

FACT SHEET

BLUE ONE HEALTH

AIR CENTRE

To connect human, animal, plants and ecosystem health through the ocean, following the One Health approach. To build a transatlantic Blue One Health community. To tackle the health consequences of *Sargassum* and engage young generations.

HIGHLIGHTS



A walk along the shore

The Ocean in One Health

One Health aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems. The ocean plays a growing role in this balance: it is central to food systems, influences the spread of water-related diseases and epidemics, and shapes the lives of the many people living near the coast. The AIR Centre's Blue One Health programme brings this ocean dimension to the fore.



Rocky intertidal shore

A Transatlantic Health Network

Building on a 2025 Memorandum of Understanding with Fiocruz (Brazil), signed at the XIV Luso-Brazilian Summit in Brasília, the AIR Centre is developing a Blue One Health network. It has since expanded to the Nigerian health community and the University of Coimbra, and will progressively involve Angola and Cabo Verde, working towards joint projects, knowledge platforms and the exchange of researchers, with a particular focus on engaging early-career scientists and young people.



Sargassum beach cleanup worker

Health Impacts of *Sargassum*

Decaying *Sargassum* on beaches releases hydrogen sulphide (H_2S), which can pose serious health risks to exposed coastal communities. The AIR Centre is assessing these emissions in Cabo Verde and exploring their links with health surveillance data on respiratory, neurological and cardiovascular symptoms, to support early warnings and public health advice for exposed populations.