

# 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 December 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 (2014-2025)

- Banc d'Arguin National Park: EUR 3,974,105
  - Diawling National Park: EUR 1,637,130
  - Monk Seal Protection Program: EUR 520,000
  - Small grants to civil society organizations: EUR 43,816
- **Total : 6 175 051 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**

