



# **Strengthening Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Blue Economy**

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Workshop and Study Visit on Small-scale Marine Fisheries  
Data Collection for Fisheries Management in ASEAN  
15 July 2025



# Blue Economy is an essential component of ASEAN broader sustainability agenda



ASEAN  
Strategy for  
**Carbon  
Neutrality**



Framework  
for **Circular  
Economy**



ASEAN **Blue  
Economy  
Framework**



ASEAN  
**Taxonomy for  
Sustainable  
Finance**



**Global Value  
Chains & Supply  
Chain Resilience**



**Digitalisation &  
Digital Economy**



**Decarbonisation  
of Transport**



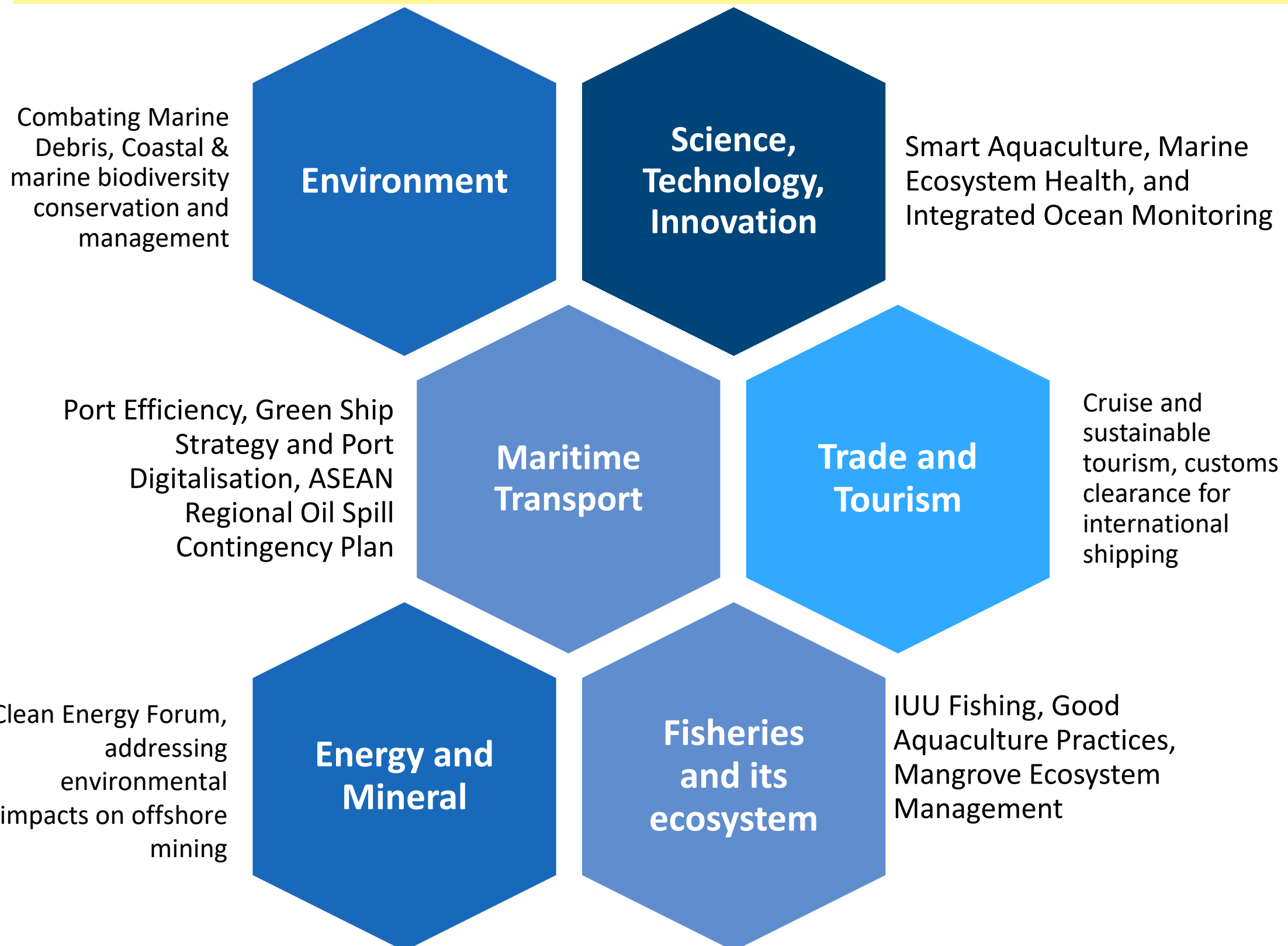
**Sustainable  
Agriculture**





# Existing ASEAN Blue Economy's Initiatives and Partnership

Relevant elements in the AEC Blueprint 2025, among others: **sustainable economic development; maritime transport; fisheries/aquaculture; tourism; energy & minerals; science, tech, innovation; trade facilitation.**

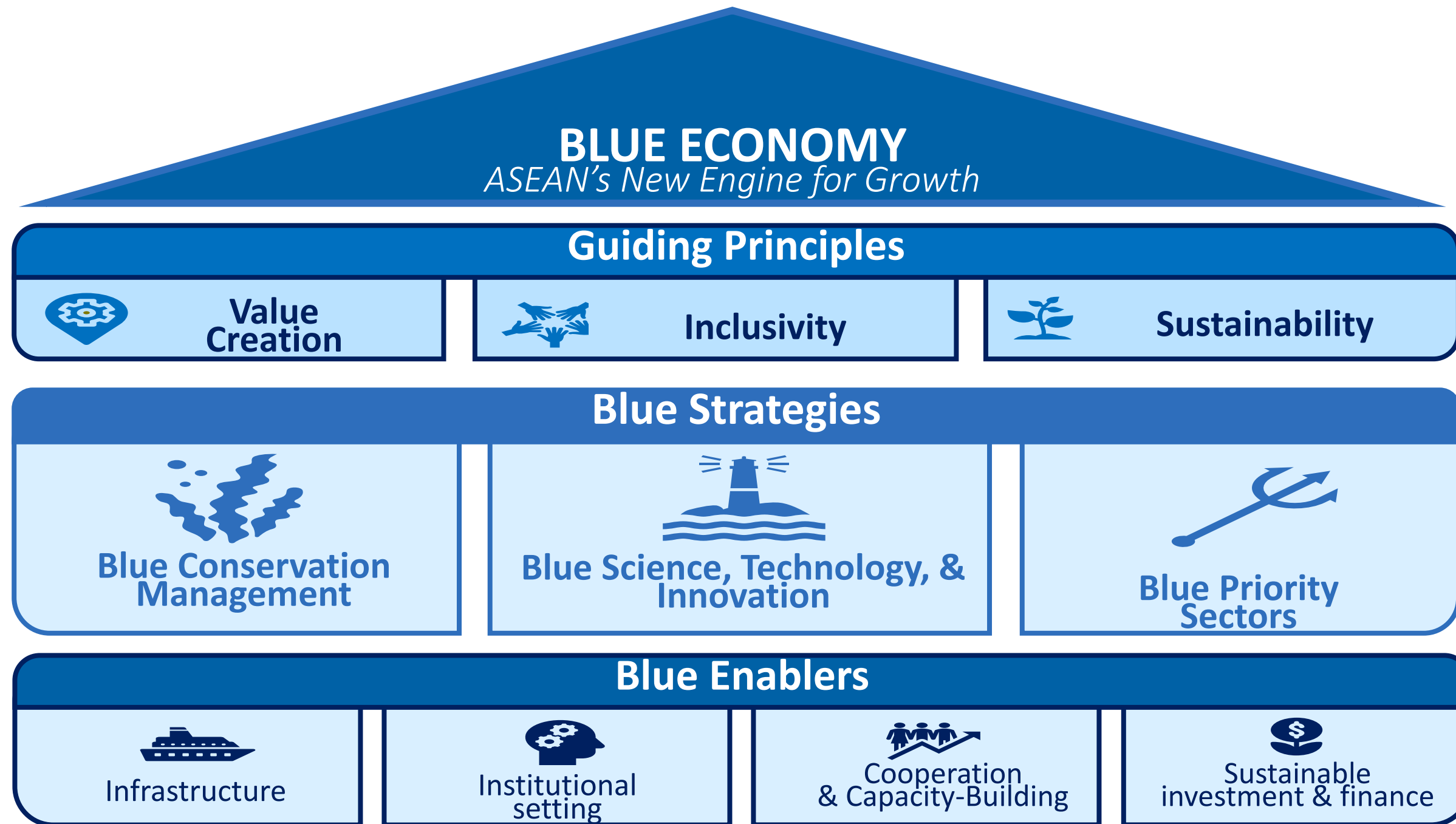


## Partnership with ASEAN's External Partners on Blue Economy

-  Forum/Workshop on Blue Economy
-  ASEAN+1 FTA: blue economy under the Chapter of Trade and Sustainable Development.
-  Capacity building and knowledge sharing initiatives in various areas



# ASEAN Blue Economy Framework



**Blue Conservation Management** incorporates the concept of natural capital and value of natural assets, nature-based solutions, and sustainable practices.

**Blue Priority Sectors** focuses on enhancing blue economy potential by uplifting and harnessing the opportunities in **traditional sectors** and creating the right conditions for **emerging sectors to flourish**.

# ASEAN Coordinating Task-Force on Blue Economy (ACTF-BE)

- **Roles and Responsibilities**
  - develop, monitor, and, when and if necessary, update, the implementation plan of ASEAN's blue economy initiatives, in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies
  - provide technical and strategic advice and guidance on the advancement of blue economy as the new engine of growth for ASEAN
  - promote cross-sectoral and pillar cooperation on blue economy and streamline coordinating mechanism
  - promote partnership and cooperation on blue economy with ASEAN's stakeholders and external partners to catalyse concrete and viable outcomes
- 1<sup>st</sup> ACTF-BE meeting on 11 August 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR
  - **Thailand as a Shepherd for Blue Economy Initiatives related to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.**
- Intersession meeting (virtual) and 2<sup>nd</sup> ACTF-BE meeting are scheduled for 12 August and 30 September 2025 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

## Implementation Plan for ASEAN Blue Economy (2026-2030)

- Build upon existing initiatives under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Pillar
- Synergise regional plans and initiatives, including the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, Framework for Circular Economy for the AEC, and where applicable, national plans and initiatives to promote blue economy.
- encompass economic opportunities arising **not only from seas and oceans but also from inland waterways and freshwater resources.**



# Suggested Focus Areas

## Energy

- marine renewable energy such as from ocean thermal, waves, tides and currents
- Offshore energy such as oil and gas or biofuels from seaweeds or algae
- energy technologies or installations sited in maritime spaces
- associated facilities to collect and deliver the energy to onshore grids or maritime carbon capture facilities

## Minerals

- minerals and metals sited offshore, such as sand and gravel, critical minerals and metals found in sea-floor sulfides, polymetallic nodules, and ferromanganese crusts
- new capacities to enable resource assessment and mapping of the seabed, address environmental and social impacts

## Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

- ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management
- good aquaculture practices
- cooperation on the management of transboundary fish stocks and aquatic animal diseases
- innovating fisheries and aquaculture value chains

## Green shipping/ports

- greener fuels and vessels
- investments in green ports
- green port management initiatives
- green shipping
- green transport corridors

## Coastal tourism

- promoting sustainable tourism practices
- coastal tourism infrastructure
- tourism marketing campaigns to promote ASEAN's coastal assets,
- support to MSMEs

## Nature-based ocean solutions

- harnessing ecological assets such as mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass beds
- enhancing ecosystem resilience and biodiversity conservation





# AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030

Strategic Goal 1. An Action-Oriented Community <i>Realising an integrated single market and production base with new sources of competitiveness</i>	Strategic Goal 2. A Sustainable Community <i>Engendering and mainstreaming climate-responsive elements and policies in all dimensions</i>	Strategic Goal 3. An Enterprising, Bold, and Innovative Community <i>Enhancing sectoral cooperation, attuned to emerging trends and developments</i>	Strategic Goal 4. An Adaptable and Pro-Active Community <i>Strengthening Global ASEAN agenda</i>	Strategic Goal 5. A Nimble and Resilient Community <i>Empowering the AEC and ASEAN peoples, withstanding shocks, stresses, crises, and volatility</i>	Strategic Goal 6. An Inclusive, Participatory, and Collaborative Community <i>Leaving no one behind, charting people-centred ASEAN</i>
OBJECTIVES					
1.1. Bolster intra-ASEAN trade in goods <i>9 Strategic Measures</i>	2.1. Build a supportive ecosystem to unlock green economy potential, enhance resilience via climate adaption, and accelerate the decarbonisation of regional supply chains <i>5 Strategic Measures</i>	3.1. Accelerate digital and technology transformation <i>16 Strategic Measures</i>	4.1. Enhance ASEAN's economic cooperation with External Partners <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>	5.1. Secure a stable and resilient supply chain <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>	6.1. Proactively narrow the development gap <i>6 Strategic Measures</i>
1.2. Strengthen regional services integration and competitiveness <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>	2.2. Intensify just and inclusive energy transition <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>	3.2. Advance innovation ecosystem <i>8 Strategic Measures</i>	4.2. Amplify ASEAN Centrality in other regional and multilateral fora <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>	5.2. Build resilient energy supply and infrastructure and establish coordinated action in safeguarding energy security <i>6 Strategic Measures</i>	6.2. Enhance the participation of vulnerable and marginalised communities in regional economic integration <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>
1.3. Achieve ASEAN as an attractive investment destination <i>6 Strategic Measures</i>	2.3. Pursue sustainable development of extractive industries <i>1 Strategic Measure</i>	3.3. Foster fair markets in the region <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>	4.3. Elevate ASEAN's position in the global value chain (GVC) <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>	5.3. Ensure food security and enhance water resources management <i>10 Strategic Measures</i>	6.3. Intensify partnerships among public sector, private industries, academia, and civil societies <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>
1.4. Deepen financial integration and inclusion <i>5 Strategic Measures</i>	2.4. Promote sustainable agriculture practices and forest management <i>6 Strategic Measures</i>	3.4. Empower ASEAN's consumers and safeguard their welfare <i>5 Strategic Measures</i>	4.4. Ensure preparedness for future megatrends <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>	5.4. Safeguard macroeconomic resilience and financial stability <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>	6.4. Promote the collaboration with sub-regional economic cooperation towards the improvement of the well-being of the people in the sub-regional areas <i>1 Strategic Measure</i>
1.5. Facilitate mobility of businesses and people <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>	2.5. Facilitate sustainable and inclusive tourism <i>2 Strategic Measures</i>	3.5. Advance an effective, enterprising, and inclusive intellectual property (IP) ecosystem in the ASEAN region <i>5 Strategic Measures</i>		5.5. Advance ASEAN-wide and ASEAN-ready training and employment efforts <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>	
1.6. Mobilise new sources of competitiveness <i>1 Strategic Measure</i>	2.6. Leverage sustainable finance and investment <i>5 Strategic Measures</i>	3.6. Harness the potential of creative economy <i>1 Strategic Measure</i>		5.6. Strengthen the AEC by refreshing internal planning and coordination processes <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>	
1.7. Enhance transparency, good governance, and good regulatory practices <i>1 Strategic Measure</i>	2.7. Advance cooperation on blue economy relevant to the AEC as a new engine of inclusive and sustainable economic growth <i>5 Strategic Measures</i>	3.7. Invigorate ASEAN's transport integration and connectivity across maritime, and land sectors <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>			
1.8. Advance the harmonisation of standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures <i>5 Strategic Measures</i>	2.8. Engender awareness and capacitate ASEAN businesses, regulators, financial institutions, and policymakers towards green transition <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>	3.8. Reimagine and improve quality tourism cooperation <i>4 Strategic Measures</i>			
	2.9. Pursue energy security, affordability, and sustainability <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>	3.9. Advance inclusive, innovative, competitive business environment to strengthen MSMEs integration in the regional and global value chains <i>7 Strategic Measures</i>			
	2.10. Promote sustainable and smart mobility <i>1 Strategic Measure</i>	3.10. Expand upstream to downstream minerals and metals cooperation <i>3 Strategic Measures</i>			
		3.11. Strengthen digital infrastructure connectivity <i>2 Strategic Measures</i>			
		3.12. Strengthen tax cooperation <i>6 Strategic Measures</i>			

2.7 Advance cooperation on blue economy relevant to the AEC as a new engine of inclusive and sustainable economic growth

# Food, Agriculture & Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026-2030

## 6 Strategic Thrusts

1. Promoting Sustainable and Regenerative Measures

2. Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience in Agriculture

3. Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition

4. Promoting Innovation for Global Market

5. Fostering Public-Private Partnerships and Digital Innovation

6. Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management





# Strategic Thrust 1. Promoting Sustainable and Regenerative Measures

## Action Programme 4. Promote Sustainable Fisheries

Focus on key priorities such as combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUU fishing), protecting coastal areas from pollution, and promoting sustainable aquaculture practices.

### Activities

1. Strengthen regional cooperation on combating IUU fishing through the ASEAN Network for Combatting IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) by enhancing Flag State and Port State responsibilities, and facilitating information sharing.
2. Promote ecosystem-based fisheries management and sustainable fishing practices, to prevent overfishing, enhance marine biodiversity conservation and ensure healthy fish stocks.
3. Promote the mitigation of coastal and marine pollution from fisheries through developing the regional guidelines and capacity-building on managing abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), environmental impact assessment especially on aquaculture as well as promoting innovative practices and technologies to restore degraded aquatic ecosystems.
4. Build capacity on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, reducing fish losses, promoting energy-efficient fishing technologies, adopting FAO Safety at Sea guidelines for small-scale fisheries, and enhancing carbon sequestration in aquatic habitats.
5. Facilitate knowledge exchange on climate-smart and digital technologies in fisheries sectors.
6. Develop regional guidelines of inspection for fish and fishery products at each point on supply chain.

Fishery Sector Plan of Action will ensure congruence between its activities and those proposed in this Action Programme through the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi).

# Initiatives under ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF)

- Regional Framework for **Fishery Statistics** of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition)
- Training Needs Assessment to Identify the Current Demands for **Knowledge and Skill Needed for Sustainable Fisheries Development**
- Regional Guidelines for the **ASEAN GAqP Certification** Scheme
- Regional Guidelines on **Indicators for Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries** to Facilitate the Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change
- The **BlueFairFish Project**: Combating Illegal Fishing in ASEAN, supported by GIZ
- The **ASEAN-Italy Project on the Cooperation Mechanism for the Competitive Development of Aquaculture and Small-Scale Fishery in ASEAN (COOPMEC)**
- **The ASEAN–JICA Food Value Chain Development Project**
- The Development of an **Interactive GIS** as a Tool for Communication and Training of Specialists from ASEAN Countries to Solve **Regional, Transboundary and Environmental Problems** Using the Example of the Greater Mekong Project, supported by Russia
- ASEAN SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership/Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG): **Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices (GMP&GHP) for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products**
- **ASEAN-Bangladesh Cooperation on Aquaculture and Fisheries Project (Phase II)**
- **USAID Sustainable Fish Project** (currently terminated)





## ASEAN Blue Innovation Challenge

- Partnership between ASEAN, Japan and UNDP
- The Initiative identifies and supports innovative solutions from 10 ASEAN member states and Timor-Leste that address pressing challenges in marine and freshwater ecosystems
- 1,341 proposals received
- 60 winners awarded up to \$40,000, along with business incubation support
- Business matching for potential investors and partners.

For more information on the ABIC winners, please visit <https://undpidn.info/ABICwinnersbooklet>





# The ASEAN Blue Carbon and Finance Profiling (ABCF) Project

## Partnership with UNDP and Japan

### Component 1: Improve Climate Mitigation through Blue Carbon Profiles

- The project focuses on advancing climate mitigation efforts by leveraging the potential of blue carbon ecosystems across ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste. These ecosystems, including seagrass beds and peatlands, are among the most effective natural carbon sinks but remain underutilized due to gaps in data, methodologies, and policy integration.

### Component 2: Development of Blue Finance Profiles

- The project will create Blue Finance Profiles for each ASEAN country and Timor-Leste, providing an in-depth analysis of their financing landscapes. These profiles will evaluate existing investments, identify gaps in financial frameworks, and highlight opportunities for resource mobilization.

### Component 3: Strengthen Regional Collaboration and Inclusion

- Fostering regional collaboration and inclusivity is vital for addressing the shared challenges of blue carbon ecosystem management and advancing sustainable blue economy practices. This component aims to build a robust network of stakeholders, ensure diverse participation, and amplify regional achievements through global platforms.





# ASEAN Blue Economy Forum

- A multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral forum on the blue economy in the Southeast Asian region
- Serves as a forum for collaboration and effort of ASEAN members and partners to support the implementation of the Blue Economy
- 1<sup>st</sup> ABEF in Bangka Belitung Islands, Indonesia, 2-4 July 2023
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ABEF in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 10-11 August 2024
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ABEF to be held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 29-30 September 2025



## Blue Economy For A Sustainable Growth of ASEAN: Innovation and Collaboration

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
(UTC+7)

Venue  
Lao Plaza Hotel,  
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Scan here for  
programme agenda



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