

## Blue Economy Pilot Project - Final consolidation and review meeting

In person: Auditorium 306, Building 4 | Iscte- University Institute of Lisbon | Lisbon, Portugal  
| <https://maps.app.goo.gl/2E8Q39Nb6dHjTDXD8>

On zoom: <https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/HLX4lvhAS1Kmj5gH6AGZg#/registration>

24 June 2026 | 9:00 – 18:00 (followed by a reception)

### Background

---

The [Blue Economy Pilot Project: Knowledge, Capacity Building and Resilience for the Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage](#) is a multi-country initiative aimed at strengthening knowledge, capacity building, and resilience for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage in coastal areas. It is led by [UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (UNESCO IESALC), the [United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation](#) (UNOSSC), and [Camões — Institute for Cooperation and Language, Public Institute](#) (Camões, I.P.)

The project brings together partners across Angola, Chile, Jamaica, and Portugal, as well as partners with a global mandate, and is implemented within the framework of triangular cooperation. It is being implemented in 2026 as part of the UNOSSC Triangular Cooperation Window and is funded by the Government of Portugal.

Structured around key pillars including research, capacity building, and cross-cutting priorities such as meaningful youth engagement and gender equality, the project seeks to connect scientific knowledge, public policy, and local community practices. It aims to address the impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems and communities through sustainable blue economy approaches.



As the project has progressed, it has generated a range of outputs, including research findings, policy insights, community-based practices, a multilingual comparative publication on the Blue Economy, and a multilingual capacity-building toolkit designed to support learning, knowledge exchange, and local action.

In this context, the Final Consolidation and Review Meeting will bring together lead partners, implementation partners, and representatives from ministries, civil society, higher education institutions, youth, and student communities who have contributed to the implementation of the project, alongside additional stakeholders invited to enrich the dialogue. The meeting will provide an opportunity to consolidate and review the project's main outputs, reflect on lessons learned and challenges encountered during implementation, examine their relevance for policy and practice, and explore opportunities for replication, scale-up, future collaboration, and knowledge exchange through South-South, triangular, and broader international cooperation.

The meeting will take place in person in Lisbon, Portugal as a one-day event, with the possibility of remote participation for selected participants. Through a series of plenary discussions, presentations, and interactive exchanges, participants will reflect on the project's research, capacity-building, and cross-cutting outcomes, discuss their implications for policy and practice, and explore future pathways for cooperation, scaling, and knowledge exchange. **Participation in the meeting is by invitation only.**

## Objectives

---

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- Review and validate outputs across the project pillars, including research, capacity building, and cross-cutting priorities
- Facilitate exchange among participating countries and partners on experiences and results
- Showcase the capacity-building toolkit and related learning resources, and discuss their application in supporting community resilience and sustainable development
- Discuss the policy relevance of project findings and their potential integration into national and regional frameworks
- Identify key recommendations for scaling up and future cooperation
- Strengthen partnerships within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation

## Expected outcomes

---

The meeting is expected to result in:

- Validation of key project outputs and deliverables
- Consolidated lessons learned and identified good practices
- Enhanced dialogue between technical partners and policymakers to support future uptake and scaling
- Identification of opportunities for replication and expansion of the initiative
- Strengthened partnerships and future collaboration pathways
- Increased visibility of the project and its results
- Enhanced understanding of how project experiences can contribute to global education, sustainability, and cooperation frameworks

## Participants

---

The meeting will bring together:

- Representatives from ministries and public institutions from participating countries
- Lead partners (UNESCO IESALC, UNOSSC, Camões, I.P.)
- Implementation partners from academia, public sector, and civil society
- Higher education institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Youth and student representatives
- Additional stakeholders and experts

## Provisional agenda

Time	Segment	Details
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee	Arrival of participants
09:30 – 10:20	Opening session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Welcome remarks by UNESCO IESALC, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Camões, I.P., and ISCTE</b></li> <li>- <i>Speaker and moderator:</i> Mr. Borhene Chakroun, Interim director, UNESCO IESALC and Director, Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division, UNESCO HQ - <i>10 mins</i></li> <li>- <i>Speakers:</i> H.E. Ambassador Florbela Paraíba, President, Camões, I.P. - <i>10 mins</i> Ms.Tahmina Anvarova, Strategic Management Specialist, UNOSSC - <i>10 mins</i></li> </ul>

		Ms. Maria Helena Chaves Carreiras, Rector, ISCTE - 10 mins
10:20 – 10:35	Group photo	
10:35 – 11:15	Session 1: Project overview and key results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Overview of project achievements and key outputs</b></li> <li>● <b>Reflections on partnership, knowledge exchange, and South-South and triangular cooperation</b></li> <li>● <b>Interactive discussion with participants</b></li> </ul> <p>- <i>Presenter and moderator:</i></p> <p>Ms.Eliane El Haber, Project Officer, UNESCO IESALC – 15 mins</p> <p>- <i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Mr.Dameon Black, Commissioner and Executive Director, JTEC (Online) - 3 mins</p> <p>Ms.Cátia Miriam Costa, Assistant Researcher, Centre for International Studies, ISCTE - 3 mins</p> <p>Mr.Rodrigo Oliveira, Blue Project Manager, Fórum Oceano - 3 mins</p> <p>Mr.Tiago Nogueira, Steering Committee Member, GSF - 3 mins</p> <p>- <i>One guiding question:</i></p> <p><i>Looking beyond individual project activities, what has been the greatest value of this partnership in fostering knowledge exchange, capacity strengthening, and South-South and triangular cooperation among participating countries and institutions?</i></p>
11:15 – 11:35	Coffee break	
11:40 – 12:30	Session 2: Research insights and policy relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Key findings from academic, policy, and community-based research</b></li> <li>● <b>Interactive discussion with participants</b></li> </ul> <p>- <i>Moderator:</i></p> <p>Ms.Norma Patricia Muñoz Sevilla, Honorary Distinguished Mentor, POP Movement</p> <p>- <i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Mr.Ash Pachauri, Director and Senior Mentor, POP Movement</p> <p><b>Q1.</b> <i>What do the voices of coastal communities reveal about how the Blue Economy is experienced in practice, beyond policy and academic definitions? - 5 mins</i></p>

		<p><b>Q2.</b> <i>From the stakeholder perspectives gathered, what should policymakers better understand about participation, trust, women, youth, and local knowledge? - 5 mins</i></p> <p>Ms. Ana Teresa Santos, Integrated Researcher Centre for International Studies, ISCTE</p> <p><b>Q1.</b> <i>Based on the scientific analysis, what are the main research trends emerging around the Blue Economy and coastal zones, and what do they tell us about how the field is evolving? - 5 mins</i></p> <p><b>Q2.</b> <i>The publication shows that themes such as gender, youth, and social inclusion remain less visible in scientific discourse. How can future research better integrate these dimensions into Blue Economy knowledge production? - 5 mins</i></p> <p>Mr. Fernando Vergara Benítez, Lecturer in Heritage Studies and Latin American Studies, Andrés Bello University</p> <p><b>Q1.</b> <i>What are the main policy and governance trends identified in the publication, and how do they differ across Angola, Chile, Jamaica, and Portugal? - 5 mins</i></p> <p><b>Q2.</b> <i>The publication highlights that heritage, communities, and local knowledge are still not sufficiently visible in Blue Economy governance. What would it mean to make policy frameworks more inclusive and socially grounded? - 5 mins</i></p>
12:30 – 14:15	Lunch break	
14:20 – 15:10	Session 3: From knowledge to action: capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Presentation of the capacity-building toolkit</b></li> <li>● <b>Community-level implementation examples</b></li> <li>● <b>Reflections from implementation partners</b></li> <li>● <b>Interactive discussion with participants</b></li> </ul> <p>- <i>Moderator:</i></p> <p>Ms.Tahmina Anvarova, Strategic Management Specialist, UNOSSC</p> <p>- <i>Presenter:</i></p> <p>Ms.Bruna Lobo, Education consultant and learning designer, Team member of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto - <i>10 mins</i></p> <p>- <i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Ms.Amelia Polónia, Professor, Universidade do Porto</p>

		<p><b>Q.</b> <i>Looking at the broader project, how can higher education institutions contribute to strengthening knowledge, skills, and resilience in coastal communities beyond traditional teaching and research? - 5 mins</i></p> <p>Mr.Dinis Fernando da Costa, Vice-Dean for Research and Post-Graduate Studies Faculdade de Ciências das Pescas, Universidade do Namibe (Uninbe)</p> <p><b>Q.</b> <i>From the experience in Angola, what types of capacities are most needed at community level to support more sustainable and resilient coastal development? - 5 mins</i></p> <p>Ms.Norda Seymour Hall, Director, International Relations and Qualifications Division, Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission</p> <p><b>Q.</b> <i>What lessons from Jamaica's experience demonstrate how capacity building can support community participation and long-term ownership of Blue Economy initiatives? - 5 mins</i></p> <p>Ms.Bruna Lobo, Education consultant and learning designer, Team member of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto</p> <p><b>Q.</b> <i>The course adopts a community-centred and case-based learning approach. Why was it important to place community voices and lived experiences at the centre of the learning design, and what do you hope participants will take away from this experience? - 5 mins</i></p> <p>Ms.Yuma Inzolia, Chief of Capacity Building, UNESCO IESALC (Online)</p> <p><b>Q.</b> <i>As we look beyond this project, how can capacity-building initiatives be scaled and adapted to reach more learners, institutions, and coastal communities across different contexts? - 5 mins</i></p>
15:15 – 16:05	Session 4: Cross-cutting priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Meaningful youth engagement</b></li> <li>● <b>Gender equality</b></li> <li>● <b>Reflections on integration across the project</b></li> <li>● <b>Interactive discussion with participants</b></li> </ul> <p>- Moderator:</p> <p>Ms. Andreia Marques, International Relations Advisor, Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG)</p>

- Speakers:

Mr.Ricardo Delgado, Youth Mentor, POP (Online)

**Q1.**

*The publication highlights the important contributions of youth and women to community resilience and sustainable development. Based on the project experience, what examples stand out to you most strongly? - 4 mins*

**Q2.**

*What lessons from the project would you consider most valuable for future initiatives seeking to strengthen meaningful youth and women's engagement? - 4 mins*

Mr.Tiago Nogueira, Steering Committee Member, GSF

**Q1.**

*Throughout the project, how did student and youth perspectives contribute to the discussions on sustainability, resilience, and the Blue Economy? - 4 mins*

**Q2.**

*Looking ahead, what role can student networks and youth organizations play in ensuring that the project's lessons and outcomes continue to reach and inspire new generations? - 4 mins*

Ms. Matilde Ideas, Student, ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon

**Q1.**

*Having listened to the discussions and findings presented today, what aspects of the project do you think would resonate most strongly with students and young people interested in sustainability and social impact? - 4 mins*

**Q2.**

*The project produced both a publication and a community-centred capacity-building toolkit. From a student perspective, what would encourage more young people to engage with these resources and translate learning into action? - 4 mins*

Ms.Amelia Polónia, Professor, Universidade do Porto

**Q1.**

*Across the research, community engagement, and capacity-building components of the project, what have we learned about the relationship between gender equality, knowledge production, and community resilience? - 4 mins*

**Q2.**

		<p><i>Looking ahead, how can intergenerational collaboration help strengthen the engagement of young men and women in shaping more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable coastal futures? - 4 mins</i></p>
16:05 – 16:25	Coffee break	
	<p>Session 5: Lessons learned, global frameworks, and future directions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Key lessons emerging from the project experience</b></li> <li>● <b>Linkages with UNESCO initiatives on education, sustainability, and higher education transformation</b></li> <li>● <b>Reflections on cooperation through South-South, triangular, and South-North partnerships</b></li> <li>● <b>Opportunities for replication, scale-up, and future collaboration</b></li> </ul> <p>- <i>Moderator</i></p> <p>Ms.Cátia Miriam Costa, Assistant Researcher, Centre for International Studies, ISCTE</p> <p>- <i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Ms. Marina Ader, Associate Project Officer, Section of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO HQ (Online)</p> <p><b>Q1.</b> <i>Throughout the project, we have seen examples of research, community engagement, and capacity building coming together. What lessons from these experiences resonate most strongly with the objectives of the Greening Education Partnership? - 5 mins</i></p> <p><b>Q2.</b> <i>Looking ahead, how can initiatives such as this one contribute to broader efforts to green education systems and strengthen sustainability learning across different contexts? - 5 mins</i></p> <p>Ms.Tahmina Anvarova, Strategic Management Specialist, UNOSSC</p> <p><b>Q1.</b> <i>This project was implemented within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, bringing together institutions and stakeholders from different countries and sectors. From your perspective, what are the most important lessons emerging from this cooperation model? - 5 mins</i></p> <p><b>Q2.</b> <i>Looking ahead, what opportunities do you see for strengthening South-South, triangular, and South-North cooperation to advance sustainable development, knowledge exchange, and capacity building in areas such as the Blue Economy and beyond? - 5 mins</i></p>
16:30 – 17:30		

		<p>Mr.Noah Sobe, Chief of Section for Higher Education, UNESCO HQ (Online)</p> <p><b>Q1.</b> <i>The project highlights the role of higher education institutions as bridges between research, policy, and communities. How does this experience reflect the vision outlined in Transforming Higher Education: A Global Roadmap for the Future? - 5 mins</i></p> <p><b>Q2.</b> <i>What opportunities do you see for expanding or adapting approaches developed through this project within higher education systems globally? - 5 mins</i></p> <p>Ms.Lígia Campos Figueiredo, Director for Multilateral and European Cooperation, Portuguese Cooperation Agency – Camões, I.P.</p> <p><b>Q1.</b> <i>As a partner supporting this initiative, how has the project demonstrated the value of South-South and triangular cooperation in fostering partnerships, mutual learning, and shared solutions across different contexts? - 5 mins</i></p> <p><b>Q2.</b> <i>Building on the experience of this project, where do you see the greatest opportunities for expanding collaboration through South-South, triangular, and South-North cooperation, particularly in the fields of higher education, sustainability, and community resilience? - 5 mins</i></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Key takeaways, next steps, and, closing remarks by UNESCO IESALC</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr.Borhene Chakroun, Interim director, UNESCO IESALC and Director, Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division, UNESCO HQ</p>
17:35 – 18:00	Closing session	
18:00 – 20:00	Cocktail reception	

## Focal Point for Questions and Follow-up

Eliane El Haber

Email: [e.el-haber@unesco.org](mailto:e.el-haber@unesco.org)

Participants are invited to contact the focal point for any questions, clarifications, or follow-up matters related to this meeting.