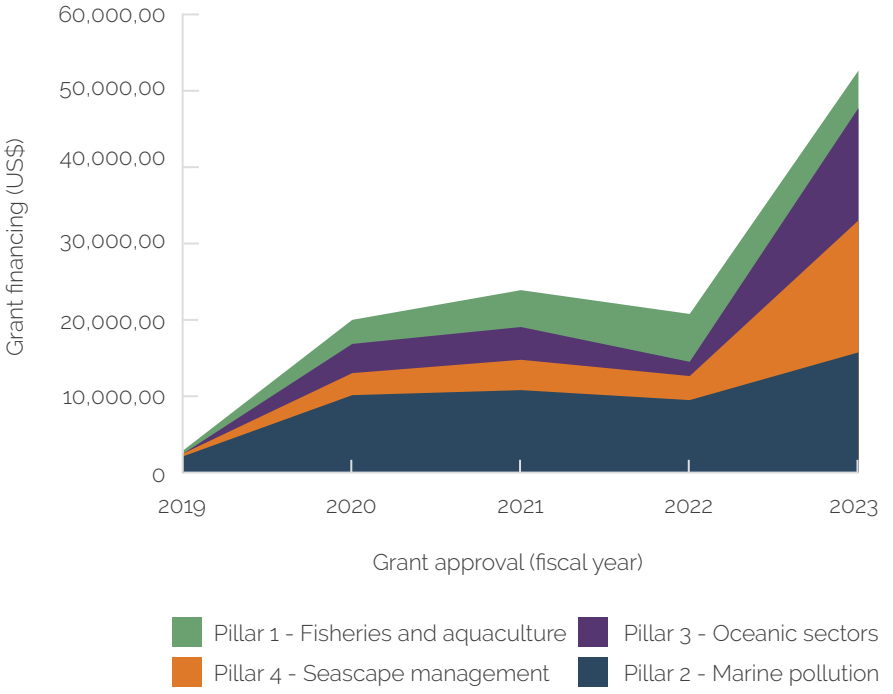
Blue Economy at the Corporate Level

The PROBLUE trust fund has been instrumental in helping the World Bank finance blue economy analyses, lodged within advisory services and operations. PROBLUE is a multidonor trust fund established in 2018 and administered by the World Bank's ENB GP. Donors include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It has supported over 180 grants in 80 client countries,

with a total contribution of over $220 million, that have supported 84 ASAs and 46 lending operations (of which all but 2 are active and in the pipeline). PROBLUE finances four eligible pillars of work: (i) fisheries and aquaculture management; (ii) marine pollution, including litter and plastics; (iii) oceanic sectors ("blueing" sectors, such as tourism, maritime transport, offshore renewable energy, desalination, and so on); and (iv) seascape management (building government capacity for integrated marine resource management). As noted in the Articulation of the Blue Economy in Country Diagnostics section in chapter 2, focused blue economy analytics have been critical for articulating the blue economy in country diagnostics. Although PROBLUE had predominantly supported blue economy analytics housed in the ENB GP during its early years (100 percent of grants were provided to ENB GP as of 2019), it has also supported blue economy analyses in other sectors between 2019 and 2023 (one-fifth of the PROBLUE grants were provided to other sectors for ASA in 2023).

PROBLUE's support has had a pronounced focus on marine pollution, but recent trends show increased pillar diversification in line with wider blue economy aims. Since its inception, PROBLUE has demonstrated a strong commitment to tackling marine pollution by directing 40 percent of its total grant financing toward pillar 2. The share of annual funding dedicated to pillar 2 started at a peak of 73 percent in 2019 and decreased to 30 percent by 2023, although in absolute terms, the share has increased in line with PROBLUE's tripling of grant approvals during this period (see figure 3.2). By 2023, PROBLUE's financing had shown a significant increase in diversification, especially in financing seascape management (pillar 4) and oceanic sectors (pillar 3), which are most in line with wider blue economy aims. Fisheries and aquaculture remain the least funded pillar, having received only 16 percent of PROBLUE's financing over its lifetime.

Figure 3.2. PROBLUE Financing by Pillar, by Grant Volume



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

PROBLUE funds have only infrequently been used to help integrate blue economy principles into investment operations in other key sectors. Two-thirds of PROBLUE grants provided to lending operations have been used by ENB to enhance the sustainability of small-scale fishing, capacity building for solid waste management, and piloting nature-based tourism—activities in line with blue economy aims. However, PROBLUE grants have only infrequently been used to promote the adoption of a blue economy approach within other GPs, which would entail the provision of PROBLUE finance for engagement of ENB staff in sector operations in key blue economy areas, such as tourism or marine transport. Good examples include co–task team leadership of the Mozambique Sustainable Rural Economy Program and the Resilient Tourism and Blue Economy Development in Cabo Verde Project and ENB cross-support to the Jamaica Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project.

PROBLUE is supporting gender integration through analytics and criteria in their grant proposals, but it is too soon to assess gender outcomes in

projects, although enhanced monitoring and reporting are needed at the project and portfolio levels. PROBLUE has demonstrated a strategic commitment to gender integration by incorporating gender criteria in its grant proposals and by producing key analytics.[15] For example, by June 2023, 93 percent of all PROBLUE grant recipients had articulated how gender results would be achieved in their respective operations. Since projects have not sufficiently captured and reported on gender-disaggregated effects, however, plans are underway to use more specialists on gender and gender-based violence in PROBLUE-financed operations.

[1] Although the Eastern Caribbean states had indigenously put forth the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)—the existing vision of the blue economy in the OECS—support was needed to translate that vision into regional and national policy, produce national asset accounts, and harmonize and update sector legislation. The St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (signed in 1999, ratified in 2001, and revised in 2006) is the benchmark environmental management framework in the Eastern Caribbean region. The declaration is structured around 21 principles to guide sustainable development, mandating their delivery by OECS member states, and sets out clear requirements for monitoring environmental impacts and trends in ecosystem health.

[2] This has included accounting exercises to provide initial measures of ocean-linked economic activity, undertaking Public Expenditure Reviews for the blue economy; guidance, action plans, and road maps to introduce blue economy tools such as marine spatial planning; and analyses for key sectors considered important for blue economy development.

[3] The Arab Republic of Egypt—Alexandria Coastal Zone Management Project (fiscal year [FY]10; P095925): The population is already benefiting from having a coordination mechanism in place through the adoption of the integrated coastal zone management plan, which will allow the regular monitoring of water quality and biodiversity along the coast. Beneficiaries were consulted, and they participated in the development of the plan. Pollution reduction will allow fishers to catch less contaminated and better-quality fish (*Mugil cephalus* instead of less valuable fish, such as tilapia), including the restoration of wetland and biodiversity conservation. Stakeholders have also benefited from integrated coastal zone management training, which has helped with sustainably managing the future land use of the city, potentially increasing coastal fishing and recreational activities. The Namibian Coast Conservation and Management Project (FY06; P070885): The proclamation of the Sperrgebiet National Park (now called Tsau/Khaeb) in 2008, the Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area in 2009, and the Dorob National Park in 2010, linking the Namib-Naukluft Park and the Skeleton Coast National Park in 2011, contributed to the achievement of the project development objective. India—Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (FY10; P097985): Achievements included delineation of 7,500 kilometers of coastal hazard line for India and restoration of over 16,000 hectares of mangroves and 2,000 hectares of shelterbelt. Innovative environmental infrastructure includes sewage treatment plants in Gujarat with private sector participation and island electrification in West Bengal. Livelihood improvements and environmental services directly benefited 1.84 million people and indirectly 13.8 million people (over

50 percent women). Morocco—Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (FY13; P121271): The project included the restoration of 500 hectares of degraded land, which reduced erosion and created jobs and income benefits. Albania—Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-up Project (FY05–15; P086807): The project dropped its objective to enhance regulatory policy and governance of the coastal zone, land use and regional planning, and institutional capacity. However, it assisted the government of Albania with improving critical infrastructure and municipal services along its southern coast. This included the construction of a sanitary landfill that can accommodate the disposal of 25,000 tons of waste annually, construction of a 180-meter new berth front with 9-meter water depth, remediation of contaminated sites from a former chemical plant, water supply and sewerage infrastructure, and road improvements. West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project (FY18, P162337): Achievements included 4,028 households in targeted coastal areas with less exposure to erosion, 14,368 households in targeted coastal areas with less exposure to flooding, 1,250 households in targeted coastal areas with less exposure to pollution, 168.75 hectares of targeted coastal area with flooding control measures, 6.79 kilometers of shoreline with targeted coastal erosion control measures, two sites or zones with pollution control measures, and 4,491 coastal households with access to improved livelihood activities.

[4] From Independent Evaluation Group discussions held with the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in August 2023.

[5] Further alignment and implementation support of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Action Plan provided as part of country-level investment project financing work—for example, the PROBLUE-supported investment project financing to Cambodia (P170976).

[6] The development policy operations have been led by the Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice (n = 9); Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy (n = 2); Social Protection and Jobs (n = 1); and Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land (n = 1).

[7] Namely, the Plastics Policy Simulator and the Plastic Substitution Tradeoff Estimator tools.

[8] For example, the Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty, in a briefing note for treaty negotiators published in 2023 titled *Towards a Just Transition Away from Plastic Pollution,* states that "provisions for a just transition away from plastic pollution have been viewed as necessary in the ongoing negotiations towards an international legally binding

instrument to end plastic pollution (henceforth, plastics treaty). In this context, just transition means ensuring that measures taken to end plastic pollution are fair, equitable[,] and inclusive for all stakeholders across the plastics life cycle by safeguarding livelihoods and communities impacted by plastic pollution and corresponding control measures. A just transition entails recognizing the inequitably distributed impacts of plastic pollution across the plastics life cycle, ensuring decent and green work opportunities and conditions for affected communities and workers across the plastics value chain, reducing inequalities, particularly among women and youth, and leaving no-one behind in the transition towards ending plastic pollution" (O'Hare et al. 2023).

[9] Tourism can exacerbate marine litter, solid waste, and wastewater problems, particularly when infrastructure to accommodate increased visitors is insufficient. For example, the volume of marine litter in the Mediterranean region increases up to 40 percent during the peak tourist season, causing environmental damage and deterring tourists from visiting (WWF 2019). A recent PROBLUE study found that marine plastic pollution resulted in a measurable economic cost to tourism of approximately $18 million in Tanzania and Zanzibar (McIlgorm and Xie 2023). Discharge from boats and cruise ships and chemical sunscreen also negatively affect water quality and marine ecosystems.

[10] Tourism infrastructure development, including hotels and roads, often leads to environmental degradation, destroying vital coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves and seagrass, through land and beach clearing. In 2010, the state of Quintana Roo in Mexico, where Cancún is, was losing approximately 150,000 hectares of mangroves per year as a result of land clearing for hotels and resorts (Vidal 2010).

[11] Since 2016, the Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice has produced 17 advisory services and analytics, including six country analyses (Cabo Verde, Pakistan, Sint Maarten, Tanzania and Zanzibar, Timor-Leste, and Uruguay), two in the Caribbean (OECS), two in the Pacific region, one focused on the Indian Ocean subregion, and five global. It has also approved 14 lending projects (and four additional financing) that have a core focus on coastal and marine tourism across 12 countries—in Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Madagascar, the Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and four small island developing states (Cabo Verde, the Comoros, OECS, and Suriname).

[12] Other Global Practices have also supported projects with marine tourism activities (often lodged within components), including Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land and Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy, which are not the subject of this assessment.

[13] Maritime transport is the source of waste and pollution entering the seas and oceans in a direct way. The ports in the region lack waste reception facilities, and many ships dump their wastes at sea, and the waste is then transported to distant locations by winds and currents (UNEP 2021a).

[14] "Gray infrastructure is built structures and mechanical equipment, such as reservoirs, embankments, pipes, pumps, water treatment plants, and canals. These engineered solutions are embedded within watersheds or coastal ecosystems whose hydrological and environmental attributes profoundly affect the performance of the gray infrastructure" (Browder et al. 2019, 14).

[15] These include *Gender Integration in the Blue Economy Portfolio: Review of Experiences and Future Opportunities* (World Bank 2022d) and "Gender, Marginalized People and Marine Spatial Planning: Improve Livelihoods, Empower Marginalized Groups, Bridge the Inequality Gap" (World Bank 2021a).

4 | Conclusions and Recommendations

Ocean and coastal resources are integral to sustaining life on Earth, but they are in a state of emergency because of governance and management failures compounded by low institutional capacity. Oceans and coastal resources are vital for inclusive growth, jobs, and food and nutrition security. However, the sustainability of these resources is undermined by fragmented policies that are made ineffective by legal and regulatory gaps and overlapping institutional mandates. As a result, oceans and coastal areas have been treated as limitless resources and largely cost-free repositories of waste. This challenge is exacerbated by the delayed response to and mounting threats of climate change.

International actors have progressively proposed using a blue economy approach to address ocean and coastal governance failures. Although there is no single definition of the blue economy, international actors have coalesced around the need to ensure the health of ocean and coastal resources to support the environmentally sustainable and socially equitable development of coastal and marine areas. Blue economy implies a shift from sector-led to integrated approaches that require sector coordination to identify synergies and manage trade-offs among resource user groups and development aims.

World Bank Articulation of the Blue Economy

The World Bank adopted a blue economy approach in 2016 and subsequently helped lift a progressive blue economy concept out of country workshops and onto the world stage. The World Bank heightened the credibility of the blue economy concept through analytics, often financed by bilateral partners. These analytics, mostly regional, presented the potential of the blue economy to achieve balanced economic, environmental, and social development aims in coastal and marine areas.

However, the World Bank's corporate definition of the blue economy falls short of articulating key tenets of the blue economy that are expressed in its

own analytics and that are increasingly being communicated by key partners. These missing tenets include references to the restorative potential of the blue economy, inclusion, equity, and the need for integrated approaches. The World Bank's corporate definition also appears to be decoupled from pressing food and nutrition security, climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy goals.

Clearly articulating the holistic purpose of the blue economy is important because clients are using the World Bank's corporate definition to inform their own blue economy strategies, and key partners rely on the World Bank to communicate its more holistic aim. Clearly articulating the more holistic definition of the blue economy is also important so that World Bank management and staff consistently communicate the more holistic concept in client-facing engagements.

Although the blue economy is being referenced in most SIDS SCDs and is slowly emerging in those for coastal states, low comprehensiveness of the concept is limiting its ability to be used as a policy framing tool. Although most SIDS and some coastal nation SCDs refer to the blue economy, the persistent tendency to address sector issues in silos hinders opportunities to identify synergies and manage trade-offs across the World Bank portfolio. This low comprehensiveness of the concept is also reflected in SCDs' tendencies to cite the potential of emerging sectors (for example, offshore energy) without considering trade-offs.

The blue economy can play a significant role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, but the World Bank's CCDRs are being underused as a tool to help clients achieve this aim. CCDRs also only partially identify risks posed by climate change to marine and coastal areas and often do not diagnose the potential risks posed by emerging sectors to the marine environment.

The World Bank's commitment to the blue economy is also not clearly articulated in its evolution. The importance of the blue economy is not reflected in the September 2023 Development Committee paper "Ending Poverty on a Livable Planet: Report to Governors on World Bank Evolution," which outlines the World Bank's mission to support a livable planet (World Bank 2023a). Its newly launched Global Challenge Program on Forests for Development, Climate, and Biodiversity does not refer to the blue

economy, and actions on biodiversity and nature do not refer to coastal or ocean resources.

World Bank Operationalization of the Blue Economy

The World Bank demonstrated how to effectively engage on blue economy development using a governance approach in the Eastern Caribbean. This effective approach focused on harmonizing and developing blue economy policies and practices as a precursor to sector lending.

Elsewhere, the use of sector entry points in marine and coastal areas has achieved sector results, but these entry points have not been leveraged to support policy and institutional reforms critical for blue economy development. Most governments are just beginning to establish coherent policy, strategy, and institutional mechanisms for effective blue economy development. With few exceptions, such as in Morocco and OECS, World Bank operations in these countries are achieving sector results but are not yet being leveraged to support sector transitions involving needed coordination to achieve blue economy aims.

There have also been critical gaps between the launch of influential blue economy analytics and operational support that have hindered blue economy development. Maintaining country engagement is important because the blue economy approach requires a strong shift in practices and mentalities and often involves policy and institutional reforms that can face resistance. Engagement challenges are associated with the limited number of staff with blue economy expertise, staff rotations, and Country Management Unit buy-in for the concept.

The World Bank has updated much of its relevant sector guidance to incorporate blue economy principles, but thus far, uptake is uneven:

» The designs of small-scale fisheries projects are increasingly aligned with progressive global fisheries guidance that is capable of achieving blue economy aims. Consistent application of this guidance can promote more holistic designs for some projects that retain a growth aim and the enhanced integration of climate change considerations.

- The World Bank's global plastics analytics and estimation models are being used by policy makers to tackle plastic pollution. The World Bank has used development policy lending to address marine plastics issues in SIDS, but this policy support has yet to be extended to coastal nations that rank as major contributors to plastic waste production.
- The World Bank's updated analytics on blue tourism support a more holistic approach, but with few exceptions, marine and coastal tourism operations are paying insufficient attention to upstream environmental issues, such as water use and waste.
- Aspects of the blue economy in the marine transport space—such as decarbonization and greening of ports—have been covered in analytics, but operational uptake is low.

The PROBLUE multidonor trust fund occupies a unique and potentially transformative role in financing blue economy development, but there is room to enhance its strategic relevance and impact. The main trust fund vehicle for supporting the blue economy in the World Bank, PROBLUE has effectively supported the development of blue economy analytics and has increasingly diversified its grants to achieve more holistic blue economy aims. PROBLUE and its governance body are implicated in the need to consistently communicate the more holistic meaning of the blue economy. A more strategic approach involves, among other things, identifying and addressing policy and institutional gaps that underpin blue economy development and deepening PROBLUE's support for relevant sector investments.

These findings lead to the following three recommendations:

- At a corporate level, the World Bank should articulate its commitment to helping clients achieve the more holistic meaning of the blue economy, including by updating its corporate definition and ensuring that the concept is consistently articulated in relevant country engagements. An update of the corporate definition would include acknowledging the restorative potential of the blue economy, inclusion, equity, and the need for integrated approaches, while also clarifying links to pressing food and nutrition security, climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy goals. It would also require the World Bank to ensure that relevant management and staff working in coastal

and marine areas can understand, own, and consistently articulate the merits of the blue economy agenda to clients in country-facing engagements.

» The World Bank should proactively support a holistic blue economy approach in coastal and marine areas. World Bank management should ensure that blue economy diagnostics are used to inform key country diagnostics and country strategies, where relevant. Country Management Units should ensure that there is coherence across sector operations implemented in coastal and marine areas to help clients maximize the restorative and inclusive development potential of the blue economy and to help manage trade-offs. Global Practices should ensure that projects implemented in coastal and marine areas are designed and implemented in line with progressive blue economy guidance. Both should aim to situate these portfolios of projects within wider participatory spatial planning processes to ensure equitable and sustainable development outcomes.

» The World Bank should work more effectively with partners engaged in the blue economy space to help clients develop needed policy and institutional reforms to achieve blue economy aims. This entails the collective identification and the addressing of policy and institutional gaps that currently undermine blue economy development through effective partnering with regional organizations, multilateral development banks, and bilateral agencies. Suitable policy reform will be especially important in the face of emerging industries (for example, offshore renewables and deep-sea mining) and new technologies in the blue economy space.

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APPENDIXES

Independent Evaluation Group

Making Waves

World Bank Support for the Blue Economy, 2012–23

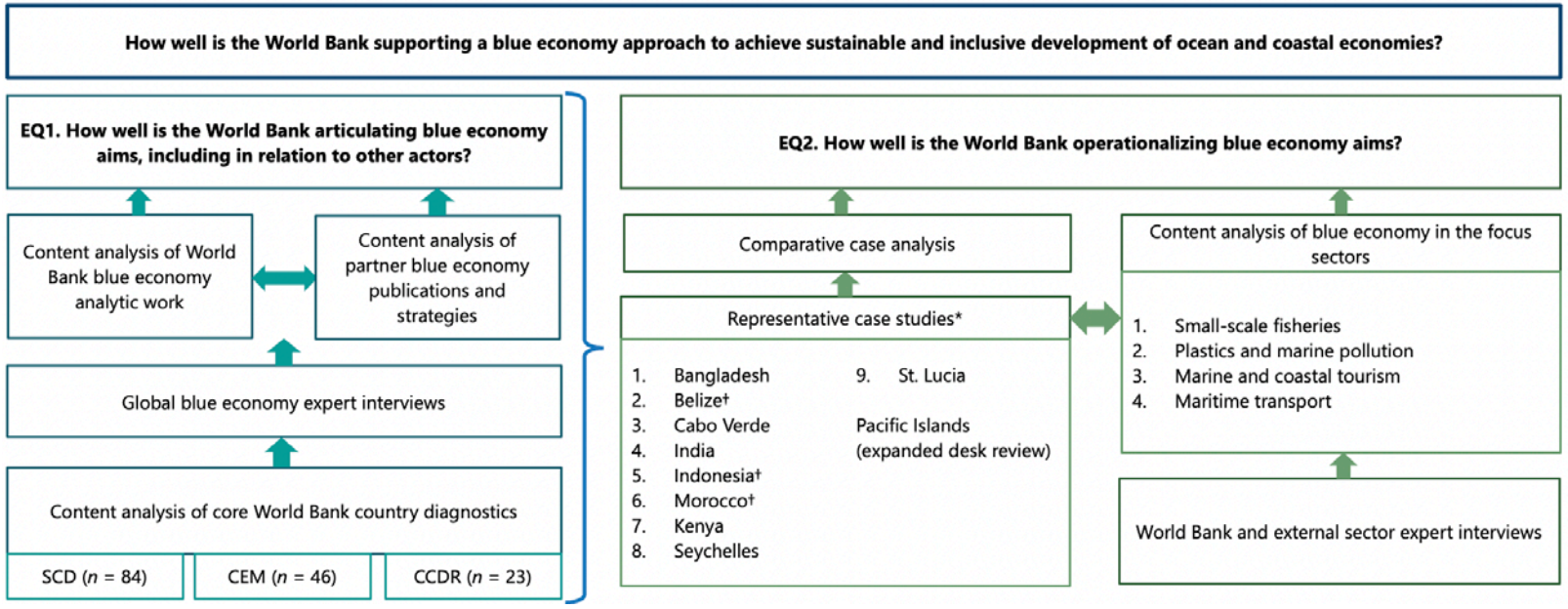
Appendix A. Evaluation Methods

Evaluation Purpose and Questions

The evaluation purpose is to assess how well the World Bank is supporting a blue economy approach to achieve sustainable and inclusive development of ocean and coastal economies. The overarching evaluation question is, How well is the World Bank supporting a blue economy approach to achieve sustainable and inclusive development of ocean and coastal states? We answer the overarching question by addressing the following two subquestions (the third subquestion on lessons, included in the Approach Paper, was subsumed into the two subquestions): (i) How well is the World Bank articulating blue economy aims, including in relation to other actors? and (ii) How well is the World Bank operationalizing blue economy aims?

The evaluation design draws on a range of methods and triangulates evidence across a variety of data sources. Figure A.1 depicts the evaluation design and summarizes the methods and approaches used to answer the evaluation questions, which are fully explained in this appendix.

Figure A.1. Evaluation Design



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: CEM = Country Economic Memorandum; CCDR = Country Climate and Development Report; EQ = evaluation question; SCD = Systematic Country Diagnostic.

* Nine out of 19 countries that have (i) an ongoing blue economy process and (ii) explicit World Bank blue economy support that is mature enough to evaluate.

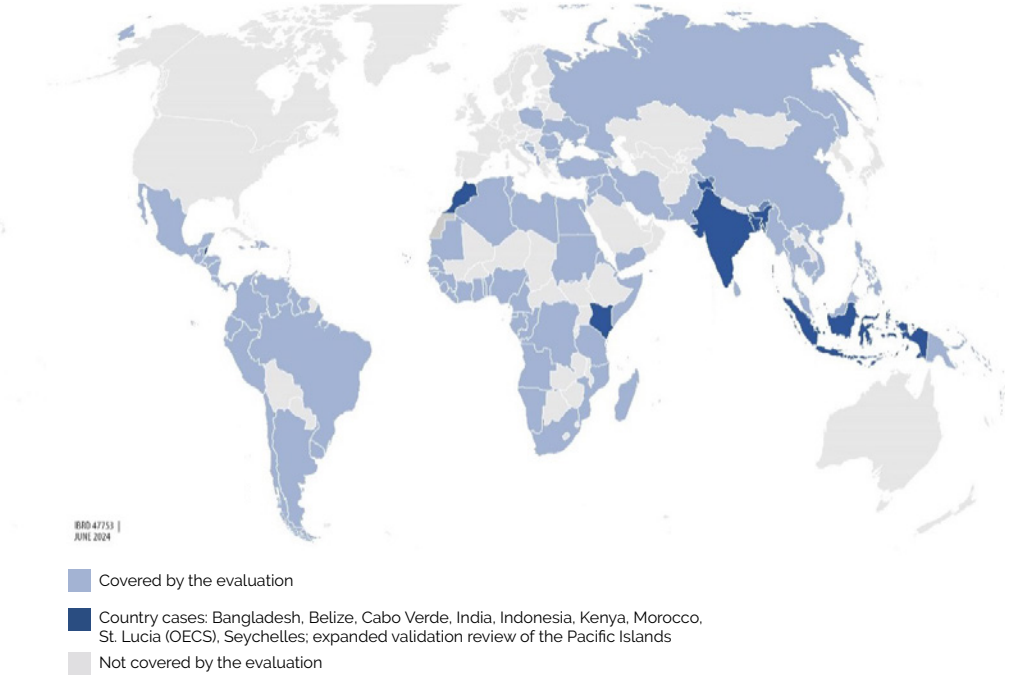
† Project Performance Assessment Reports were also undertaken in these countries.

Evaluation Scope

The evaluation is scoped as follows:

- This is a World Bank–only evaluation (it excludes the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency); however, certain findings are also relevant for the private sector.
- The timeline for the evaluation is fiscal year (FY)12–23, but the focus is placed on FY16 onward, after the World Bank's adoption of a blue economy approach.
- The evaluation scope includes all 109 countries (listed in appendix B) with a coastline or any form of ocean access, including activities in their exclusive economic zones (within 200 nautical miles of their shoreline) where the World Bank has been engaged during the evaluation period but not activities in international waters (includes 32 small island developing states and 77 coastal states; figure A.2).
  - All Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCDs; n = 84), Country Economic Memorandums (n = 46), and Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs; n = 23) were reviewed.
- The evaluation scope also covers all blue economy–focused analytic work published during the evaluation period (n = 38).
- All PROBLUE trust fund grants (n = 250) were analyzed.
- All lending and nonlending projects approved between 2016 and 2023 for four key sectors identified through sector and theme codes and text analytics were covered: (i) small-scale fisheries, (ii) plastics and marine pollution, (iii) marine and coastal tourism, and (iv) maritime transport infrastructure. This portfolio includes 156 projects (69 advisory services and analytics [ASA] and 87 lending products) approved since 2016.
- At the country case level (n = 9), the scope included all relevant policy and institutional issues and the full country portfolio (where authors examined cross-sectoral issues, engagement, and analytic and investment activities specific to the blue economy).

Figure A.2. Global Distribution of In-Scope Countries



Source: World Bank Cartography Unit, with data from the Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: The number of in-scope countries is 109. OECS = Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

Evaluation Question 1: How Well Is the World Bank Articulating Blue Economy Aims, Including in Relation to Other Actors?

To answer evaluation question 1, we first conducted a focused literature review to understand the meaning of the blue economy concept, including areas of convergence and divergence within the literature. The evaluation team searched for blue economy definitions in peer-reviewed academic literature using Google Scholar. We restricted the results to journal articles published after the calendar year 2010 and considered the top 100 results sorted by relevance. We placed particular emphasis on journal articles that conducted systematic literature reviews of blue economy definitions and concepts (see, for example, Lee, Noh, and Khim 2020 and Voyer et al. 2018). We synthesized approximately 20 different blue economy definitions and concepts that were gathered from the prior steps. We systematically determined the common and divergent elements to inform our evaluation queries.

Findings from the focused literature review. Although there is no single definition of the blue economy, the literature shows that there are certain agreed parameters. First, there is convergence around the idea that the blue economy concept refers to the achievement of triple-bottom-line objectives (financial, social, and environmental) and that it requires an integrated approach across sectors, data collection, and spatial planning and decision-making tools. It involves trade-offs based on social preferences and the identification of sector synergies to achieve win-wins. The divergent areas relate to the relative weight assigned to the triple-bottom-line objectives and the reference to certain sectors, such as oil and gas, that some donors include but that others exclude from their blue economy concepts.

Second, we used content analysis to determine the presence, meaning, and evolution of the blue economy concept as it has been expressed in blue economy–focused World Bank analytic products over time. To do this, we identified a cohort of World Bank–published analytics that include a focus on the blue economy. We identified 38 discrete pieces of such analytic work—at the global, regional, and country levels—published during the evaluation period (see appendix C for the list of publications). This list was derived by searching for "blue economy" and "blue" in the World Bank's Documents and Reports site, which is the official disclosure mechanism for the World Bank Group's final reports.

Third, we used content analysis to assess how the blue economy concept is articulated in key partner strategies and publications. Key partners are those partners that have provided joint upstream advisory, analytic, or (co- or parallel) financing support for blue economy development, including through joint publications (for example, the European Commission, the European Union, the Commonwealth, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs), and that have collaborated with the World Bank through blue economy processes (for example, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP] Finance Initiative, and the UNEP Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative) and implementing partners that have developed blue economy principles quoted by the World Bank in its analytic work (for example, international nongovernmental organizations, such as the World Wide Fund

for Nature). To conduct this assessment, the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) examined how each actor defined blue economy in its publicly available documents obtained from a major search engine. The team devised a specific search strategy that combined keywords (for example, "blue economy" and "ocean economy") and an actor or a sector of interest as search strings (for example, "blue economy" and "World Bank"). We included key multilateral development organizations in this space, such as the Bank Group, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the African Development Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and also considered nongovernmental organizations (for example, the World Wide Fund for Nature) and private sector actors by specifying sectors that are highly relevant to blue economy, such as shipping, fisheries, and tourism. We included a wide range of actors from development, environment, and business to capture the conservation and growth aspects of ocean and coastal resources. Our search was limited to documents published after the calendar year 2010, and we considered only the top 50 results sorted by relevance. The publications put forth by these partners are included in the bibliography, and select examples are referenced in the "Corporate Articulation of the Blue Economy" section in chapter 2 and box 2.1.

Fourth, to test assumptions from the content analysis and to learn more about partner blue economy initiatives, we convened global expert interviews. We conducted 24 anonymized key informant interviews with PROBLUE donors (Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, and Sweden), the United Nations Development Programme, the UNEP Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative, the UNEP Finance Initiative, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Global Environment Facility, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the International Coral Reef Initiative, the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and individual global experts who are helping shape global and country policy related to the blue economy.

Global expert interview selection criteria. Interviewees were selected based on two main criteria: (i) diversity of organizational viewpoints and (ii) credibility, as determined based on their extensive expertise in the blue economy space.

To achieve organizational diversity, interviews were conducted with the following individuals:

- Leaders of blue economy programs within intergovernmental organizations
- Leaders of blue economy programs within international nongovernmental organizations
- Senior consultants who had experience with regional and national blue economy projects
- Globally experienced entrepreneurs actively involved in blue economy investment
- Thought leaders in research organizations with a blue economy specialization

To ensure credibility, individuals were selected based on the following:

- Extensive international blue economy experience
- Firsthand knowledge of the blue economy investment landscape
- Familiarity with the current role of the World Bank relevant to the blue economy

Interview methodology and structure. The interviews were semistructured. The structured part of the interview protocol included a set of core questions focusing on the interviewees' understanding of (i) the blue economy approach and how they would define it; (ii) the World Bank's blue economy definition and approach and the interviewees' views thereof; and (iii) the World Bank's past, current, and future role in the blue economy landscape, including as a partner, convener, knowledge broker, financier, and so on. The interview protocol also included an unstructured space to probe these responses, in part to better understand interviewees' points of view based on their organizational and experiential backgrounds.

Interview processing and analysis. After conducting the interviews, we used a systematic content analysis approach to process and thematically code the responses. The coding categories were developed both a priori, based on our abovementioned core questions, and inductively, emerging from

patterns and recurring themes identified in the interview data. For example, we analyzed feedback provided across interviews regarding the World Bank's corporate blue economy definition, which allowed us to identify core tenets that were consistently mentioned as lacking. Decisions on coding categories were iterative and discussed among the team to ensure comprehensiveness in capturing the areas of convergence and the nuances in the interview data.

Fifth, we used content analyses of core World Bank country diagnostics to assess how often and well the blue economy is integrated into World Bank country diagnostics. IEG reviewed all SCDs (n = 84, of which two were regional SCDs), Country Economic Memorandums (n = 46), and CCDRs (n = 23) for the 109 countries in scope. To systematically assess the integration of the blue economy concepts in these documents, we developed (i) coding templates for each diagnostic that allowed for content analysis across the cohorts (shown in tables A.1 and A.2) and (ii) a scoring rubric with criteria to detect the existence, consistency, and comprehensiveness of blue economy themes (shown in table A.3).

Sixth, we analyzed sequencing. We analyzed the presence and type of analytics—both blue economy–focused analytics and sector analytics—that were available to teams producing country diagnostics. To do this, we created a country-level data set that includes (i) information on the country diagnostics (SCDs, Country Economic Memorandums, and CCDRs) and publication dates and blue economy content; (ii) all World Bank–produced blue economy–focused analyses and dates (in either ASA or lending); and (iii) all sector analyses and dates (in either ASA or lending). The content and sequencing were then analyzed to arrive at results that are captured in the "Articulation of the Blue Economy in Country Diagnostics" section in chapter 2.

Table A.1. Systematic Country Diagnostic and Country Economic Memorandum Coding Template

Topic	Qualitive Text Used for Analysis
Basic information	Include publication date, team composition, country typology, and context
Presence of marine and coastal sector issues	Yes or No; record descriptions of sector issues and notes sectors covered
Presence of blue economy language and concepts	Yes or No; record language verbatim (in notes, document whether this is explicit or implicit—that is, the term *blue economy* is not used, but the concept is well explained)
Expanded analysis of blue economy themes » Sector coordination » Coverage of financial, environmental, and social aims » Trade-offs and synergies	Record references to blue economy concepts, including coverage of triple-bottom-line objectives, how the blue economy is integrated into sectors, and how sector coordination is referred to; provide specific examples Record any discussion of trade-offs and synergies within and between sectors
Marine-terrestrial link	Whether the diagnostic articulates links between terrestrial and marine ecosystems
Evidence and knowledge gap	Whether the diagnostic cites any blue economy–related evidence and knowledge gaps
Vulnerable groups	Whether there is an analysis of vulnerable groups related to blue economy and marine sectors and their location. Covered vulnerable groups are Indigenous peoples, historically disadvantaged groups, women, small-scale fishers, low-income earners, general coastal communities, tourism operators, seasonal workers, migrants, youth, and persons with disabilities
Other actors or partners	Whether the diagnostic mentions the role of governments, multilateral institution donors, and nongovernmental organizations active in the blue economy space Record "who" and their activities relative to the World Bank's role
Financing mechanisms	Whether the diagnostic mentions sustainable and innovative financing mechanisms, such as blue bonds and debt for nature swaps, and record how; provide examples

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Table A.2. Country Climate and Development Report Coding Template

Question
Q.1 Are blue economy sectors included in the CCDR? Yes or No. If yes, record sectors.
Q.2 Are any blue economy sectors identified as a contributor to climate impacts? Yes or No. If yes, record sectors.
Q.3 Are any blue economy sectors identified as being at risk from climate change? Yes or No. If yes, which sectors?
Q.4 Does the CCDR explicitly mention the blue economy? Yes or No. If yes, where and what is the nature of the reference (in a section, throughout, or passing mention)?
Q.5 Does the CCDR present a comprehensive understanding of the blue economy? Please explain.
Q.6 Does the CCDR effectively capture the synergies between climate and the blue economy? Yes or No. If yes, please provide evidence.
Q.7 Is the blue economy identified as a strategy to help achieve climate targets? Yes or No. If yes, please provide evidence.
Q.8 What are your overall reflections on the blue economy content of the CCDR?
Q.9 If available, how has the interpretation of the blue economy shifted between the SCD and the CCDR?
Q.10 Does the CCDR mention climate change impacts on marine ecosystems? Yes or No. If yes, please explain.

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: CCDR = Country Climate and Development Report; Q = question; SCD = Systematic Country Diagnostic.

Country diagnostic scoring and quantitative analysis tools. Following the content analysis, we devised two rubrics for scoring SCDs and CCDRs, respectively. The goal is to compare how well the blue economy concept was integrated across the 84 SCDs and 23 CCDRs. The scoring rubrics are summarized in table A.3.

Table A.3. Systematic Country Diagnostic and Country Climate and Development Report Score Definitions

Score	Definition	
	SCD	CCDR
0	SCD does not reference the blue economy.	CCDR does not reference the blue economy.
1	SCD explicitly refers to the blue economy but lacks full articulation of commonly understood meaning, tends to treat sectors in silos, and neglects to identify trade-offs.	CCDR explicitly refers to the blue economy, and coastal and marine sectors may be referenced, but there is no articulation of how to accurately apply the blue economy concept as a way to achieve climate change and development goals.
2	SCD explicitly refers to the blue economy; comprehensively explains the blue economy as a way of balancing economic, environmental, and social aims; and refers to cross-sectoral coordination, planning, and identification of synergies and trade-offs.	CCDR explicitly refers to the blue economy and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the potential of the blue economy approach as a way to achieve climate change and development goals.

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: CCDR = Country Climate and Development Report; SCD = Systematic Country Diagnostic.

Evaluation Question 2: How Well Is the World Bank Operationalizing Blue Economy Aims?

To assess how well the World Bank is operationalizing the blue economy, we conducted analyses at the country and sector levels. At the country level, we undertook country case and regional studies and key informant interviews. At the country and regional levels, we assessed how well the World Bank is supporting enabling conditions for blue economy development (that is, policies, institutions, planning, and blue finance). At the sector level, we focused on four established sectors critical for the blue economy: (i) small-scale fisheries, (ii) plastics and marine pollution, (iii) marine and coastal tourism, and (iv) maritime transport infrastructure. For each sector, we conducted reviews of relevant literature (including external and internal publications) and portfolio review and analyses (ASA and lending) and used interviews with key

World Bank staff to test emerging findings. We also examined the role of the PROBLUE multidonor trust fund—the fund established in the World Bank to support the blue economy—as part of the sector analyses.

Representative Case Studies

We conducted case studies in 9 out of 19 client countries that have (i) an ongoing national blue economy process and (ii) explicit World Bank operational support on the blue economy. Of these 19 client countries, several countries were not selected for case analyses because the World Bank operational support was too recent to evaluate or because IEG had recently conducted missions to that country (that is, Mozambique). A national blue economy process includes the development of dedicated blue economy policy, plan, strategy, and institutional frameworks that aim to improve institutional coordination and policy coherence and to harmonize and coordinate the implementation of the blue economy. The nine cases are Bangladesh, Belize, Cabo Verde, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, the Seychelles, and St. Lucia (the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States). An expanded validation review was also conducted for the Pacific Islands. The country selection was designed to derive evidence from a diverse range of country situations (small island developing states and coastal states in different regions).

Case study data collection. We adopted a detailed case protocol (table A.4) to ensure data collection and analytic consistency across cases. Case authors were experienced researchers with a combination of blue economy, governance, and evaluation expertise. For each case study, interviews were conducted with relevant World Bank staff; government ministries and agencies (for example, finance, blue economy, environment, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, transport, energy, gender, defense); local government; project management and implementation units; regional organizations; local subject matter experts; donor agencies (for example, the European Union, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank); nongovernmental organizations; civil society; and associations.

Table A.4. Case Study Protocol

Case Study Protocol
Country context
1. Describe the evolution of the blue economy approach in the country:
a. What is the status of your blue economy approach (strategy, road map, policy, and so on)?
b. When was the blue economy concept first initiated explicitly? Does this represent a significant shift in approach or is it a continuation of existing policies and strategy?
c. What explains the genesis of the blue economy approach?
d. Who or what combination of actors was responsible for blue economy development?
e. What, if any, new institutional arrangements have been established from the adoption of the blue economy approach?
2. Identify key components of the policy and regulatory and institutional framework underlying the blue economy approach:
a. What key laws and regulations govern the blue space?
b. What key policies, strategies, or plans (for example, marine spatial planning, climate change action plan, and so on) underlie or are part of the country's blue economy approach?
c. What institutions (for example, ministries, departments, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and regional organizations) are the most important players implicated in the blue economy approach?
d. What, if any, national, regional, and international agreements or commitments are implicated in the country's blue economy approach?
3. Assess relevant political and country contextual factors that affect the blue economy approach:
a. Political considerations
b. Economic and sector reliance on marine and coastal areas
c. Reconciliation of divergent sector interests
d. Climate change (for example, carbon finance, Paris alignment, and so on)
e. Social issues (for example, fragility, conflict, and violence; migration; job creation; gender; and so on)
f. COVID-19
g. Other issues, as relevant
Role of the World Bank
1. Describe and assess the evolution of the role of the World Bank over time (including present day) in supporting the blue economy approach (including in relationship to other actors):
a. Knowledge broker and thought leader, including through dialogue and analytic work
b. Financier (including through lending, trust funds, and policy support)

(continued)

Case Study Protocol
Role of the World Bank
c. Partner (for example, with other actors' initiatives) d. Coordinator (for example, country capacity and World Bank alignment with existing coordination mechanisms) e. Convener (catalyzing discussion and dialogue among relevant stakeholders) f. Other
2. Depending on the status of blue economy development in the country, how well is the World Bank helping the government and other clients achieve blue economy development?
3. How well aligned are operations in coastal and marine areas with blue economy principles and triple-bottom-line marine and coastal health, sustainable growth, and social aims?
4. PROBLUE financing: How has financing from the PROBLUE trust fund been used to support blue economy aims?
5. Other financing: Describe how different forms of financing (including trust funds other than PROBLUE, private sector, or client financing) have facilitated traction on the blue economy approach.

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Case study comparative analysis. The case narratives generated by each researcher were then discussed as a group in a workshop format. The comparative case analysis workshop, which took place in September 2023, brought together country case study authors, blue economy advisers to the evaluation team, and core evaluation team members. The workshop was conducted virtually over a two-day period, with each session lasting half a day. The group discussions were structured around issues that had emerged from the case narratives, which enabled the participants to share, compare, and contrast findings and to draw within- and across-case lessons. The discussions factored in country characteristics, including distinctions between island and coastal states, the spectrum of higher to lower capacity in governance, the extent of World Bank presence and engagement, and other organizations and partners. The anchoring issues were as follows:

1. Policy, strategy, and institutional mechanisms for blue economy development

2. Governance approaches versus technical approaches and sectoral entry points
3. Role of regional institutions (mandates, capacities, and collaboration with the World Bank)
4. Role of and sequencing between World Bank analytic and operational support
5. Application of and interlinks between spatial planning approaches—that is, marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management
6. Beneficiaries of the blue economy: vulnerable resource users and cross-cutting issues.
7. Financing vehicles (role of PROBLUE, blue finance, and so on)

Project performance assessments and the use of Earth observation techniques. IEG conducted three Project Performance Assessment Reports (PPARs) as an input into the blue economy evaluation to develop a more granular understanding of, and record lessons about, what it takes to develop the blue economy by studying the implementation of some of its key tenets. A PPAR is IEG's field-based evaluation instrument that assesses projects financed for two purposes: (i) to improve the performance of World Bank projects by identifying lessons from experience and (ii) to ensure the integrity of the World Bank's self-evaluation process and verify that the World Bank's work is producing the expected results. IEG selected three projects that included a common approach—namely, integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning—in countries that are developing their blue economy action plans, institutions, or policies. This work corresponded to a section in the evaluation on what it takes to operationalize blue economy aims and was used to supplement other evidence gathered through the literature reviews, portfolio reviews, and country case study missions, which also conducted key informant interviews (the PPARs in two of the three cases were embedded into the case study missions to derive mutual learning). The projects were as follows:

1. Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (P131408; FY15–20)

2. Indonesia Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project Phase II (P071316; FY04–12) and Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program—Coral Triangle Initiative (P127813; FY14–22)

3. Morocco Integrated Coastal Zone Management (P121271; FY13–17)

In Belize, because there was a metric on mangrove cover, IEG used data from Earth observation technologies (geographic information systems) and current studies on the topic conducted by national and local entities to validate and weigh in on the status of mangrove cover and health in the project areas. This led to new evidence and a finding in the PPAR on ecosystem health, which was not adequately measured by the project's monitoring and evaluation system. This analysis—covering geographic information system observations from 2010, 2015, and 2020—focused on mangrove cover and health within three Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute planning regions covered by the Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project: Caye Caulker, Belize Central, and South Northern. The analysis used synthetic aperture radar data from Bunting et al. (2022) to calculate mangrove cover, which entailed clipping data for specific years, applying change detection algorithms, and generating summary statistics. To assess mangrove health, the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index was calculated using Landsat satellite images, which included gap filling, atmospheric correction, and consistent classification across areas. The analysis found a net deterioration in mangrove cover and health across the three regions during the project's duration. This trend was most pronounced in Caye Caulker. The findings of a general decline in mangrove cover and health are consistent with observations from other similar studies conducted in Belize.

Portfolio Review and Analysis and Content Analyses of Blue Economy in Established Sectors

Blue economy development requires sectors to transition away from unsustainable approaches toward activities that actively seek to achieve triple-bottom-line objectives. This transition requires "new practices and approaches that can both enhance the sustainability of these sectors and limit,

to the extent possible, the negative impacts they have on ocean health" (World Bank 2021, 18). It also requires policies that actively seek out opportunities for sector synergies that maximize benefits and address trade-offs.

Four sectors critical for blue economy development were chosen for this analysis: (i) small-scale fisheries, (ii) plastics and marine pollution, (iii) marine and coastal tourism, and (iv) maritime transport infrastructure. Although the sectors covered are not exhaustive, the four sectors were chosen because they were identified in the blue economy literature as being integral for achieving blue economy aims and are among the most established and because the World Bank had been working in these sectors for decades (table A.5).

Table A.5. Established and Emerging Industries in the Blue Economy Space

Established	Emerging
» Capture fisheries » Seafood processing » Shipping » Ports » Shipbuilding and repair » Offshore oil and gas (shallow water) » Marine manufacturing and construction » Maritime and coastal tourism » Marine business services » Marine research and development and education » Dredging	» Marine aquaculture » Deepwater and ultra-deepwater oil and gas » Offshore wind energy » Ocean renewable energy » Marine and seabed mining » Maritime safety and surveillance » Marine biotechnology » High-tech marine products and services » Others

Source: OECD 2016, as cited in World Bank 2021.

Note: "In a number of 'established' sectors of the ocean economy, such as fisheries, shipping, and waste management … the results of unplanned or unsustainable development [have] already become apparent and new approaches have been identified—for example, limiting open access in the case of fisheries, decarbonization and clean ports in the case of shipping, or a circular economy approach in the case of plastic pollution. The difficulty in adopting these improved practices is that much of the investments made thus far have to be replaced—the old destroyed to make way for the new, as it were. A Blue Economy approach can help finance and facilitate this transition" (World Bank 2021, 18–19).

The total portfolio of projects examined included all 156 projects (69 ASA and 87 lending products) approved between FY16 and FY23 and mapped

to the four sectors chosen for review. The start date of 2016 was chosen to reflect the point at which the World Bank adopted a blue economy approach. See appendix C for project lists. The portfolio was identified using relevant sector or theme codes and text analysis of operational data to help ensure comprehensiveness (table A.6). We performed the search in key parts of project descriptors (that is, project titles, abstracts of project documents, project development objectives, project descriptions, activity summaries, component titles, component text where available, and indicator titles). We then manually screened the portfolio to remove false positives and excluded projects carried out in landlocked countries, countries without ocean access, and areas located far from the coast (that is, activities financed were not in coastal areas).

Table A.6. Sector, Theme, and Search Taxonomy Used for Portfolio Identification

Topic	Primary Criteria			Secondary Criteria (At Least One Should Be Met)
	Sectors	Themes	Keywords or phrases	Keywords or phrases
ICZM and MSP		Coastal zone management		
ICZM and MSP			Coastal zone; management of coast; coastal management; marine spatial planning	
Small-scale fisheries	Fisheries			
Small-scale fisheries		Fisheries policies and institutions		
Small-scale fisheries			Fish; aquacult; shrimp; crab; lobster	

(continued)

Topic	Primary Criteria			Secondary Criteria (At Least One Should Be Met)
	Sectors	Themes	Keywords or phrases	Keywords or phrases
Marine and coastal tourism	Tourism		Touri; hotel; resort; hospitali; recreational	Coast; ocean; sea; island; beach
Maritime transport	Ports and waterways		Seaport; vessel; ship; fleet	Coast; ocean; sea; island
Marine pollution			Marine	Pollut; plastic; waste
Marine pollution			Ocean	Pollut; plastic; waste
Marine pollution			Sea	Pollut; plastic; waste
Marine pollution			Coast	Pollut; plastic; waste
Marine pollution			Nutrient	Runoff; waste; pollution

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: ICZM = integrated coastal zone management; MSP = marine spatial planning.

Sector analysis methods. For each sector, we used relevant sector literature (including external and internal publications) to understand and explain the challenges facing the sector within the blue economy and, relatedly, the way a blue economy approach is envisioned to address these challenges. To do this, the evaluation team reviewed relevant internal World Bank publications as identified in the abovementioned sector portfolios and reviewed peer-reviewed and gray literature as identified through a comprehensive search on Google and Google Scholar. External literature was appraised and selected based on its relevance (to the evaluation purpose and objectives and to sector understanding within the context of the blue economy), credibility, and recency. We then used these analyses to create portfolio review and analysis criteria for the review of the sector portfolios (ASA and lending). We analyzed both design (alignment with blue economy aims) and results (including monitoring and evaluation). We complemented this exercise with

key interviews of World Bank sector technical experts to better understand context.

PROBLUE portfolio analyses. We reviewed the categories and distribution of PROBLUE grants to understand how this trust fund is supporting operations to achieve blue economy aims and conducted interviews with PROBLUE donors and staff. The PROBLUE multidonor trust fund has provided 250 grants across 84 ASAs and 46 lending operations. We analyzed the distribution of PROBLUE's grants to various Global Practices over time and conducted a human resource analysis to identify the recipient task team leaders of PROBLUE grants. Additionally, we analyzed grant details to understand the activities supported by PROBLUE in lending projects across different Global Practices. PROBLUE-financed activities were also analyzed in the case studies and sector studies to assess the contributions of the trust fund in blue economy development.

Limitations

The main methodological limitation was the nascency of the blue economy approach (which was rolled out by the World Bank as a concept in 2016–17). IEG's assessment showed that although analytics have been incorporating the theme, it has not yet been fully operationalized. This limitation was recognized at the Approach Paper stage and informed the evaluation design and questions. IEG agreed to conduct a forward-looking evaluation to inform the future development of the blue economy approach in the World Bank. Although the approach had been rolled out in World Bank analytics, it was also too soon to include the International Finance Corporation in the evaluation, limiting coverage of some financing aspects, including the International Finance Corporation's support for blue finance principles and pilots.

Another limitation, as revealed during the evaluation process, was the absence of a measurement system for the blue economy in the World Bank. The World Bank has a flagship ASA on the topic but not a dedicated theory of change or measurement and learning system. Although PROBLUE has an annual report, it does not measure blue economy progress at the project or country level. Moreover, there are fewer than a handful of lending projects that have explicit blue economy goals in their project development objectives.

Because it's an emerging field, knowledge on the blue economy is also retained by a relatively small group of experts and policy makers. Recognizing this, IEG has shifted its staffing of the blue economy evaluation in midcourse to add more policy expertise to the team, including consultants who worked with governments on formulating blue economy policy and strategies.

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Appendix B. Countries Included in the Evaluation

No.	Economy	Region	Income Group	Lending Category	SIDS	SCD	CEM	CCDR
1	Albania	ECA	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
2	Algeria	MENA	LMIC	IBRD	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
3	Angola	AFE	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Antigua and Barbuda	LAC	HIC	IBRD	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
5	Argentina	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	Yes
6	Bangladesh	SAR	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Belize	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
8	Benin	AFW	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	ECA	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
10	Brazil	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
11	Bulgaria	ECA	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
12	Cabo Verde	AFW	LMIC	Blend	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
13	Cambodia	EAP	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.

(continued)

No.	Economy	Region	Income Group	Lending Category	SIDS	SCD	CEM	CCDR
14	Cameroon	AFW	LMIC	Blend	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	Chile	LAC	HIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
16	China	EAP	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	Yes
17	Colombia	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
18	Comoros	AFE	LMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
19	Congo, Dem. Rep.	AFE	LIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
20	Congo, Rep.	AFW	LMIC	Blend	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
21	Costa Rica	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
22	Côte d'Ivoire	AFW	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
23	Croatia	ECA	HIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
24	Djibouti	MENA	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
25	Dominica	LAC	UMIC	Blend	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
26	Dominican Republic	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
27	Ecuador	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
28	Egypt, Arab Rep.	MENA	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	Yes
29	El Salvador	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
30	Equatorial Guinea	AFW	UMIC	IBRD	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(continued)

No.	Economy	Region	Income Group	Lending Category	SIDS	SCD	CEM	CCDR
31	Eritrea	AFE	LIC	IDA	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
32	Fiji	EAP	UMIC	Blend	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
33	Gabon	AFW	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
34	Gambia, The	AFW	LIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
35	Georgia	ECA	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
36	Ghana	AFW	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
37	Grenada	LAC	UMIC	Blend	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
38	Guatemala	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
39	Guinea	AFW	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
40	Guinea-Bissau	AFW	LIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
41	Guyana	LAC	HIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
42	Haiti	LAC	LMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
43	Honduras	LAC	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
44	India	SAR	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
45	Indonesia	EAP	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	Yes
46	Iran, Islamic Rep.	MENA	LMIC	IBRD	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
47	Iraq	MENA	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

(continued)

No.	Economy	Region	Income Group	Lending Category	SIDS	SCD	CEM	CCDR
48	Jamaica	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
49	Jordan	MENA	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	Yes
50	Kenya	AFE	LMIC	Blend	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
51	Kiribati	EAP	LMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
52	Lebanon	MENA	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
53	Liberia	AFW	LIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
54	Libya	MENA	UMIC	IBRD	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
55	Madagascar	AFE	LIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
56	Malaysia	EAP	UMIC	IBRD	No	n.a.	Yes	n.a.
57	Maldives	SAR	UMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
58	Marshall Islands	EAP	UMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
59	Mauritania	AFW	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
60	Mauritius	AFE	UMIC	IBRD	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
61	Mexico	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
62	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	EAP	LMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
63	Montenegro	ECA	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
64	Morocco	MENA	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

(continued)

No.	Economy	Region	Income Group	Lending Category	SIDS	SCD	CEM	CCDR
65	Mozambique	AFE	LIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
66	Myanmar	EAP	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
67	Namibia	AFE	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
68	Nicaragua	LAC	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
69	Nigeria	AFW	LMIC	Blend	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
70	Pakistan	SAR	LMIC	Blend	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
71	Palau	EAP	UMIC	IBRD	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
72	Panama	LAC	HIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
73	Papua New Guinea	EAP	LMIC	Blend	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
74	Peru	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
75	Philippines	EAP	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	Yes
76	Poland	ECA	HIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
77	Romania	ECA	HIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
78	Russian Federation	ECA	UMIC	IBRD	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
79	Samoa	EAP	LMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
80	São Tomé and Príncipe	AFE	LMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
81	Senegal	AFW	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.

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No.	Economy	Region	Income Group	Lending Category	SIDS	SCD	CEM	CCDR
82	Seychelles	AFE	HIC	IBRD	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
83	Sierra Leone	AFW	LIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
84	Solomon Islands	EAP	LMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
85	Somalia	AFE	LIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
86	South Africa	AFE	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	Yes
87	Sri Lanka	SAR	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
88	St. Kitts and Nevis	LAC	HIC	IBRD	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
89	St. Lucia	LAC	UMIC	Blend	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
90	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	UMIC	Blend	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
91	Sudan	AFE	LIC	IDA	No	n.a.	Yes	n.a.
92	Suriname	LAC	UMIC	IBRD	Yes	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
93	Syrian Arab Republic	MENA	LIC	IDA	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
94	Tanzania	AFE	LMIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
95	Thailand	EAP	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
96	Timor-Leste	EAP	LMIC	Blend	Yes	Yes	Yes	n.a.
97	Togo	AFW	LIC	IDA	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
98	Tonga	EAP	UMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.

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No.	Economy	Region	Income Group	Lending Category	SIDS	SCD	CEM	CCDR
99	Trinidad and Tobago	LAC	HIC	IBRD	Yes	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
100	Tunisia	MENA	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
101	Türkiye	ECA	UMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
102	Tuvalu	EAP	UMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
103	Ukraine	ECA	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	n.a.
104	Uruguay	LAC	HIC	IBRD	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
105	Vanuatu	EAP	LMIC	IDA	Yes	Yes	n.a.	n.a.
106	Venezuela, RB	LAC		IBRD	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
107	Viet Nam	EAP	LMIC	IBRD	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
108	West Bank and Gaza	MENA			No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
109	Yemen, Rep.	MENA	LIC	IDA	No	n.a.	Yes	n.a.

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: AFE = Eastern and Southern Africa; AFW = Western and Central Africa; CCDR = Country Climate and Development Report; CEM = Country Economic Memorandum; EAP = East Asia and Pacific; ECA = Europe and Central Asia; HIC = high-income country; IBRD = International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; IDA = International Development Association; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; LIC = low-income country; LMIC = lower-middle-income country; MENA = Middle East and North Africa; n.a. = not applicable; SAR = South Asia; SCD = Systematic Country Diagnostic; SIDS = small island developing states; UMIC = upper-middle-income country.

Appendix C. Evaluation Portfolio

Table C.1. Blue Economy–Focused Published Analytic Work

Level	Source
Global	IFC (International Finance Corporation). 2021. *Blue Natural Capital: Enhancing Business Outcomes and Sustainability of Coastal Tourism Markets.* Washington, DC: IFC.
Global	IFC (International Finance Corporation). 2022. *Guidelines: Blue Finance—Guidance for Financing the Blue Economy, Building on the Green Bond Principles and the Green Loan Principles.* Washington, DC: IFC.
Global	PROBLUE website (accessed May 11, 2023), https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/problue.
Global	World Bank. 2012. "Helping to Better Manage the World's Oceans: The World Bank and the Drive for 'Blue Growth.'" Brief 92645, World Bank, Washington, DC.
Global	World Bank. 2017. "What Is the Blue Economy?" Infographic, World Bank, Washington, DC.
Global	World Bank. 2021. "Blue Public Expenditure Review." Guidance Note, World Bank, Washington, DC.
Global	World Bank. 2021. *Riding the Blue Wave: Applying the Blue Economy Approach to World Bank Operations.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Global	World Bank. 2022. *Blue Economy Data and Tools.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Global	World Bank. 2022. *Blue Tourism in Islands and Small Tourism-Dependent Coastal States: Tools & Recovery Strategies.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Global	World Bank. 2022. *Gender Integration in the Blue Economy Portfolio: Review of Experiences and Future Opportunities.* Washington, DC: World Bank.

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Level	Source
Global	World Bank. 2022. *Marine Spatial Planning for a Resilient and Inclusive Blue Economy: Volume 1: Key Considerations to Formulate and Implement Marine Spatial Planning.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Global	World Bank. 2022. *Marine Spatial Planning for a Resilient and Inclusive Blue Economy: Volume 2: Integrating Cross-Cutting Themes into Marine Spatial Planning.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Global	World Bank and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2017. *The Potential of the Blue Economy: Increasing Long-Term Benefits of the Sustainable Use of Marine Resources for Small Island Developing States and Coastal Least Developed Countries.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Global	World Bank Group. 2016. *Blue Economy Development Framework: Growing the Blue Economy to Combat Poverty and Accelerate Prosperity.* Washington, DC: World Bank Group.
Global	World Bank Group. 2023. *Unlocking Blue Carbon Development: Investment Readiness Framework for Governments.* Washington, DC: World Bank Group.
Regional	Diez, Sylvia Michele, Pawan Patil, John Morton, Diego J. Rodriguez, Alessandra Vanzella, David Robin, Thomas Maes, and Christopher Corbin. 2019. *Marine Pollution in the Caribbean: Not a Minute to Waste.* Washington, DC: World Bank Group.
Regional	Heger, Martin Philipp, Lukas Vashold, Anabella Palacios, Mala Alahmadi, Marjory-Anne Bromhead, and Marcelo Acerbi. 2022. *Blue Skies, Blue Seas: Air Pollution, Marine Plastics, and Coastal Erosion in the Middle East and North Africa.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Regional	Lovei, Magda. 2017. *The World Bank and the Blue Economy in Africa.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Regional	Patil, Pawan G., John Virdin, Sylvia Michele Diez, Julian Roberts, and Asha Singh. 2016. "Toward A Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean." Overview, World Bank, Washington, DC.
Regional	World Bank. 2019. "Capturing Opportunities for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the Blue Economy in MENA." MENA Knowledge and Learning Quick Notes Series 172, World Bank, Washington, DC.
Regional	World Bank. 2022. "Blue Economy for Resilient Africa Program." Overview, World Bank, Washington, DC.

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Level	Source
Regional	World Bank. 2023. *A Blue Transformation for Pacific Maritime Transport: Overarching Regional Report.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Regional	World Bank Group. 2022. "Blue Solutions for Africa: Key Messages." Operational Brief, World Bank Group, Washington, DC.
Country	Patil, Pawan G., John Virdin, Charles S. Colgan, M. G. Hussain, Pierre Failler, and Tibor Vegh. 2018. *Toward a Blue Economy: A Pathway for Sustainable Growth in Bangladesh.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2016. *Grenada: Blue Growth Coastal Master Plan.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2019. *Communities Livelihoods Fisheries: Governance, Growth & the Blue Economy in Mozambique.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2019. "São Tomé and Príncipe—Country Economic Memorandum: Blue Economy and Environmental Resiliency." Background Note 15, World Bank, Washington, DC.
Country	World Bank. 2020. "Blue Economy: A Path for Krasnodar Krai." Policy Note, World Bank, Washington, DC.
Country	World Bank. 2020. "Bulgaria: Toward a Blue Economy Development." Policy Brief, World Bank, Washington, DC.
Country	World Bank. 2020. *Bulgaria: Toward Blue Economy Development.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2020. *Realizing the Blue Economy Potential in Albania.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2021. *Financing Mechanisms for Sustainable Blue Economy Development in Mozambique.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2021. *Oceans for Prosperity: Reforms for a Blue Economy in Indonesia*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2021. *Pakistan—Blue Carbon Rapid Assessment: Policy Recommendations for the Revision of Nationally Determined Contribution.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2022. "Bangladesh—Country Climate and Development Report: Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy." Background Note, World Bank, Washington, DC.

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Level	Source
Country	World Bank. 2022. "The Blue Economy in Tunisia: Opportunity for an Integrated and Sustainable Development of the Sea and Coastal Areas." Executive Summary, Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2023. *Building a Blue Economy Roadmap for Cambodia.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2023. *Financing Options for a Blue Economy for Jamaica.* Washington, DC: World Bank.
Country	World Bank. 2023. *Recommendations for a Blue Economy Roadmap for Jamaica.* Washington, DC: World Bank.

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.
Note: MENA = Middle East and North Africa.

Table C.2. Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P169425	Msimbazi Basin Development Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Tanzania	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P163980	Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Kenya	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P161842	São Tomé e Príncipe Transport Sector Development and Coastal Protection Project	2019	Active	Lending product	São Tomé and Príncipe	AFE	Transport
P162337	West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project	2018	Active	Lending product	Western and Central Africa	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P155642	Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3)	2018	Active	Lending product	Eastern and Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P159653	Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project	2018	Closed	Lending product	OECS countries	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P157127	Forest Sector Modernization and Coastal Resilience Enhancement Project	2017	Closed	Lending product	Viet Nam	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P149747	Morocco Inclusive Green Growth DPL2	2016	Closed	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P155824	Climate Change and Green Growth in Vietnam	2016	Closed	Lending product	Viet Nam	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P131408	BZ Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation	2015	Closed	Lending product	Belize	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P132123	AFCC2/RI-South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project 1	2015	Closed	Lending product	Eastern and Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P127956	MA-Inclusive Green Growth DPL	2014	Closed	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P127813	Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program—Coral Triangle Initiative	2014	Closed	Lending product	Indonesia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P121271	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	2013	Closed	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P128276	Coastal Embankment Improvement Project—Phase I (CEIP-I)	2013	Closed	Lending product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P143382	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project	2013	Closed	Lending product	India	South Asia	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P097985	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	2010	Closed	Lending product	India	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179640	Harnessing the Potential of the Ocean for Sustainable Development in Ecuador	2025	Active	AAA product	Ecuador	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176401	Tanzania-Zanzibar PROBLUE—Supporting Blue Economy Policy Implementation through Marine Debris Control and Coastal Zone Management	2024	Active	AAA product	Tanzania	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P167307	Enhancing Environmental Sustainability and Resilience in Vietnam	2022	Closed	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P175097	Improving the Understanding of Marine Spatial Planning	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P169124	Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Hydrocarbon Marine Pollution Prevention and Control (ICZM/HMPPC)	2021	Closed	Standard product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P162491	São Tomé and Príncipe Int. Coastal Planning	2018	Closed	AAA product	São Tomé and Príncipe	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: AAA = analytic and advisory activities; AFE = Eastern and Southern Africa; AFW = Western and Central Africa; BZ = Belize; DPL = development policy loan; EAP = East Asia and Pacific; FY = fiscal year; Int. = integrated; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; MA = Morocco; MENA = Middle East and North Africa; OECS = Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

Table C.3. Small-Scale Fisheries

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P177661	Forum Fisheries Agency: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program—Second Phase for Economic Resilience	2023	Active	Lending product	Pacific Islands	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P173391	Oceans for Prosperity Project—LAUTRA	2023	Active	Lending product	Indonesia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174137	Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Philippines	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P175915	Senegal: Natural Resources Management Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Senegal	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178544	Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program—Second Phase for Economic Resilience	2023	Active	Lending product	Marshall Islands	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179242	Transforming Fisheries Sector Management in South-West Indian Ocean Region and Maldives Project (TransFORM, SWIOFish5)	2023	Active	Lending product	South Asia	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P179612	Accelerating Blue Economy Development in the Kingdom of Morocco	2023	Active	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171833	Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Caribbean (UBEC)	2022	Active	Lending product	OECS countries	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172012	Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project	2022	Active	Lending product	Liberia	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172926	Blue Economy Program-for-Results	2022	Active	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174798	Fisheries Sector COVID-19 Recovery Project	2022	Active	Lending product	India	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176981	Resilient Tourism and Blue Economy Development in Cabo Verde Project	2022	Active	Lending product	Cabo Verde	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P177239	The Solomon Islands: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program—Second Phase for Economic Resilience	2022	Active	Lending product	Solomon Islands	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P178143	Program on Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH)	2022	Active	Lending product	Middle East and North Africa	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174635	Northern Mozambique Rural Resilience Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Mozambique	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P163980	Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Kenya	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P165821	Kiribati: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program	2020	Active	Lending product	Kiribati	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P168475	Costa Rica Sustainable Fisheries Development Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Costa Rica	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171321	Caribbean Ocean and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility Project	2020	Closed	Lending product	Caribbean	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P161568	Bangladesh Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries	2019	Active	Lending product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P164941	Tonga: Pathway to Sustainable Oceans	2019	Active	Lending product	Tonga	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P155642	Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3)	2018	Active	Lending product	Eastern and Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P161794	Fourth Economic Reform Development Policy Operation	2018	Closed	Lending product	Kiribati	EAP	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P164257	Promoting Community-Based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector	2018	Active	Lending product	Jamaica	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P153370	Second South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project—Madagascar	2017	Closed	Lending product	Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P155540	Third Economic Reform Development Policy Operation	2017	Closed	Lending product	Kiribati	EAP	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P155902	National Program for Innovation in Fisheries and Aquaculture	2017	Closed	Lending product	Peru	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

(continued)

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P156759	West Africa Region Fisheries Program AF Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia	2017	Closed	Lending product	Western and Central Africa	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P157801	Sustainable Fisheries Resources Development Project (Fourth South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project)	2017	Closed	Lending product	Maldives	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P159912	West Africa Regional Fisheries Program in Liberia—ACGF	2017	Closed	Lending product	Liberia	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P173866	Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Philippines	EAP	Agriculture and Food
P169025	Second Additional Financing for Philippine Rural Development Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Philippines	EAP	Agriculture and Food
P165873	Samoa Agriculture & Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM)	2020	Active	Lending product	Samoa	EAP	Agriculture and Food
P161944	Philippine Rural Development Project Additional Financing	2018	Active	Lending product	Philippines	EAP	Agriculture and Food

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P164424	Montenegro Second Institutional Development and Agriculture Strengthening Project	2018	Active	Lending product	Montenegro	ECA	Agriculture and Food
P146252	Indus Eco Region Community Livelihood Project (IECLP)	2017	Closed	Lending product	Pakistan	South Asia	Agriculture and Food
P154784	Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project	2017	Closed	Lending product	Kenya	AFE	Agriculture and Food
P158958	OECS Regional Agriculture Competitiveness Project	2017	Closed	Lending product	OECS countries	LAC	Agriculture and Food
P157282	DJ—Second Additional Financing for the Rural Community Development and Water Mobilization Project (PRODERMO)	2016	Closed	Lending product	Djibouti	MENA	Agriculture and Food
P174353	Blue Social Protection: Connecting Social Protection and the Blue Economy in a Changing Climate	2026	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Social Protection and Jobs
P171214	Pacific Ocean Advisory Program	2025	Active	AAA product	Pacific Islands	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

(continued)

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P176923	Supporting Plastics Circularity and Blue Economy in the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia	2025	Active	AAA product	Southeast Asia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180366	Effect of Fuel Subsidies on Chinese Distant Water Fishing and on Global Fish Populations	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Other
P176920	Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit Rollout	2023	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P165298	Implementation of Nutrition Sensitive Interventions in Operations	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Water
P167307	Enhancing Environmental Sustainability and Resilience in Vietnam	2022	Closed	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171307	Reducing Disease Risk in Aquaculture by Investing in Health Management	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Agriculture and Food
P171993	Accelerating Climate Investment in the Philippines	2022	Closed	AAA product	Philippines	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

(continued)

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P175345	Environmentally Harmful Subsidies	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Other
P170735	Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit	2021	Closed	Standard product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171747	Priorities for Sustainably Managing Sri Lanka's Coastal Fisheries and the Ecosystems That Support Them	2021	Closed	AAA product	Sri Lanka	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172379	Myanmar: Supporting Policies and Strengthening Capacities for Blue Economy Development, Plastics Reduction, and Climate Mainstreaming	2021	Closed	AAA product	Myanmar	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: AAA = analytic and advisory activities; ACGF = Africa Catalytic Growth Fund; AF = additional financing; AFE = Eastern and Southern Africa; AFW = Western and Central Africa; DJ = Djibouti; EAP = East Asia and Pacific; ECA = Europe and Central Asia; FY = fiscal year; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA = Middle East and North Africa; OECS = Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

Table C.4. Plastics and Marine Pollution

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P171556	Philippines—Sustainable Inclusive and Resilient Tourism Project	2024	Pipeline	Lending product	Philippines	EAP	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P176163	Clean and Resilient Environment for Blue Sea Project	2024	Active	Lending product	Albania	ECA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176323	Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management of Coastal Natural Resources	2024	Pipeline	Lending product	Central America	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180298	Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project Phase 2	2024	Active	Lending product	Tanzania	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P169425	Msimbazi Basin Development Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Tanzania	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P170976	Cambodia: Solid Waste and Plastic Management Improvement Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Cambodia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172817	Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

(continued)

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P178202	First Resilience and Green Development—DPL	2023	Active	Lending product	Albania	ECA	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P178634	Philippines First Sustainable Recovery DPL	2023	Active	Lending product	Philippines	EAP	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P179112	Barbados Green and Resilient Recovery DPL	2023	Active	Lending product	Barbados	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171833	Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Caribbean (UBEC)	2022	Active	Lending product	OECS countries	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172012	Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project	2022	Active	Lending product	Liberia	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172454	The Second Solomon Islands Transition to Sustainable Growth Development Policy Operation	2022	Closed	Lending product	Solomon Islands	EAP	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P172926	Blue Economy Program-for-Results	2022	Active	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P175659	Southeast Asia Regional Program on Combating Marine Plastics (SEA-MaP)	2022	Active	Lending product	Southeast Asia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P178608	The Solomon Islands FY22 Supplemental Development Policy Operation	2022	Closed	Lending product	Solomon Islands	EAP	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P162178	China Food Safety Improvement Project	2021	Active	Lending product	China	EAP	Agriculture and Food
P164212	Sierra Leone Economic Diversification Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Sierra Leone	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P168608	Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Sierra Leone	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P168633	Kerala Solid Waste Management Project	2021	Active	Lending product	India	South Asia	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P170798	Forests for Prosperity Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Nepal	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171449	Maputo Urban Transformation Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Mozambique	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P172548	Greater Cairo Air Pollution Management and Climate Change Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Egypt, Arab Rep.	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P174267	China Plastic Waste Reduction Project	2021	Active	Lending product	China	EAP	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P157245	Improvement of Solid Waste Management to Support Regional and Metropolitan Cities	2020	Active	Lending product	Indonesia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P161477	Senegal Municipal Solid Waste Management Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Senegal	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P163980	Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Kenya	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P167748	Grenada Second Fiscal Resilience and Blue Growth Development Policy Credit	2020	Closed	Lending product	Grenada	LAC	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P168724	Bangladesh Second Programmatic Jobs Development Policy Credit	2020	Closed	Lending product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Social Protection and Jobs
P168951	Cap Haitien Urban Development Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Haiti	LAC	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P169956	Second Fiscal Reform and Resilience Development Policy Credit with a CAT DDO	2020	Closed	Lending product	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P170558	Tuvalu First Resilience Development Policy Operation with a Catastrophe-Deferred Drawdown Option	2020	Closed	Lending product	Tuvalu	EAP	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P171269	Plastic-Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia	2020	Active	Lending product	South Asia	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P163023	Integrated Forest Landscape Management Project in Atalaya, Ucayali	2019	Active	Lending product	Peru	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P163818	Maldives: Enhancing Employability and Resilience of Youth Project	2019	Active	Lending product	Maldives	South Asia	Education
P164330	Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development Project	2019	Active	Lending product	Ghana	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P159756	Integrated Urban Development and Resilience Project for Greater Antananarivo	2018	Active	Lending product	Madagascar	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P164289	Grenada First Fiscal Resilience and Blue Growth Development Policy Credit	2018	Closed	Lending product	Grenada	LAC	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P165276	Fiscal Sustainability and Climate Resilience DPO	2018	Closed	Lending product	Fiji	EAP	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P153370	Second South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project—Madagascar	2017	Closed	Lending product	Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P158739	Colombia Fiscal and Growth DPL 1	2017	Closed	Lending product	Colombia	LAC	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P160739	Maldives Clean Environment Project	2017	Active	Lending product	Maldives	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P146965	Jamaica Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project	2016	Active	Lending product	Jamaica	LAC	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P132123	AFCC2/RI-South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project 1	2015	Closed	Lending product	Eastern and Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P127702	Jordan Ozone Depleting Substances HCFC Phase-Out Project (ODS3)	2013	Active	Lending product	Jordan	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P127955	Solid Waste Sector DPL3	2013	Closed	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P132268	Solid Waste Management OBA Pilot in West Bank	2013	Closed	Lending product	West Bank and Gaza	MENA	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P121774	Second Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (Jalanidhi II)	2012	Closed	Lending product	India	South Asia	Water
P166218	West Africa Coastal Areas High-Level Platform	2026	Active	AAA product	Africa	Africa	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P166466	Sustainable Management of Indonesia's Oceans and Coastal Resources, and Reducing Marine Debris	2026	Active	AAA product	Indonesia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P177225	Waves of Change: Tackling Regional Marine Plastics Pollution in EAP	2026	Active	AAA product	East Asia and Pacific	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171214	Pacific Ocean Advisory Program	2025	Active	AAA product	Pacific Islands	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P176923	Supporting Plastics Circularity and Blue Economy in the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia	2025	Active	AAA product	Southeast Asia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P173334	BBSEA: Turning the Tide of Pollution in the Black Sea	2025	Active	AAA product	Europe and Central Asia	ECA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P173517	Urban MDTF for South Africa	2025	Active	AAA product	South Africa	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P174821	Rebuilding Tourism Competitiveness: From Crisis to Sustainability	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P178341	Pacific Marine Plastic Action Plan	2025	Draft	AAA product	Pacific Islands	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178721	Landscape and Airshed Management for Resource Efficient and Resilient Growth	2025	Active	AAA product	India	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178790	Timor-Leste Blue Economy Development ASA	2025	Active	AAA product	Timor-Leste	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P178968	ASA on Urban, Land, and Resilience Multi-Sectoral Coordination in Vietnam	2025	Active	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P179101	South Africa: Climate Change Support Programmatic ASA	2025	Active	AAA product	South Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179435	Programmatic ASA for Lebanon Waste Sector Reform and River Basins Depollution	2025	Active	AAA product	Lebanon	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180273	Curbing the Flow: Moving to Global Plastics Action	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180756	North Africa Blue Economy and Coastal Management—Phase II	2025	Active	AAA product	Maghreb	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180808	Sustainable and Inclusive Competitiveness and Finance Ecuador	2025	Active	AAA product	Ecuador	LAC	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P172822	The Gambia Integrated Urban, Coastal Resilience, and Land Program	2024	Active	AAA product	Gambia, The	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P175520	KH Enhancing Natural Resource and Pollution Management in Cambodia	2024	Active	AAA product	Cambodia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P175908	Country Environmental Analysis for Building Back a Greener Bangladesh	2024	Active	AAA product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176401	Tanzania-Zanzibar PROBLUE—Supporting Blue Economy Policy Implementation through Marine Debris Control and Coastal Zone Management	2024	Active	AAA product	Tanzania	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176567	Green Clean Pakistan Programmatic ASA	2024	Active	AAA product	Pakistan	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P177344	Sustainable Waste Management	2024	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P178489	Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy in the Maldives	2024	Active	AAA product	Maldives	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P170079	China: Supporting Marine Plastic Debris Solutions	2023	Closed	AAA product	China	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P170596	North Africa Blue Economy and Coastal Management	2023	Closed	AAA product	Middle East and North Africa	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171363	Enabling Circular Economy to Address Plastic Pollution in Oceans	2023	Draft	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174701	Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management and Marine Environment Protection—Central America	2023	Closed	AAA product	Central America	LAC	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P175981	PASA on Urban, Land, and Resilience Multisectoral Coordination in Vietnam	2023	Closed	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P176178	Reducing Marine Plastic Pollution and Creating Plastic Recycling Market in Lagos State, Nigeria	2023	Closed	AAA product	Nigeria	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178756	Climate Cost of Plastics—Approach Paper	2023	Closed	Standard product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179013	Dissemination of Pathways out of Plastic Pollution ASA	2023	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P168024	Leveraging the Circular Economy to Reduce Industrial and Marine Pollution in Bangladesh	2022	Closed	AAA product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P169132	Addressing Marine Plastics Debris in Indonesia	2022	Closed	AAA product	Indonesia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P170869	Pathways out of Plastic Pollution	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171011	Resilient Green Growth Programmatic Analytical and Advisory Services	2022	Closed	AAA product	Lao PDR	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P167307	Enhancing Environmental Sustainability and Resilience in Vietnam	2022	Closed	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174467	Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management and Marine Environment Protection—Caribbean Region	2022	Closed	AAA product	Caribbean	LAC	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P170994	Rethinking Plastics: Support for ASEAN Region and Select Countries on Marine Plastics	2021	Closed	AAA product	Southeast Asia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P171405	Bridging the Institutional Gap in SWM	2021	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P172461	Coastal Blue Economy Development Path and Updated NDC for Cambodia	2021	Closed	AAA product	Cambodia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172379	Myanmar: Supporting Policies and Strengthening Capacities for Blue Economy Development, Plastics Reduction, and Climate Mainstreaming	2021	Closed	AAA product	Myanmar	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: AAA = analytic and advisory activities; AFE = Eastern and Southern Africa; AFW = Western and Central Africa; ASA = advisory services and analytics; ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations; BBSEA = Blueing the Black Sea; CAT DDO = catastrophe-deferred drawdown option; DPL = development policy loan; DPO = development policy operation; EAP = East Asia and Pacific; ECA = Europe and Central Asia; FY = fiscal year; HCFC = hydrochlorofluorocarbon; KH = Cambodia; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; MDTF = multidonor trust fund; MENA = Middle East and North Africa; NDC = nationally determined commitment; OBA = output-based aid; OECS = Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States; PASA = Programmatic Advisory Services and Analytics; PDR = People's Democratic Republic; SWM = solid waste management.

Table C.5. Marine and Coastal Tourism

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P176981	Resilient Tourism and Blue Economy Development in Cabo Verde Project	2022	Active	Lending product	Cabo Verde	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P177179	Tourism Diversification and Resilience in The Gambia	2022	Active	Lending product	Gambia, The	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P164212	Sierra Leone Economic Diversification Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Sierra Leone	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P174684	Economic Transformation for Inclusive Growth Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Madagascar	AFE	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P166187	Competitiveness and Sector Diversification	2020	Active	Lending product	Suriname	LAC	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P164211	Tourism Development Project	2019	Active	Lending product	Ghana	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P164536	Madagascar Integrated Growth Poles and Corridor SOP-2	2019	Closed	Lending product	Madagascar	AFE	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P164584	Integrated Development and Competitiveness Project	2019	Active	Lending product	Comoros	AFE	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P157599	Integrated Infrastructure Development for National Tourism Strategic Areas (Indonesia Tourism Development Project)	2018	Active	Lending product	Indonesia	EAP	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P161590	Support to Enterprise Development and Competitiveness Project	2018	Closed	Lending product	Congo, Rep.	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P146469	Senegal Tourism and Enterprise Development Project	2017	Closed	Lending product	Senegal	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P152117	OECS Regional Tourism Competitiveness	2017	Active	Lending product	OECS countries	LAC	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P146666	Competitiveness for Tourism Development	2016	Closed	Lending product	Cabo Verde	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P149117	Benin Cross Border Tourism and Competitiveness Project	2016	Active	Lending product	Benin	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P174821	Rebuilding Tourism Competitiveness: From Crisis to Sustainability	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P179920	Future of Tourism in the Caribbean	2025	Active	AAA product	Caribbean	LAC	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P177357	Support to Finance, Competitiveness, and Trade in Timor-Leste	2023	Closed	AAA product	Timor-Leste	EAP	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P177593	The Future of Pacific Tourism Post-COVID	2023	Closed	AAA product	Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands	EAP	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P171960	Timor-Leste: Private Sector Development and Tourism Development	2021	Closed	AAA product	Timor-Leste	EAP	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P154217	World Bank Group Sustainable Tourism Global Solutions Group	2020	Closed	Standard product	World	Other	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P157800	PK: Punjab Cultural and Heritage Tourism Promotion	2020	Closed	AAA product	Pakistan	South Asia	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P161606	Improving Tourism Competitiveness for a Pacific Possible	2020	Closed	AAA product	Pacific Islands	EAP	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P165069	TZ-Zanzibar Tourism Integrated Strategy Action Plan (TISAP)	2020	Closed	AAA product	Tanzania	AFE	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P168669	Creating Markets in the Digital Economy: Knowledge Generation and Capacity Building	2020	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P169076	Diversifying Tourism and Strengthening Linkages through Digital Technologies	2020	Closed	AAA product	Cabo Verde	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: AAA = analytic and advisory activities; AFE = Eastern and Southern Africa; AFW = Western and Central Africa; EAP = East Asia and Pacific; FY = fiscal year; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; OECS = Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States; PK = Pakistan; SOP = Series of Projects; TZ = Tanzania.

Table C.6. Maritime Transport Infrastructure

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P173114	Comoros Interisland Connectivity Project	2022	Active	Lending product	Comoros	AFE	Transport
P176208	Tonga Climate Resilient Transport Project II	2022	Active	Lending product	Tonga	EAP	Transport
P165838	Kiribati Outer Islands Transport Infrastructure Investment Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Kiribati	EAP	Transport
P161382	The Marshall Islands Maritime Investment Project	2019	Active	Lending product	Marshall Islands	EAP	Transport
P163922	Federated States of Micronesia Maritime Investment Project	2019	Active	Lending product	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	EAP	Transport
P156880	Enhancing Waterway Connectivity and Water Service Provision in Colombia's Plan Pazcifico	2018	Active	Lending product	Colombia	LAC	Transport
P159697	Greater Abidjan Port—City Integration Project	2018	Active	Lending product	Côte d'Ivoire	AFW	Transport
P148775	Capacity Augmentation of the National Waterway—1 (Jal Marg Vikas) Project	2017	Active	Lending product	India	South Asia	Transport
P150496	Dar es Salaam Maritime Gateway Project	2017	Active	Lending product	Tanzania	AFE	Transport

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P158982	Trade and Logistics Services Competitiveness Project	2017	Closed	Lending product	Togo	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P151806	Tonga Transport Sector Consolidation Project—Additional Financing	2016	Closed	Lending product	Tonga	EAP	Transport
P152241	Somali Core Economic Institutions and Opportunities Program (SCORE)	2016	Closed	Lending product	Somalia	AFE	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P152379	Somalia Towage Services in Berbera Port	2016	Closed	Lending product	Somalia	AFE	Other
P154511	Bangladesh Regional Waterway Transport Project 1	2016	Active	Lending product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Transport

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: AFE = Eastern and Southern Africa; AFW = Western and Central Africa; EAP = East Asia and Pacific; FY = fiscal year; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean.

Table C.7. PROBLUE

Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P180227	Palau Blue Prosperity	2025	Pipeline	Lending product	Palau	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171556	Philippines—Sustainable Inclusive and Resilient Tourism Project	2024	Pipeline	Lending product	Philippines	EAP	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P176163	Clean and Resilient Environment for Blue Sea Project	2024	Active	Lending product	Albania	ECA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176323	Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management of Coastal Natural Resources	2024	Pipeline	Lending product	Central America	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178032	Somali Sustainable Fisheries Development Project—Badmaal	2024	Pipeline	Lending product	Somalia	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180298	Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project Phase 2	2024	Active	Lending product	Tanzania	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P169425	Msimbazi Basin Development Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Tanzania	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P170976	Cambodia: Solid Waste and Plastic Management Improvement Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Cambodia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172817	Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation Project	2023	Active	Lending product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P173391	Oceans for Prosperity Project—LAUTRA	2023	Active	Lending product	Indonesia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179612	Accelerating Blue Economy Development in the Kingdom of Morocco	2023	Active	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171833	Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Caribbean (UBEC)	2022	Active	Lending product	OECS countries	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172012	Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project	2022	Active	Lending product	Liberia	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172926	Blue Economy Program-for-Results	2022	Active	Lending product	Morocco	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P175669	Sustainable Recovery of Landscapes and Livelihoods in Argentina Project	2022	Active	Lending product	Argentina	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176981	Resilient Tourism and Blue Economy Development in Cabo Verde Project	2022	Active	Lending product	Cabo Verde	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P178143	Program on Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH)	2022	Active	Lending product	Middle East and North Africa	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P164212	Sierra Leone Economic Diversification Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Sierra Leone	AFW	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P168608	Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Sierra Leone	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P168613	Guinea Natural Resources, Mining, and Environmental Management Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Guinea	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P168633	Kerala Solid Waste Management Project	2021	Active	Lending product	India	South Asia	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P170798	Forests for Prosperity Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Nepal	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P171449	Maputo Urban Transformation Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Mozambique	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P172548	Greater Cairo Air Pollution Management and Climate Change Project	2021	Active	Lending product	Egypt, Arab Rep.	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174002	Sustainable Rural Economy Program	2021	Active	Lending product	Mozambique	AFE	Agriculture and Food
P161477	Senegal Municipal Solid Waste Management Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Senegal	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P163980	Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Kenya	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P168475	Costa Rica Sustainable Fisheries Development Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Costa Rica	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P168951	Cap Haitien Urban Development Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Haiti	LAC	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P170532	Rail Logistics Improvement Project	2020	Active	Lending product	Türkiye	ECA	Transport

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P170860	Saint Lucia—Caribbean Regional Air Transport Connectivity Project	2020	Active	Lending product	St. Lucia	LAC	Transport
P171269	Plastic-Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia	2020	Active	Lending product	South Asia	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P161568	Bangladesh Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries	2019	Active	Lending product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P163023	Integrated Forest Landscape Management Project in Atalaya, Ucayali	2019	Active	Lending product	Peru	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P163818	Maldives: Enhancing Employability and Resilience of Youth Project	2019	Active	Lending product	Maldives	South Asia	Education
P164330	Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development Project	2019	Active	Lending product	Ghana	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P155642	Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3)	2018	Active	Lending product	Eastern and Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P159756	Integrated Urban Development and Resilience Project for Greater Antananarivo	2018	Active	Lending product	Madagascar	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P162337	West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project	2018	Active	Lending product	Western and Central Africa	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P166538	Senegal—Saint-Louis Emergency Recovery and Resilience Project	2018	Active	Lending product	Senegal	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P153370	Second South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project—Madagascar	2017	Closed	Lending product	Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P160739	Maldives Clean Environment Project	2017	Active	Lending product	Maldives	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P146965	Jamaica Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project	2016	Active	Lending product	Jamaica	LAC	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P132123	AFCC2/RI-South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project 1	2015	Closed	Lending product	Eastern and Southern Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P127702	Jordan Ozone Depleting Substances HCFC Phase-Out Project (ODS3)	2013	Active	Lending product	Jordan	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176825	Global Program on Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience	2027	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P181096	Developing Resilient and Sustainable Blue Economy in Red Sea Countries (the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Yemen, and Djibouti)	2027	Active	AAA product	MNC03 CMU	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174353	Blue Social Protection: Connecting Social Protection and the Blue Economy in a Changing Climate	2026	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Social Protection and Jobs
P166218	West Africa Coastal Areas High-Level Platform	2026	Active	AAA product	Africa	Africa	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P166466	Sustainable Management of Indonesia's Oceans and Coastal Resources, and Reducing Marine Debris	2026	Active	AAA product	Indonesia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P177225	Waves of Change: Tackling Regional Marine Plastics Pollution in EAP	2026	Active	AAA product	East Asia and Pacific	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179219	Aligning Climate Change and Development in the Philippines	2026	Active	AAA product	Philippines	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171214	Pacific Ocean Advisory Program	2025	Active	AAA product	Pacific Islands	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176923	Supporting Plastics Circularity and Blue Economy in the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia	2025	Active	AAA product	Southeast Asia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180366	Effect of Fuel Subsidies on Chinese Distant Water Fishing and on Global Fish Populations	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Other
P159107	Caribbean Regional Energy Initiative	2025	Active	AAA product	Caribbean	LAC	Energy and Extractives
P170090	Offshore Wind Development Program	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Energy and Extractives
P173148	Oceans Governance Capacity Building	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Other

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P173334	BBSEA: Turning the Tide of Pollution in the Black Sea	2025	Active	AAA product	Europe and Central Asia	ECA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P173517	Urban MDTF for South Africa	2025	Active	AAA product	South Africa	AFE	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P174821	Rebuilding Tourism Competitiveness: From Crisis to Sustainability	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P175786	Aquabusiness Advisory Platform	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Agriculture and Food
P176456	Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development Advisory Program for Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka	2025	Active	AAA product	Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176996	Vietnam Green Growth Programmatic ASA	2025	Active	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment
P177455	Mexico: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Policies	2025	Active	AAA product	Mexico	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P177583	Decarbonizing Maritime Transport Phase 2	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Transport

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P177919	Maghreb Water Resilience ASA	2025	Active	AAA product	Middle East and North Africa	MENA	Water
P178721	Landscape and Airshed Management for Resource Efficient and Resilient Growth	2025	Active	AAA product	India	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178749	South Sudan Natural Resources Review	2025	Active	AAA product	South Sudan	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178790	Timor-Leste Blue Economy Development ASA	2025	Active	AAA product	Timor-Leste	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178968	ASA on Urban, Land, and Resilience Multi-Sectoral Coordination in Vietnam	2025	Active	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P179061	Water Supply and Sanitation Global Solutions Group	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Water
P179101	South Africa: Climate Change Support Programmatic ASA	2025	Active	AAA product	South Africa	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179435	Programmatic ASA for Lebanon Waste Sector Reform and River Basins Depollution	2025	Active	AAA product	Lebanon	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P179593	Bio-Circular-Green Economy for Thailand	2025	Active	AAA product	Thailand	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179640	Harnessing the Potential of the Ocean for Sustainable Development in Ecuador	2025	Active	AAA product	Ecuador	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179920	Future of Tourism in the Caribbean	2025	Active	AAA product	Caribbean	LAC	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P180273	Curbing the Flow: Moving to Global Plastics Action	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180756	North Africa Blue Economy and Coastal Management—Phase II	2025	Active	AAA product	Maghreb	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180808	Sustainable and Inclusive Competitiveness and Finance Ecuador	2025	Active	AAA product	Ecuador	LAC	Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
P181267	Global-Integrating Aquaculture into Land and Seascape Programs	2025	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172822	The Gambia Integrated Urban, Coastal Resilience, and Land Program	2024	Active	AAA product	Gambia, The	AFW	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P174990	A Blue Transformation for Pacific Maritime Transport	2024	Active	AAA product	Pacific Islands	EAP	Transport
P175520	KH Enhancing Natural Resource and Pollution Management in Cambodia	2024	Active	AAA product	Cambodia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P175908	Country Environmental Analysis for Building Back a Greener Bangladesh	2024	Active	AAA product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176401	Tanzania-Zanzibar PROBLUE—Supporting Blue Economy Policy Implementation through Marine Debris Control and Coastal Zone Management	2024	Active	AAA product	Tanzania	AFE	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176490	Economics of Nature-Based Tourism	2024	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176567	Green Clean Pakistan Programmatic ASA	2024	Active	AAA product	Pakistan	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P177344	Sustainable Waste Management	2024	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P178446	The Changing Wealth Of Nations (CWON) 2.0	2024	Active	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P178489	Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy in the Maldives	2024	Active	AAA product	Maldives	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179135	Strengthening Governance of Colombia's Marine and Coastal Natural Resources	2024	Active	AAA product	Colombia	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180103	The Blue Economy for Resilient Africa Program (BE4RAP)	2024	Active	AAA product	Western and Central Africa	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176920	Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit Rollout	2023	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P165586	Scaling Up WSS Utility Performance in World Bank Projects	2023	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Water
P166698	Strengthening Artisanal Fisheries in LAC (Peru and Ecuador)	2023	Closed	AAA product	Andean countries	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P170079	China: Supporting Marine Plastic Debris Solutions	2023	Closed	AAA product	China	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P170596	North Africa Blue Economy and Coastal Management	2023	Closed	AAA product	Middle East and North Africa	MENA	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174701	Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management and Marine Environment Protection—Central America	2023	Closed	AAA product	Central America	LAC	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P175981	PASA on Urban, Land, and Resilience Multisectoral Coordination in Vietnam	2023	Closed	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P176178	Reducing Marine Plastic Pollution and Creating Plastic Recycling Market in Lagos State, Nigeria	2023	Closed	AAA product	Nigeria	AFW	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P176291	Creating an Enabling Environment for Blue Economy Development in Jamaica	2023	Closed	AAA product	Jamaica	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P177142	Honduras Country Climate and Development Report	2023	Closed	AAA product	Honduras	LAC	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P178756	Climate Cost of Plastics—Approach Paper	2023	Closed	Standard product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P179013	Dissemination of Pathways out of Plastic Pollution ASA	2023	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180327	Coastal Blue Carbon Opportunities for Blue Economy Development	2023	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P180753	Understanding the Role of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Carbon Sequestration	2023	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P168024	Leveraging the Circular Economy to Reduce Industrial and Marine Pollution in Bangladesh	2022	Closed	AAA product	Bangladesh	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P170869	Pathways out of Plastic Pollution	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171011	Resilient Green Growth Programmatic Analytical and Advisory Services	2022	Closed	AAA product	Lao PDR	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P165298	Implementation of Nutrition Sensitive Interventions in Operations	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Water
P167307	Enhancing Environmental Sustainability and Resilience in Vietnam	2022	Closed	AAA product	Viet Nam	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P174467	Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management and Marine Environment Protection—Caribbean Region	2022	Closed	AAA product	Caribbean	LAC	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P175097	Improving the Understanding of Marine Spatial Planning	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171307	Reducing Disease Risk in Aquaculture by Investing in Health Management	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Agriculture and Food
P176604	Creating ENB's Value Proposition for Nature-Based Solutions	2022	Closed	Standard product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171993	Accelerating Climate Investment in the Philippines	2022	Closed	AAA product	Philippines	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P175345	Environmentally Harmful Subsidies	2022	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Other

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Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P167405	Blue Economy Development Framework	2021	Closed	Standard product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P168079	Decarbonizing Maritime Transport	2021	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Climate Change
P169304	Changing Wealth of Nations 2021	2021	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P170994	Rethinking Plastics: Support for ASEAN Region and Select Countries on Marine Plastics	2021	Closed	AAA product	Southeast Asia	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171044	Assessing the Economic Impact of Protected Areas on Regional Economies	2021	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P171405	Bridging the Institutional Gap in SWM	2021	Closed	AAA product	World	Other	Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land
P170735	Fisheries Sector Assessment Toolkit	2021	Closed	Standard product	World	Other	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

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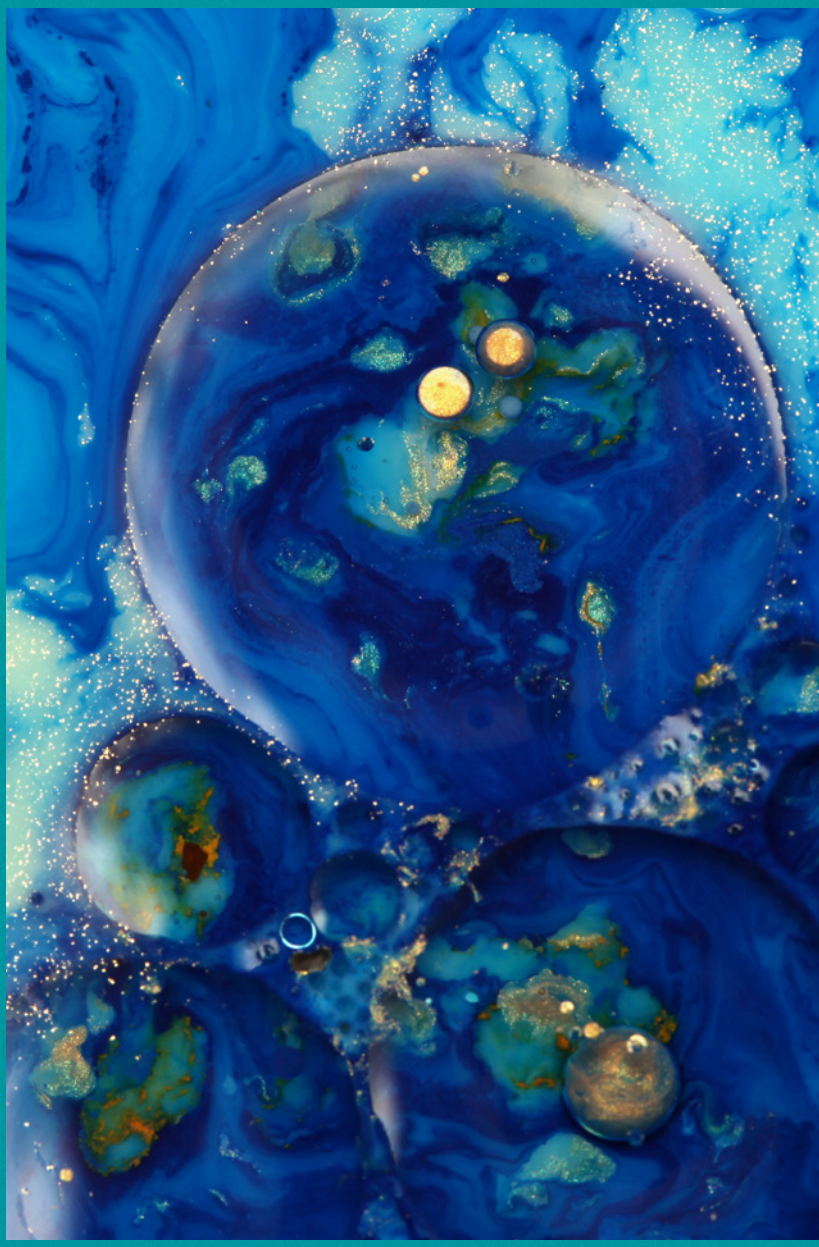
Project ID	Project Legal Name	Approval FY	Project Status	Product Line Type	Country	Region	Global Practice
P171747	Priorities for Sustainably Managing Sri Lanka's Coastal Fisheries and the Ecosystems That Support Them	2021	Closed	AAA product	Sri Lanka	South Asia	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy
P172379	Myanmar: Supporting Policies and Strengthening Capacities for Blue Economy Development, Plastics Reduction, and Climate Mainstreaming	2021	Closed	AAA product	Myanmar	EAP	Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: AAA = analytic and advisory activities; AFE = Eastern and Southern Africa; AFW = Western and Central Africa; ASA = advisory services and analytics; ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations; BBSEA = Blueing the Black Sea; EAP = East Asia and Pacific; ECA = Europe and Central Asia; ENB = Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy; FY = fiscal year; HCFC = hydrochlorofluorocarbon; KH = Cambodia; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; MDTF = multidonor trust fund; MENA = Middle East and North Africa; MNC03 CMU = the Arab Republic of Egypt, Djibouti, and the Republic of Yemen Country Management Unit; OECS = Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States; PASA = Programmatic Advisory Services and Analytics; PDR = People's Democratic Republic; SWM = solid waste management; WSS = water supply and sanitation.



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