SOUTH AFRICA.

BUSINESS EVENT ORGANISED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Dates
2-3 November 2026
Location
Avenue Conference and Event Venue,
Cape Town, South Africa.

> *"We appreciate the effort that the whole team put in the programme. I enjoyed meeting and interacting with everyone. It was very inspiring!"*
>
> *Togo 2025*

CONTEXT

Africa's blue economy is a $300 billion powerhouse, projected to grow 35% by 2030. BlueInvest Africa 2026 is your gateway to high-impact investments in innovative ocean solutions.

A B2B event

This 4th edition goes to the continent's southern tip, a strategic maritime hub bridging the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, to focus on scaling impact, leveraging South Africa's mature financial ecosystem and industrial capabilities to fast-track blue growth.
The first three editions of BlueInvest Africa took place in the Seychelles in September 2022, Kenya in July 2024 and Togo in October 2025. Hundreds of onsite and online participants attended pitching sessions, discovered dozens of innovative projects and enjoyed networking meetings and opportunities.

Blue economy

The blue economy encompasses all economic activities that take place in marine or inland water environments. These activities can be traditional, such as fishing, or innovative, such as biotechnology. They can be aquatic, such as maritime transport, or terrestrial, such as coastal tourism. The blue economy is undergoing worldwide expansion, providing employment for millions and yielding substantial revenue.

EU-Africa Partnership

Both Africa and Europe recognise the blue economy as a pivotal sector in realising their socio-economic aspirations and achieving the objectives outlined in the 2030 Agenda, notably Sustainable Development Goal 14, on the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources. The European Union has declared its ambition to promote a sustainable blue economy on a global scale, in particular by supporting innovative business-led initiatives. This ambition is reflected in the EU's Global Gateway Strategy, which aims to boost sustainable investment and strengthen partnerships with Africa. In this regard, the outcomes of the last EU–African Union Summit in Luanda, Angola, reaffirmed the commitment of both continents to deepen and scale up their cooperation on sustainable growth, green investment, and the blue economy.

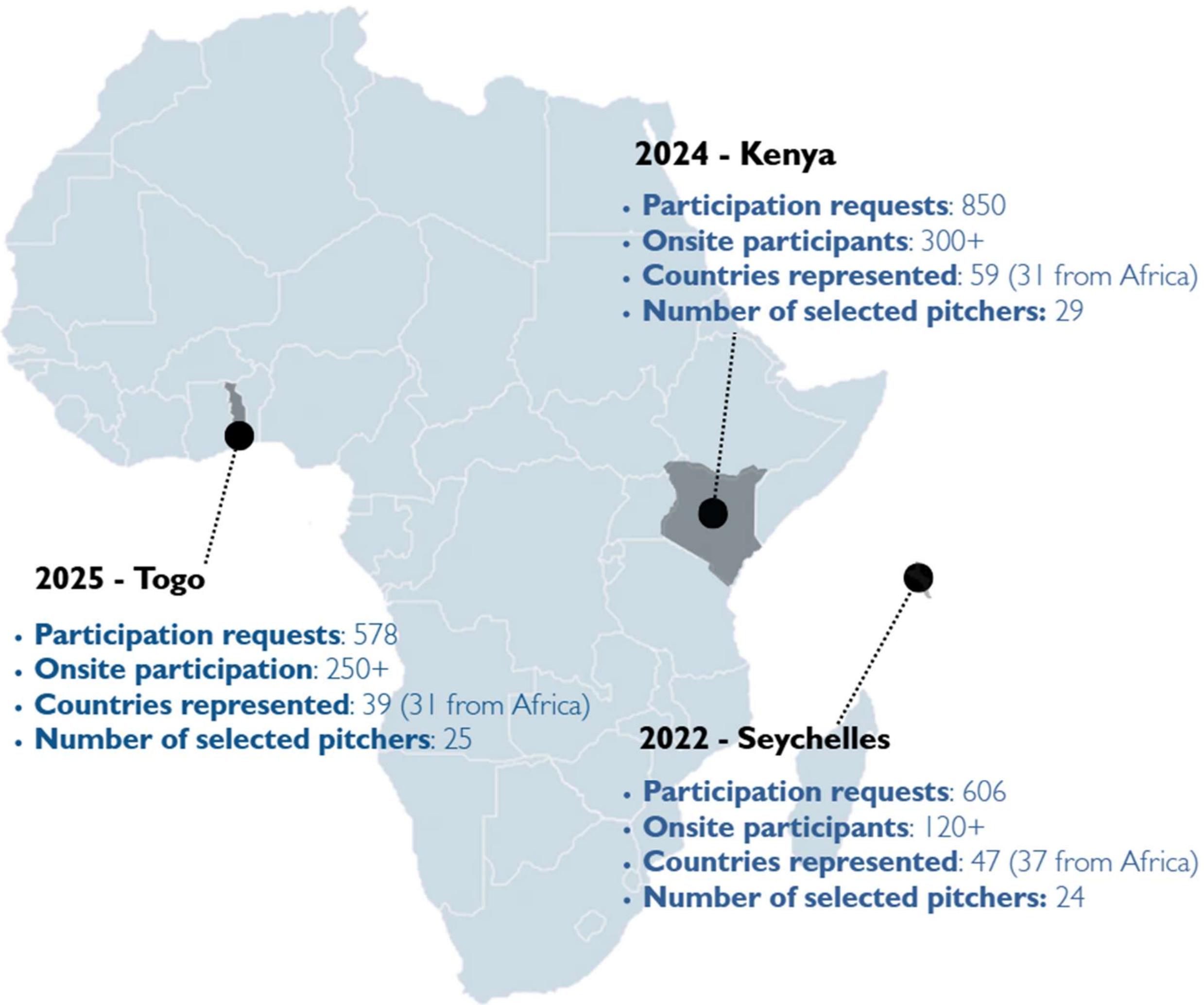
Sustainability and Responsibility

BlueInvest Africa focuses on equitable and sustainable development and on solutions to global challenges such as food security and resilience to climate change. In the blue economy, as in many sectors, experience shows that sustainability efforts are always a guarantee of medium and long-term growth for a company. Effective environmental protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity are keys to developing a sustainable blue economy and increase employment in maritime sectors.

"From the very first day, it has been an unforgettable journey one filled with learning, connection, and purpose."

Togo 2025

Record of previous BlueInvest Africa editions



OBJECTIVES

Spotlight on blue projects

BlueInvest Africa centres around a series of themed pitching sessions, during which up to 30 companies established in Africa will present their projects to a panel of investors.

The event is continental. It is a unique opportunity for African companies active in the blue economy to draw attention to their skills and capacity for innovation and to attract the interest of potential partners with whom they can develop their products or services.

Strengthening the community

The BlueInvest Africa community currently brings together over 400 stakeholders active in Africa's blue economy, including investors, entrepreneurs, financial international organisations, and policymakers.. Its objective is to continue expanding this diverse network, providing a vibrant space for sharing updates, opportunities, and insights. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the community supports deeper engagement within the BlueInvest Africa ecosystem and broader EU–Africa cooperation.

In South Africa

BlueInvest Africa 2026 will take place in Cape Town, South Africa - Africa's leading maritime technology and marine innovation hub.

South Africa and the European Union maintain a strong bilateral partnership, based on shared values, common interests and mutual benefit. The partnership is rooted in a joint commitment to democracy, human rights, multilateralism and social justice. The European Union is South Africa's biggest trade and investment partner, and South Africa is the European Union's only strategic partner on the African continent. Presidential summits, ministerial meetings and senior officials meetings are held regularly, where the full range of common interests is discussed. These include multilateralism, human rights and peace and security, as well as clean trade and investment, sustainable minerals and metals value chains, and the transition to a green, inclusive and digital socio-economic growth model for job creation. This is underpinned by a EUR 11.5 billion Global Gateway Team Europe investment package.

Untapped Potential

BlueInvest Africa aims to highlight Africa's largely untapped potential, promote entrepreneurial initiatives, and encourage the active participation of the public and private sectors in the continent's booming blue economy.

The aim is to shine a spotlight on concrete projects from the field, facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovative ideas, and encourage the creation of a network of potential partners.

The choice of Cape Town is strategic, offering unparalleled access to a deep and diverse market:

- Economic engine: The nation's ocean economy is projected to contribute up to EUR 8.3 billion (R166bn) to GDP and create 600,000 jobs by 2035
- Strategic logistics: As the primary continental trade gateway, 98 of South Africa's trade volume moves by sea, with the Port of Durban handling over 60% of container throughput
- Renewable energy frontier: The country holds substantial clean energy potential, including 589 GW of technical capacity for floating offshore wind
- Fisheries Scale: The national fisheries sector alone is valued at approximately EUR 400 million (R8bn annually).

This robust economic and technological foundation confirms South Africa's commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda and SDG 14 (Life Below Water), turning sustainability goals into high-value investment opportunities.

"I found the various projects that were presented very interesting, as well as their relevance, practicality, and impact on people's lives and the ecosystem."
Togo 2025

BLUEINVEST AFRICA 2026: FORGE YOUR BLUE PARTNERSHIPS

BlueInvest Africa is not a conference—it is the strategic nexus where high-potential African innovation meets international finance. The 4th edition is uniquely designed to drive concrete transactions and accelerate the commercialisation of the continent's blue economy. Join us to move beyond discussion and secure actionable deals.

Over the previous editions, BlueInvest Africa has helped fast-track a diverse range of projects, such as ocean-energy technologies, sustainable aquaculture ventures, coastal monitoring and maritime tech solutions, blue-biotech innovations.

FOR AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURS & INNOVATORS

"Let's keep the blue spirit alive and continuing to make waves across Africa!"
Togo 2025

FOR INVESTORS

Exclusive project pipeline: Access an exclusive portfolio of 30 vetted projects from across Africa, screened for commercial viability, scalability, and measurable impact.

- Co-Investor networking: Connect with peers from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), European VC funds, and African private equity partners to explore potential co-investment opportunities.
- Superior market intelligence: Gain first-hand insights into the emerging regulatory and high-growth blue economy sectors.

Sustainable finance alignment: Identify bankable opportunities that directly support the SDG 14 agenda, ensuring your capital delivers both financial returns and verifiable environmental impact.

Participation for both investors and companies strictly limited to ensure quality of matchmaking. Validate your interest early to secure your seat at the table.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

BlueInvest Africa expects more than 250 participants, in addition to remote participants from Africa and Europe.

Target audience

- The private sector, particularly young African companies active in the blue economy, including small businesses.
- International, regional, and national financial institutions and private investors.

Programme

- Pitching sessions.
- Visits to sites or side activities linked to blue economy activities.
- Time for meetings, networking, and B2B meetings.

- International, national, and regional organisations, in particular private enterprise platforms active in different countries.
- Research institutes, incubators, and innovators.
- The international press and media.
- Inspiring success stories.

Participants on site

1. Sponsored (travel and accommodation provided)
    - Pitchers: up to 30 selected entrepreneurs.
    - Ted-talkers.
2. Non-sponsored
    - Investors and other private sector operators.
    - Press and media.
    - Representatives of public authorities and institutions.
    - Other participants.

Online participants

All sessions will be broadcast live. Interactivity tools will enable online participants to access the content of the event. The networking application will enable on-site and online participants to interact and network.

Event languages:

Interpretation (English <> French) will be available for participants on-site and remotely.

More information available on the event website [here.]

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

2 November		
7 h 30	9 h 00	Participants' welcoming and registration
9 h 00	10 h 00	Opening ceremony
10 h 00	10 h 15	First success story
10 h 15	10 h 30	Group picture
10 h 30	11 h 00	Networking coffee break
11 h 00	11 h 50	**First pitching session**
12 h 00	13 h 30	Networking lunch
13 h 30	14 h 20	**Second pitching session**
14 h 20	14 h 35	Second success story
14 h 35	15 h 25	**Third pitching session**
15 h 25	15 h 40	Closing remarks of the day
15 h 40	18 h 10	Side activity

3 November		
8 h 30	9 h 00	Participants' welcoming and registration
9 h 00	9 h 15	Day two opening remarks
9 h 15	10 h 05	**Fourth pitching session**
10 h 05	11 h 05	Panel discussion
11 h 05	11 h 25	Networking coffee break
11 h 25	11 h 40	Third success story
11 h 40	12 h 30	**Fifth pitching session**
12 h 30	14 h 20	Networking lunch
14 h 20	14 h 50	Recognition awards for best pitchers
14 h 50	15 h 20	Closing ceremony