

The BACoMaB Trust Fund

A sustainable financing mechanism for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in Mauritania



Banc d'Arguin and Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Trust Fund (BACoMaB Trust Fund)



Date of creation

January 23, 2009



Legal status

A **limited liability company incorporated under English law**, recognized as a charitable organization in the United Kingdom. It has a headquarters agreement in Mauritania, where it is recognized as a non-profit organization.



Objectives

- **Support biodiversity conservation and sustainable development** in Mauritania's marine and coastal protected areas through sustainable funding
- **Promote public education and awareness of biodiversity**, conservation and sustainable management of target areas
- **Improve the governance of Marine Protected Area (MPA) managers**



Bénéficiaires

- **Banc d'Arguin National Park**: 1,200,000 ha (World Heritage Site and RAMSAR site), an important site for migratory birds (around 2 million a year) and a refuge for endangered species (green turtle, rays and sharks, dolphins, gazelles, etc.). It provides services for fisheries in Mauritania and the sub-region, and contributes to carbon sequestration thanks to its seagrass beds.
- **Diawling National Park**: 16,000 ha, restoration of a degraded ecosystem and important site for migratory birds (over 300 species), mammals and reptiles (crocodiles, pythons). It provides services for the resilience of the surrounding populations.
- **Monk Seal Protection Program**: The monk seal is a critically endangered species. The Cap Blanc colony represents around 50% of the global population (around 500 individuals).



Contributions to the Trust Fund

In October 2024, more than 38.6 million EUR, distributed as follows:

- German financial cooperation: EUR 15.2 million
- Swiss MAVA Foundation: EUR 12 million
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD): EUR 7.3 million
- European Union: EUR 3.1 million
- French Global Environment Facility: EUR 1 million

Investment income finances the main conservation activities: marine and coastal surveillance, ecological monitoring, governance, local development, scientific research and environmental education.



Portfolio management

The portfolio is managed by professional fund managers (PICTET and Rothschild), appointed by the Board of Directors. They apply an investment policy aimed at generating regular returns to finance conservation, while respecting ethical and social responsibility criteria.



Granting subsidies

Grants are awarded annually on the basis of procedures for prioritizing beneficiaries and activities. MPA eligibility criteria aim to strengthen the institutional and environmental governance of managers.



Grants awarded (2014-2024)

- Banc d'Arguin National Park: EUR 3,274,105
 - Diawling National Park: EUR 1,447,130
 - Monk Seal Protection Program: EUR 400,000
 - Small grants to civil society organizations: EUR 43,816
- **Total : 5 165 051 EUR**



Ongoing initiatives

- **Creation of a network of marine and coastal protected areas** to preserve fragile ecosystems (study in progress)
- **Banc d'Arguin National Park blue carbon valorization project**

