



CONNECTIVITY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

GREEN AND EFFICIENT PORTS

Learn about port innovations and MDB financing in a unique environment

3-5 December 2025 | Beijing, China



CAF BANCO DE DESARROLLO
DE AMÉRICA LATINA
Y EL CARIBE

CAF's Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean

Connectivity Investment Conference "Green and Efficient Ports"
Beijing

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December 2025

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Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy

Blue economy: Economic activities carried out in marine and coastal environments, regardless of sustainability considerations.

Sustainable blue economy: A long-term development strategy aimed at ensuring that ocean-related economic activities are sustainable—providing **social and economic benefits for current and future generations**; restoring, protecting, and maintaining diverse, productive, and resilient ecosystems; and relying on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows.

Regenerative blue economy: An emerging approach that expands upon the sustainable blue economy. It not only seeks to reduce negative impacts, but also to **actively restore the health of marine and coastal ecosystems**.

Sustainable blue economy in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Must deliver social and economic benefits for both current and future generations, promoting **social inclusion and territorial equity**, ensuring a fair distribution of benefits, and retaining wealth locally.
- The promotion of this sector strikes a **balance between equitable economic development with environmental conservation**, encouraging activities that restore and maintain diverse, productive, and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows, it also **strengthens the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change**.



For this reason, CAF adopts the sustainable blue economy approach, in line with the **UNEP-FI Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles**.
Published in 2018

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CAF's definition of the sustainable blue economy



Perro Chico Island, Guna Yala Archipelago, Panama

For Latin America and the Caribbean, the sustainable blue economy must reflect the region's unique ecological, social, cultural, and economic characteristics. For that reason, this strategy proposes **an expanded definition** that integrates three key dimensions:



● **Social inclusion and territorial equity** Marine-coastal activities must generate opportunities for local communities, Indigenous peoples, women, and youth—ensuring a fair distribution of economic benefits and fostering value retention in coastal territories. The sustainable blue economy must serve as a pathway for reducing inequalities and strengthening the socioeconomic fabric of coastal areas.



● **Balance between conservation and development** The use of marine resources must remain within the ocean's ecological boundaries. Blue development is only sustainable if it maintains or enhances the capacity of ecosystems to regenerate, support biodiversity, and provide essential ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, coastal protection, and food supply.



● **Climate resilience and adaptation** In a region highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the blue economy must contribute to risk reduction, livelihood diversification, and resilience building for both communities and ecosystems.

This entails **integrating nature-based solutions, climate-resilient infrastructure, and risk management** into policies and projects.

This regional definition guides CAF's actions and serves as a **shared starting point for its member countries, strategic allies, and partners..**



● **Vision:** CAF is leading a blue transformation that combines sustainability, inclusion and regenerative growth in Latin America and the Caribbean

● **Commiment:** We're doubling our commitment: 2.5 billion by 2030 to drive ocean solutions with real impact

● **Approaches:** The sustainable blue economy is not just about conservation: it is about productive development based on territorial justice and climate resilience

● **CAF's Role:** We act as a strategic partner, integrating financing, knowledge, diplomacy, and innovation for a shared blue agenda

Purpose

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CAF's Strategic Framework for the Sustainable Blue Economy

The strategy is built around four core functions that define CAF's role in the sustainable blue economy.



● **Blue financing:** Mobilizing resources and instruments tailored to the region's needs, such as blue bonds, results-based schemes, or debt-for-nature swaps, guided by environmental, social, and economic impact criteria.



● **Local value creation:** Supporting sustainable marine-coastal value chains, fostering blue entrepreneurship, and enabling local retention of benefits in coastal territories.



● **Education & capacity building :** Designing open training programs, technical workshops for decision-makers, and institutional capacity building schemes that promote the effective use of resources and policies.



● **Blue diplomacy:** Promoting regional and international cooperation, giving the region a stronger voice in global forums, and facilitating shared agreements that elevate the blue economy as a development priority.

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Toward a regional blue agenda

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Priority thematic áreas and key needs address

- Marine-coastal resources.
- Blue energy.
- Tourism and recreation.
- Infrastructure and transport:

Includes the design and construction of **climate-resilient infrastructure** and the **implementation of sustainable operational practices**

- Reduction of the environmental impact of maritime transport.
- Modernization and sustainability of port infrastructure.
- Improved logistics efficiency and footprint.
- Blue infrastructure insurance.

- Innovation and technology.
- Institutional framework.



Ecosystems for decarbonization projects in the maritime transport sector

Public-private collaboration sector

- Comprehensive Legal Framework – Public
- Investment – Public / Private
- Services – Private



- Committed public policy (Business Model)
- APP legal framework that inspires confidence in the local banking sector
- Legal security

Open collaborative innovation sector

- Chain of public and private suppliers
- Trade facilitation / Security / Taxation
- Intensive digitalization and technological adoption
- Human talent



- Organized ecosystem of collaborative work
- @Administration
- Digital business platforms
- Training and education

Organized institutionality

- Coordination of public agencies
- Private cluster



- Territorial and comprehensive authorities
- Competitiveness systems

High environmental impact sector (MarLog)

- Decarbonization
- Energy transition
- Inclusion and diversity



- Ecoports
- SmartPort
- Blue economy



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**Estrategia
de Economía
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