

FACT SHEET

BIODIVERSITY AND BLUE ECONOMY

AIR CENTRE

To advance marine biodiversity monitoring, particularly in coastal areas. To improve marine environmental assessment and ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries. To promote efficient aquaculture systems with minimal environmental impact. To reconcile economic development with the cultural heritage of coastal communities.

HIGHLIGHTS



MBON training at the Azores (2025)

Monitoring Marine Biodiversity

The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON), whose Executive Secretariat is hosted by the AIR Centre, was established as the marine thematic branch of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON). It addresses the need to systematically assess the state of ocean biodiversity, including biological resources and ecosystems, to inform decisions on sustainable development and conservation. MBON facilitates networking within the community to improve standards and best practices. Since 2025, MBON–AIR Centre training strengthening capacity for marine biodiversity data collection, standardisation, and sharing.



Market of Mindelo, São Vicente (Cabo Verde)

Sustainable Fisheries Management

Sustainable fisheries depend on knowing the state of fish stocks, especially commercially valuable species. The AIR Centre fosters cooperation in this area, connecting its partners' marine institutes and expanding existing programmes with Angola and Cabo Verde.



Near-shore aquaculture at Cabo Verde (Nortuna)

Improved Aquaculture Systems

Food security in the Atlantic depends on sustainable aquaculture. Since 2024, the AIR Centre's Atlantic Aquaculture Forum has brought together researchers, regulators and investors from Angola, Azores (Portugal), Cabo Verde, Norway and Senegal. This initiative has been successful, and new partners and industry stakeholders are welcome.



Baía Farta, the research vessel from Angola

Data-Driven Solutions

New large, offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Atlantic need new monitoring and management methods. The Atlantic also carries some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, many of which overlap with megafauna migration routes, making ship-strike risk assessment for marine mammals an urgent need. The AIR Centre has been actively working in this field, combining Earth observation, data science and international cooperation to support the monitoring of offshore MPAs and the assessment of ship-strike risk.