

The blue economy in Tagus Basin, Spain

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



FACTS AND FIGURES

Fact box

- **Population:** 8 134 212 [1]
- **GDP:** 270 203.96 [2]
- **Area:** 55 779 km² [2]

Drivers for the blue economy



Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems



Adapt to climate change



National laws, regulations and initiatives

Blue economy sectors

The Tagus Basin, the longest river in the Iberian Peninsula flowing through Spain and Portugal, is home to the water-related tourism and blue bioeconomy, biotechnology, research and education sectors of the blue economy below.



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in the Tagus Basin relate to greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution. Air pollution, disturbance of natural habitats and wildlife and waste generation are other important impacts.

Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Tagus Basin



Changing precipitation patterns and/or hydrological availability



Water stress



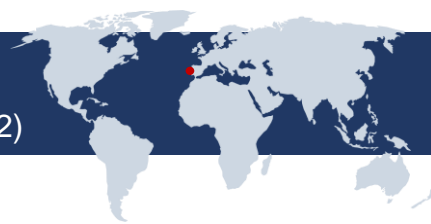
Drought

[1] Confederación Hidrográfica del Tajo (2023) Informe de seguimiento, Plan hidrológico de la parte española de la Demarcación Hidrográfica del Tajo 2015-2021, available at: http://www.chtajo.es/LaCuenca/Planes/PlanHidrologico/seguimiento/Documents/2023_Informe%20seguimiento%20PHT2015-2021.pdf

[2] Confederación Hidrográfica del Tajo (2022) Plan Hidrológico de la parte española de la demarcación hidrográfica del Tajo, Revisión de tercer ciclo (2022-2027), available at: http://www.chtajo.es/LaCuenca/Planes/PlanHidrologico/Planif_2021-2027/Documents/PHT_2021-2027/PHT2227_An03_UsosDemandasAgua_Dic22.pdf

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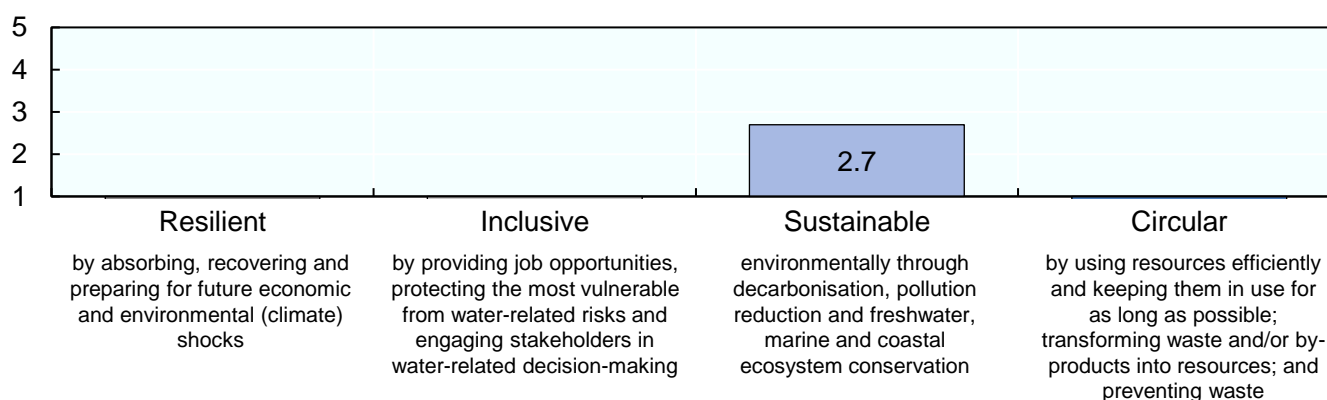
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GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

The Tagus Basin is updating its drought management plan in 2024 with the aim of aligning it with the 2022-2027 [Hydrological Plan for the Tagus Basin](#) approved in 2023. The Plan aims to ensure the socio-economic development of the basin while preserving its ecosystems. It aims to ensure access to the water necessary for regional and sectoral development by rationalising water use and guaranteeing water quality. The Plan integrates a [programme of measures](#) with more than 600 measures promoted by different administrations and a planned investment of more than EUR 3.7 billion over its period of validity. It includes actions within the framework of the blue economy that promote a more efficient use of natural resources, for example, the improvement of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in water infrastructure.

THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY (*)



Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

TOP CHALLENGES

- Technological challenges
- Unclear allocation of roles and responsibilities for policymaking related to the blue economy
- Lack of political will
- Lack of a clear and holistic strategy for the blue economy at city/region level
- Lack of co-ordination between government departments at city/region level
- Cultural barriers (e.g. limited willingness to shift away from business as usual)]

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Set up a formal blue economy initiative or strategy
- Foster decarbonisation
- Adapt and enhance the resilience of blue economy activities to climate change
- Tackle the pollution of water bodies
- Foster collaboration to leverage synergies between blue economy sectors and other sectors