



II SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

INVESTMENT FORUM

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ESTORIL CONGRESS CENTER . CASCAIS . PORTUGAL

PANEL 2

Ocean as a catalyst for the bioeconomy (Blue Bioeconomy: the importance of financing for its leverage)

The Blue Bioeconomy is a key for a sustainable use of marine resources for economic blue growth, while also ensuring the conservation of ocean ecosystems. The Blue Bioeconomy has significant potential to drive sustainable economic growth, particularly in coastal communities, but this potential is largely untapped due to the lack of adequate financing. We need to invest and develop technologies to transform renewable and bio-based materials, providing integrated, multifunctional, and ecological solutions for sustainable product design and production processes.

The Blue Bioeconomy is a growing sector that holds significant promise for sustainable economic growth. The fisheries and aquaculture sectors alone provide livelihoods for millions of people and generate substantial monetary value each year. Marine biotechnology offers potential for the development of new bioproducts, bioplastics, textiles, industrial enzymes and medicines, among other products and ultimately contributes to climate change mitigation. Overall, the Blue Bioeconomy has significant potential to drive sustainable economic growth, particularly in coastal communities.

Despite the potential of the Blue Bioeconomy, this sector faces significant challenges in accessing funds. These challenges are mainly due to the perception of high risk and insufficient knowledge of the sector among potential investors.

Consequently, to unlock the full Blue Bioeconomy's potential, capital investments are needed to support innovation and entrepreneurship in the sector. Innovative financing mechanisms can help address the challenges the Blue Bioeconomy faces and attract new sources of capital for the sector. By investing in the Blue Bioeconomy, we can support the sustainable use of marine resources and promote economic growth that benefits both people and the planet.