



# AFD and **Blue Economy in Cambodia**



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**200,000**

people's food safety improved

**2**

projects

**€ 134M**

committed since 2018

Cambodia's marine resources are crucial to its economy and the livelihoods of many coastal communities. Its 443 km coastline provides abundant fishery resources, supporting both commercial and artisanal fishing activities. The coastal and marine ecosystems, including mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass beds, play vital roles in maintaining biodiversity and protecting against climate change. Sustainable management and conservation of these resources are essential for Cambodia's environmental and economic stability.

# OUR ACTION TOWARDS Blue Economy in Cambodia

Blue economy involves the sustainable use of ocean resources to boost economic development, improve livelihoods, and maintain healthy ecosystems. It includes sectors like fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, renewable energy, tourism, marine biotechnology, and coastal ecosystem services. These activities support economic growth while addressing climate change, promoting sustainable fishing, and conserving marine biodiversity. The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) collaborates with partners to integrate sustainable practices into Cambodia's blue economy, enhancing long-term economic and environmental benefits.

1

## *Creating a Sustainable Framework for Marine Resources Exploitation*

To ensure the long-term viability of Cambodia's marine resources, AFD works on establishing sustainable frameworks for their exploitation. This involves developing policies and practices that promote responsible fishing and protect marine biodiversity. By creating a balance between resource use and conservation, AFD helps secure the livelihoods of those dependent on marine industries while preserving the environment.

2

## *Strengthening Aquaculture to Lower Food Importation Dependency*

AFD supports the development of aquaculture in Cambodia as a means to reduce reliance on imported seafood and enhance food security. By providing technical assistance, financing, and training to local aquaculture operations, AFD helps improve productivity and sustainability in this sector. This not only boosts local economies but also ensures a stable and affordable supply of seafood for the population.

3

## *Supporting a Public Policy Dialogue on Blue Economy in the Country*

AFD advocates for comprehensive public policy dialogues on the blue economy, encouraging the Cambodian government and stakeholders to prioritize sustainable ocean resource management. Through workshops, conferences, and collaborative projects, AFD facilitates discussions that aim to integrate blue economy principles into national policies and strategies. This promotes a cohesive approach to managing Cambodia's marine and coastal resources, aligning with global sustainability goals.

## **Our projects**

### *Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries*

This project, supported by the Asian Development Bank, focuses on increasing the climate resilience and sustainability of coastal and marine fisheries in Cambodia. It targets four coastal provinces to reverse the decline in fisheries, promote sustainable mariculture, and enhance fish landing sites for improved seafood safety. The project benefits 25 community fisheries organizations and members of 15 community protected areas, reaching nearly 20,000 households and a wider coastal community of about 200,000 people (Asian Development Bank).

### *CAPFish-Aquaculture*

This project, funded by the European Union and implemented by AFD, aims to promote sustainable aquaculture development in Cambodia. The project focuses on improving the productivity and competitiveness of aquaculture operations while ensuring environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness. It provides technical assistance, financing, and capacity building to local aquaculture businesses, enhancing food security and reducing dependency on imported seafood.