

*Towards a blue future*

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# Great Blue Wall



United Nations  
Economic Commission  
for Africa





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# Goal and objectives

The **Great Blue Wall** is a Western Indian Ocean (WIO)-born, Africa-driven roadmap to achieve a **nature-positive** world by 2030. It aims at unlocking unprecedented **nature-based recovery efforts** through the establishment of a transformational movement. Its goal is to dramatically **accelerate and upscale ocean conservation actions** while enhancing **socio-ecological resilience** and the development of a **regenerative blue economy** by catalysing **political leadership** and **financial support**.

This will be achieved by spearheading the establishment of a **connected network of regenerative seascapes**. This network of seascapes will be connected by a living blue wall that will act as a **regional ecological corridor** formed by **conserved and restored critical blue ecosystems** such as mangroves, seagrasses and corals. While the Great Blue Wall will act as a **wall against climate change impacts and biodiversity loss**, it will also **shelter coastal communities** and create the enabling conditions and necessary mechanisms to accelerate the development of a **climate-nature-people positive ocean economy**. The Great Blue Wall is an action-focused and action-driven **regional response to 3 interconnected crises, i.e. Biodiversity - Climate - Economy** with 3 clear objectives to be achieved by **2030**.



## Biodiversity

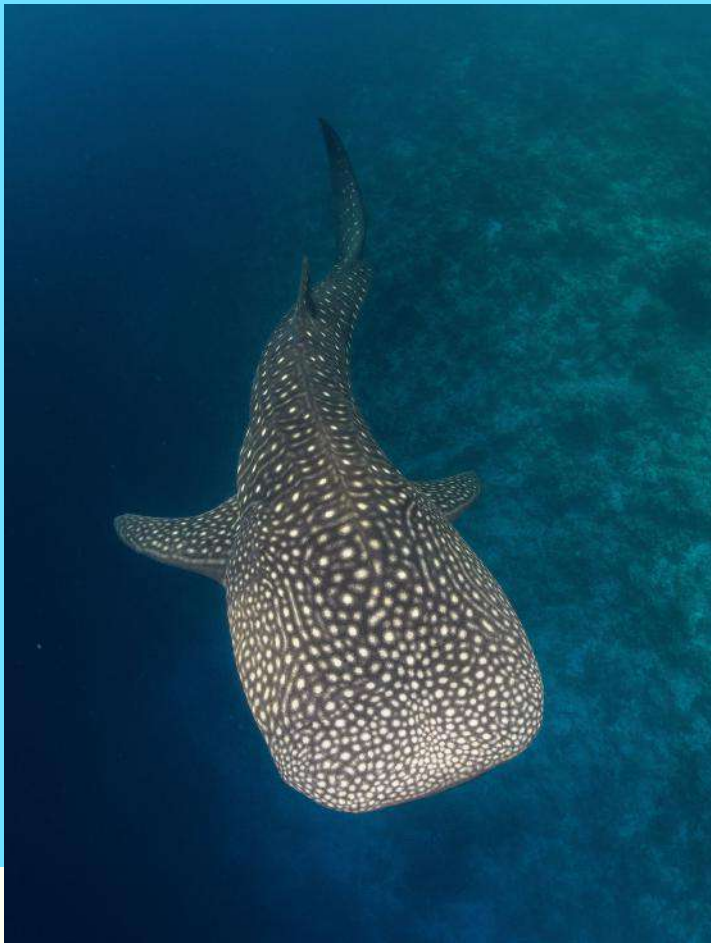
Effectively and equitably conserve at least **30% of the Ocean by 2030**, in a Nature and People positive way.

## Climate

Conserve and restore critical blue ecosystems to achieve **Net-gain by 2030** compared to 2020 and sequester **at least 100 million tons of CO2**.

## Economy

Unlock the development of a regenerative blue economy that directly benefits **70 million people** in coastal communities while also delivering conservation outcomes.



## Nature and People Positive Seascapes

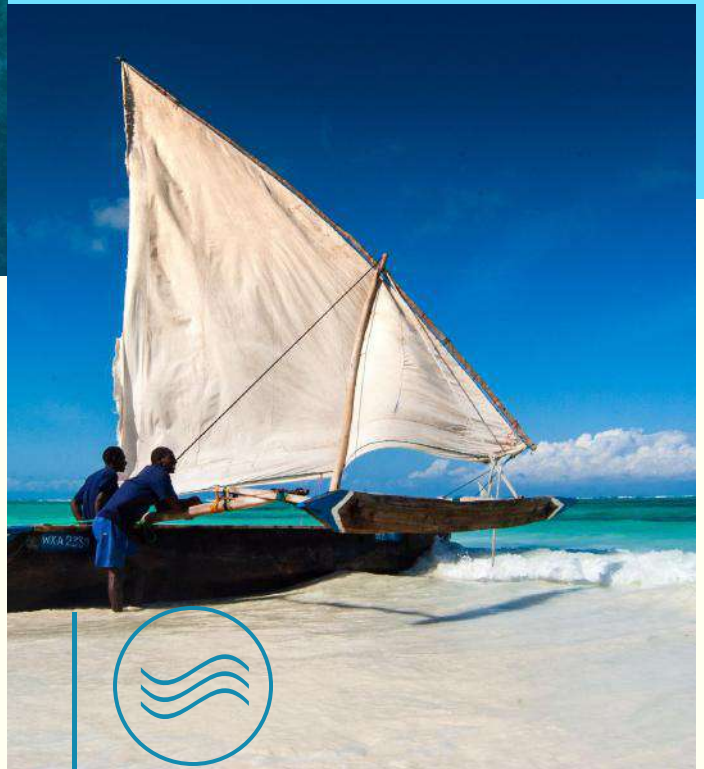
These seascapes, otherwise referred to as **Regenerative Seascapes**, will be fairly governed and effectively conserved by countries in both national and international waters and will form a network of **inclusive and productive** (i.e. multiple, sustainable and artisanal uses) large-scale marine protected and conserved areas. They will meet international standards to ensure they deliver both **socio-economic and conservation outcomes** by promoting **regenerative practices** and **sustainable use of natural resources** that benefit local livelihoods.

### Why is this important?

As per end of 2021, only 8% of our Oceans are formally protected, and only a small portion are effectively conserved. Yet, our oceans have never been in such state of degradation despite being the sources of life, resilience and livelihoods for more than 70 million people in the WIO region alone.

### Time is of the essence

Science is clear - we need to protect effectively 30% of our oceans by 2030. With a few years left, the need for a clear roadmap and mechanism to achieve this target in a way that works for both nature and people has never been so critical.



### Objective

By 2030 - the Great Blue Wall will fairly and effectively protect and conserve at least **2 million km<sup>2</sup>** (30% of the WIO) and will advocate and provide support at continental and global levels to achieve complementary results.

# Climate Change

To connect these seascapes at a regional level, the Great Blue Wall will **regenerate and secure the integrity of an ecological corridor** by conserving and restoring at scale marine and coastal critical ecosystems, such as mangroves, seagrasses, corals, coastal forests and parabolic dunes. This will be achieved by large-scale nature-based adaptation and mitigation measures, such as large-scale restoration efforts.



## Blue Guardians

Local stakeholders, the first of which are **indigenous people and local communities**, will play a critical **leading role** in the effective management of the connected network and will be supported in their efforts to **sustainably use and benefit from natural resources**.

In a recent ground breaking paper\*, world leaders promoted the adoption of a succinct **Nature-Positive Global Goal for Nature**. The goal has three measurable objectives: Zero Net Loss of Nature from 2020, Net Positive by 2030, and Full Recovery by 2050. Subsequently, a joint position paper by global leaders entitled the *G7 2030 Nature Compact*, recognizes that *our world must not only become net zero, but also nature positive, for the benefit of both people and the planet, with a focus on promoting sustainable and inclusive development*.

\*2021 Locke et al., A Nature-Positive World: The Global Goal for Nature



## Objective

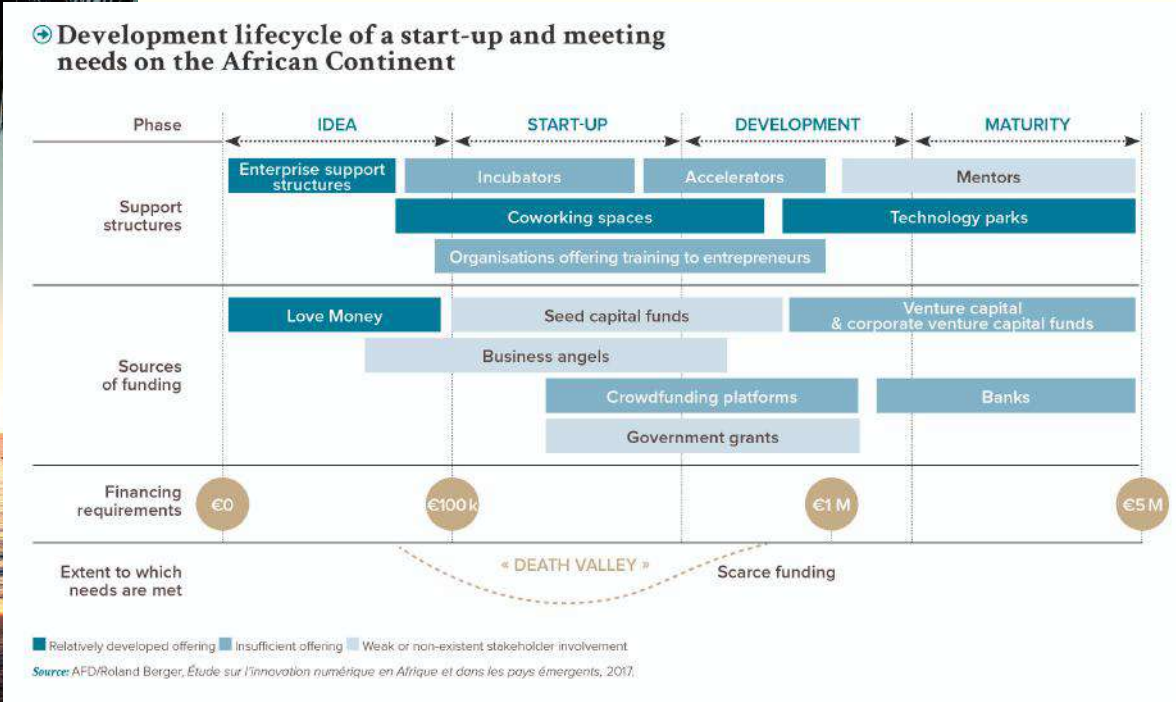
By 2030, the Great Blue Wall will achieve **net-gain of critical blue ecosystems** compared to 2020 by conserving and restoring at least **2 million ha of critical ecosystems in the WIO** and sequester more than **100M tons of carbon**. It will support the African continent and other regions engaged in equivalent efforts.

# Blue Economy

## We Can't Do This Alone

While we need to urgently address the climate change and biodiversity threats faced by our ocean, we need to do so while also supporting the development of local communities. It is therefore of paramount importance to **transform our ocean economy into a driver of positive conservation and socio-economic outcomes**. In other words, there is today an urgent need and unique opportunity to accelerate the development of a **regenerative blue economy**.

The graphic below shows clearly that there is a need for more early-stage investment (seed and venture capital), in particular within the "Death Valley". The Great Blue Wall will unlock **innovation, investment and transformational change** at seascape, country and regional levels in order to overcome such "Death Valley" effect and support the establishment at scale of **financially viable climate-ocean-people positive enterprises**.



Because the blue economy sector is still nascent, a key challenge that considerably limits the possibility to unlock such potential is the **lack of bankable projects**. As the development of a **blue economy** gains traction, there is today a unique opportunity to support such development while making sure it is **inclusive, resilient, and becomes a catalyst to achieve SDG 14**.

## Objective

By 2030, the Great Blue Wall will unlock regenerative livelihood opportunities for **70 million people in the WIO**, create at least **2 million blue jobs** and support the African continent and other regions engaged in equivalent efforts.

# Stakeholders

COASTAL  
COMMUNITIES



CENTRAL STAKEHOLDERS AND  
STEWARDS & KEY TARGET  
BENEFICIARIES

GOVERNMENTS



CHAMPIONS OF THE GBW: HIGH-LEVEL  
LEADERS, POLICY MAKERS AND  
ENABLERS

PRIVATE  
SECTOR



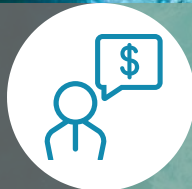
UNLOCK BLUE INVESTMENTS AND  
ACCELERATE REGENERATIVE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

NGOs



PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND CAPACITY  
SUPPORT

DONORS



PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

# A Growing Mutli-Stakeholder Partnership

**African Governments** leading the initiative include the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Seychelles, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania

**Partner countries** that support the initiative include the Republic of France, Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Ireland, Republic of Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America

**Multilateral Agencies** that are part of the initiative include the African Union Commission, the UNFCCC High Level Climate Champions, UNDP and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Nairobi Convention

**Civil Society Organisation** supporting the initiative include Friends of Ocean Action, WWF, Conservation International, Mission blue, NEKTON, WIOMSA, Technoserve, CORDIO, Wetlands International, Ocean Hub Africa, James Michel Foundation, Danny Faure Foundation, BFA Global, IFAW, Oceans Alive, Nature Seychelles, AMA, Aga Khan Foundation, African Parks, Mihari, Global Ocean Trust, ORRAA, Mission Inclusion and the Blue Nature Alliance

**Private Sector Organisations** supporting to the initiative include Mitsubishi Foundation, World Economic Forum - UpLink, Societe Generale, Standard Chartered, Citibank and Climate Fund Managers





*People are rising faster  
than sea level!*

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# Join The Movement!

For more information

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